

Questions to Conference – responses

Committee No.1

1. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how to make AA more visible to the general public, particularly by increasing awareness and understanding of how the AA program works?

It was very strongly felt that AA as a Program should depend much more on attraction than it maybe does at the moment, we have to try and get across the message that AA is Not only about NOT DRINKING, it is a program for recovery and a new life, it does consist of 12 steps to be worked on and that in doing so it DOES work!! Understanding why is not an issue, showing positive results - and we do have a lot to show - is a very concrete way of showing people that if they want what we have then they just need to follow our “path or steps” as it were, and IT WORKS! Some of us have heard that people think AA is a sect of some sort!! We definitely need to change that misconception!

In the south of France, Intergroup has undertaken to use a substantial part of 7th tradition to spread the message by putting in a lot of effort into publishing in magazines, newspapers and radio (there is also some coverage in a Swedish magazine!) to try and let people know we exist, it is felt that few people would actually make in to AA if this were not the case. It was also brought up that the idea of getting some posters with “pull” off tags at the bottom with AA’s number and trying to get these put up in public places such as shops, hospitals, doctor’s waiting rooms, Schools etc. could be a great idea.

More and more events and information are now being put up on the AA website, which is why we need to promote as much as possible for people to know we are there and VERY WILLING to help (some of us are very willing to break our Anonymity at a personal level in order to show just how well our program works – but this must remain personal!!)!! We are not a “sect” as several of we AA members have heard ourselves referred to! Again Promotion is needed; there are no membership fees, no rules and regulation, no scolding leaders telling us what we must do! Just some Very willing, mixed up people all following the same steps at their own pace to get our acts together, and we DO! IT WORKS!

In our region there is a great opportunity to spread the message since 2 hospitals allow meetings on a monthly basis, also several English speaking schools host yearly “talks” where AA members are invited to come and share the message. PI are very enthusiastic about responding to all these invitations and it is felt that we could maybe develop this more by talking to the Red Cross and hospital staff, some members (Francis notably) have already been doing this and it would be good to go further down this line.

And last but not least, AA is fun! There are serious times and sad times but there is a lot of love, humor and laughs in the AA rooms.

It was generally felt that in the PACA region AA is quite well know and accepted however it would appear that in England AA is “falling by the wayside” there is a great lack of promotion, they do not even have a website set up apparently and there is a lot of arguing about traditions and anonymity which seems to be quite counterproductive.

2. Would the Fellowship ask itself the question: “Are there too many meetings and not enough groups?”

It is true that a large numbers of members go to multiple meetings, without having a “Home group”. This may tend to make them “anonymous or invisible” within the fellowship and may be a tactic of “ducking & diving”, to avoid doing any kind of service or maybe it is just ignorance of how A.A. works?

What is the solution? We believe existing members of a group should offer sponsorship to the newcomers, primarily into the 12 steps, then into service. Encouraging them to adopt a “Home group”, the more member go to specific meetings on a regular basis could turn those meetings from “just surviving meetings into “Groups”.

Many of the ills in contemporary A.A. may stem from poor or lack of sponsorship from the older members & often even worse, none at all. Here again we could say the same thing as in the point above: We must “attract” newcomers by showing just how well working the 12 steps and helping others (doing service) actually helps us to help ourselves and make it!!

It is strongly felt that there can never be too many meetings; some of us got sober precisely because there were so many meetings available!

Committee No. 2

1. Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on how the Telephone Liaison Service and its relationship to Twelfth Step work might be further improved?

Our Intergroup upgraded its telephone service roughly 5 years ago, from a number answered by a machine, to a full 24/7 live responder service.

Each responder is given training on how to handle calls and this information is summarized in a Telephone Responder’s manual, given to each responder.

The main objective of this service is to convert calls for help into personal, face-to-face 12Th Step calls, and this is of course emphasized during the training sessions.

Our local service, on the Cote d’Azur, works quite well seemingly, 12 steppers are given details of the caller & contact is then made often followed by a “face to face” visit or with the newcomer being met before their first meeting.

More frequent workshops may “coax” potential telephone responders into action, this could be one answer. However, from our experience it appears that good sponsorship into the 12 Steps & how to carry the message may be a better option. If the percentage of folk in A.A. actually WORKING the steps, rather than just going to meetings, was to increase this relationship between telephone responding and 12th step work may be improved quite naturally and simply.

2. “In view of the need for AA to find further cost savings, would Conference consider...

A) ...whether Service News, Share and Roundabout should be amalgamated into a single paid-for magazine, integrating recovery and service topics.

B) ...if Service News should remain a stand-alone publication, then it should be by paid-for subscription, like Share and Roundabout.

C) ...if Service News is to remain “free”, then it should be distributed primarily by email/online, and mailed by post only on request.

Option C was favoured by all.

Committee No. 3

1. Share experience and make recommendations on involving members without computers in liaison service work e.g. PILO, ELO, HLO.

With the experience of our Intergroup & region, someone without a computer & internet would be disadvantaged, but we are sure we would make “paper copies” that could be sent to anyone on request. (*Could be a subject for Intergroup discussion?*)

Common sense would suggest that mailing documents to a GSR or committee member who has no computer would be a good option, also if somebody that does have a computer and printing facilities and goes to the same meeting as this GSR or committee member could maybe volunteer making copies for them, this in itself would be service if I am not mistaken, and would in turn help the “computer less” GSR to continue doing service work.

It has also been pointed out that some members who are “computer less” are in fact quite effective by using internet services in such places as “internet cafés”. Maybe a list of these venues could be made up by groups and posted on the AA info website to make it easier for those relying on this type of venue.

2. Would the Fellowship review and re-affirm what constitutes an AA Group, within the Fellowship in Great Britain with specific reference to Traditions 4 – 6?

Traditions 4, 5 and 6 just about cover it ! Of course, we know that any 2 or 3 alcoholics gathered together for the purpose of sobriety may call themselves an AA group.

We suggest the reading of the “long form” of the traditions, Appendix 1 p.563 of Alcoholics Anonymous, rather than the short form. PLUS Concept 12, warranties 3 & 5. B.B. p. 575

Committee No. 4

1. Review the draft Structure Handbook.

No comment. We haven't seen it, but if this is a new publication, I wonder if it's really necessary? Perhaps it's already been decided that it is. Most of the information would have already been covered in available AA Literature? We make reference here especially to the 12 Concepts and Service Manual; the 12 Concepts Illustrated pamphlet and in the group copy of the Service Manual.

Committee No. 5

1. Inventory Question

Are we using and responding to reports by the General Service Board and Conference to the best of our abilities and for the utmost good of AA as a whole?

Probably not, but we will try to take better note of them in future! Partly this may be to our group not receiving the reports. Now that we are officially registered, perhaps they will be forthcoming.

2. With specific regard to the history of our AA service structure, can the Fellowship share experience on how we can best strengthen unity by trusting and valuing the decisions of the group conscience at all levels of the Fellowship?

We would recommend that there should be more information available about what a Group Conscience is. The loudest voice should not be the allowed to push through their ideas. The minority voice is often right. Lorgues has a great print-out which is "What is an Informed Group Conscience?" Anthony also found on the internet another great print out called, "In AA's "Benign Anarchy" Informed Group Conscience Is Our Ultimate Authority." (News & Notes From the GSO of AA Vol 35, No 1, Feb/Mar 1989. However, we hear very little about this, either here or in UK. Shouldn't we?

*This is a personal comment from Peter M “Perhaps it would be better to reassert the “A.A. program” as separate from the “fellowship”, refer to p.17 in the Big Book “our common solution” I don't think we agree today as they did back in the day. Perhaps we should be basing our “Service structure” on **that** common solution & not the misinterpretation of the first lines of Chapter 7, where “intensive work with other*

alcoholics.” Nowadays seems to mean serving on some committee within the service structure, when it actually means face to face 12step work, one on one with the still suffering alky.”
Again, stronger sponsorship through the Steps, Traditions and Concepts to teach the newcomer the AA way of life. It’s usually the dry drunks who cause the trouble..., or the ones that believe AA is some kind of social club with the same rules as the outside world.

Committee No. 6

1. Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make practical suggestions as to how we can highlight the importance, effectiveness and value of Sponsoring into Service?

We suggest sponsoring the new comer through the steps as soon as possible when they arrive in the A.A. Rooms. It has been our experience that if this is the case the strength of their recovery will be such that they will need no encouragement to get involved in all levels of service. It has also been our experience that once they have had a spiritual awakening they will be only too willing to get involved in service & will be very effective too.

(Gillian - I can personally agree with this point since I was almost “railroaded” through the steps within my first two months, I took 3 days off work to do this and I have never looked back since and thoroughly love and enjoy every meeting and encounter I have within AA! I also enjoy any service I am able to accomplish and get so much more out of it than I ever have to put in!)

(Peter M, “I have observed over the last 30 years of my sobriety a shift in emphasis away from the 12 steps as a route to contented sobriety, towards “go to meetings & get into service”. There is nothing wrong with meetings or service but our “Solution” is contained in the 12 Steps, which in my personal experience, when worked as our founders worked them, produce a recovery from alcoholism, a way of life that makes drinking unnecessary & a strong desire to carry this message to still suffering alcoholics. My personal belief is if we return the emphasis to the steps then A.A. would strengthen at depth & many of the concerns facing the Fellowship today would diminish if not disappear altogether.”)

Those of us who do service, try to lead by example. Unfortunately those who have tired of service are quite vocal about it and that message gets passed around too.

2. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how a greater understanding of the Traditions and Concepts of AA might be increased among the Fellowship?

(Primary Purpose – Antibes Saturday & BB Nice) - From our Group experiences we have found that by studying a Tradition or a concept at the beginning of every meeting – it only takes 5 minutes - especially using the very informative pamphlets “The 12 traditions illustrated” & “The 12 Concepts illustrated” everyone in the group has a much better understanding of the service structure & how it works.

Periodically it is suggested that we hold some kind of workshop on these, but enthusiasm is low. Especially in our main city, where there is a meeting based on the 12 & 12, and the essays on the Traditions read once every 12 weeks. People somehow feel that is enough to serve any that might be interested.

Thanks to all who have taken the time to discuss all the above points and give their kind input, it is greatly appreciated!

CER Treasurer's Report
8 September - 29 November 2011

		Balance	
Sept 08	<i>Beginning Balance</i>		12,030.02
Contributions and Donations			
Sept 11	Contribution: Nordic Intergroup (1500 SEK)	163.11	12,193.13
Sept 12	Cash contribution: CER meeting Brussels	70.85	12,263.98
Sept 23	Contribution: Triborders Intergroup	2,000.00	14,263.98
Sept 26	Contribution: South of France Intergroup	1,000.00	15,263.98
Oct 07	Contribution: Rheinland-Pfalz Intergroup	1,500.00	16,763.98
Oct 12	Contribution: Franconia Intergroup	42.21	16,806.19
Oct 22	Contribution: Maastricht Group	100.00	16,906.19
Nov 21	Contribution: Geisen Group	318.17	17,224.36
Nov 24	Contribution: John R	65.00	17,289.36
			17,289.36
	TOTAL	5,259.34	
Payments			
Sept 12	Chair Dave A (Brussels)	-147.00	17,142.36
Sept 12	Vice Chair Nicola K (Brussels)	-114.10	17,028.26
Sept 12	Vice Chair Monica C (Brussels - March)	-85.17	16,943.09
Sept 12	RECLO Monica C (York-ECLO meeting)	-417.27	16,525.82
Sept 12	YPO David B (Brussels)	-497.00	16,028.82
Sept 12	PI Officer Dan F (Brussels)	-91.40	15,937.42
Sept 12	Treasurer Kate Mc (Brussels)	-17.60	15,919.82
Sept 12	RR Jan F (Food for Brussels meeting)	-122.00	15,797.82
Sept 13	Delegate Mary Kay F (Brussels)	-212.08	15,585.74
Sept 14	Reibschlager und Partner (legal review of CERES* bylaws)	-1,511.30	14,074.44
Sept 14	Alt Treasurer Karen M (hotel for Marketa)	-106.00	13,968.44
Sept 15	ECLO Monica C (Brussels)	-302.15	13,666.29
Sept 15	Secretary Tim S (Brussels)	-114.00	13,552.29
Sept 15	Delegate Erik A (Brussels)	-116.40	13,435.89
Sept 21	Delegate Marketa K (Brussels)	-48.90	13,386.99
Sept 21	Jugendherberge Duesseldorf (preliminary payment for Dec meeting)	-2,510.00	10,876.99
Sept 22	PI Officer Dan F (York-PIO meeting)	-416.55	10,460.44
Sept 30	Bank fees	-3.90	10,456.54
Oct 08	Deutsche Telekom	-52.26	10,404.28
Oct 17	GSO York: Conference fees for 2012	-1,508.76	8,895.52
Oct 17	CERES* Chair Dan F (To Koln for CERES* meeting)	-24.10	8,871.42
Oct 22	Delegate Marketa K: Plane fare to D'dorf for Dec CER meeting	-164.91	8,706.51
Oct 22	Treasurer Kate Mc: Travel to D'dorf to meet with tax accountant	-64.60	8,641.91
Nov 04	Deutsche Telekom	-47.74	8,594.17
Nov 21	CERES* Treasurer Patrick L (D'dorf to meet with tax accountant)	-48.00	8,546.17
Nov 21	Alt Delegate Patrick L (Brussels)	-216.20	8,329.97
Nov 21	Secretary Tim S. (Advance travel to D'dorf)	-147.50	8,182.47
Nov 21	Webmaster John B (Advance travel to D'dorf - March)	-178.11	8,004.36
			8,004.36
	TOTAL	-9,285.00	8,004.36
Outstanding CERES* Commitments			
Ongoing	Phone bill x 3 months	-150.00	7,854.36
	TOTAL	-150.00	
Nov 29	Available balance		7,854.36
Pending Payments (waiting for documentation)			
(received by CER)			
Nov 29	Deutsche Telekom	-54.45	7,799.91
			7,799.91
	TOTAL	-54.45	7,799.91
Cash Transactions at Brussels Meeting			
	Cash contribution: CER meeting Saturday	113.55	
	Cash contribution: CER meeting Sunday	145.30	
	Room rental	-188.00	
	Total cash transferred to CER	70.85	

* See list below

* includes hotel for Treasurer

<-----Current Bank Balance

<-----How much money we have to work with after the bills are paid

* Waiting for automatic payment to be made

<-----Here's the list

MINUTES OF THE INTERGROUP MEETING
Held on 25th February 2012 AT 1.30PM
At La Salle Paroissiale, 2 Rue du Presbytère, Valbonne

A. OPENING:

The Chair opened the meeting with the serenity prayer and the reading of the twelve traditions.

1. Introduction from those present and Group Roll Call

Simon (IG Chair)	Phil (GSR Valbonne)	Rosalinde (Lorgues)
Anthony (Vice-Chair/Lorgues)	Pamela (GSR Aix en Provence)	David (Lorgues)
Gillian (Secretary/ GSR Monaco)	Paivi (Temporary GSR Cannes)	Alan (Antibes)
Laura (Treasurer/GSR Nice)		Linnea (Antibes)
Mike (PI/GSR Nice)		Penny (Nice)
Nikki (GSR Nice)		Linda (Valbonne)
Francis (GSR Nice)		Catherine (Nice)

Apologies were received from the following members who were unable to attend: Antonia (Literature Officer) / Pete M (CER/GSR Antibes)/Bela (GSR St. Tropez) / Mark (TL/ Monaco) / Maria (ex Chair Person) / David (Montpellier)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Monaco on 3rd December 2011 were tabled and were unanimously approved and adopted without any comments or changes.

Report from the Chair

As this was the first IG meeting for the new chair Simon, there was no report.

However at this point there was a very BIG round of applause and a big THANK YOU given to Maria for all her hard work during her 3 year term as Chair of IG.

Also a big Welcome to the new Chair Simon.

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Archivist

Maria had expressed the desire to put herself forward for this position and this was taken to IG. Maria was unable to make the meeting this time, however we did vote on this position and Maria was unanimously voted in!

It was noted that we must remind everyone here that this is a long term engagement since the Archivist position is a 7 year "stint" and therefore a very BIG Thank You to Maria for taking this on.

UPCOMING SERVICE POSITIONS IN 2012 – All quite urgent really

Literature Secretary

This position is Open now for the taking as mentioned above. **The position will be carried over until the next IG meeting.**

Treasurer

Laura will be rotating out of the Treasury position in September of this year so it would be good to start taking this back to the meeting rooms and letting everybody know that we will be looking for a new treasurer soon.

Vice-Treasurer

The meeting was informed that the position of vice-treasurer needs to be filled very quickly as Candida actually rotated out in December and is only just very kindly “standing in” at the moment. It was also brought up that Laura will be rotating out as Treasurer in September of this year so this position is also forthcoming. Basically we need a Vice-Treasurer immediately really! Therefore if GSR’s could take back to their rooms that we are looking for a Vice-Treasurer NOW sort of style, that would be great! **The position will be carried over until the next IG meeting.**

Vice-Secretary

Louise is very kindly helping the new Secretary Gillian when necessary and possible, however this position is vacant at the moment and it is requested that all GSR’s take back to their rooms that we are looking for a vice-secretary as quickly as possible, just in case Gillian is unable to take the minutes for whatever reason, she hopes not, but you never know! **The position will be carried over until the next IG meeting.**

Telephone Responders

We need new blood all the time in order to make sure that all the accumulated knowledge and years of experience can be handed down and not lost.

C. REPORTS

1. Public Information – PI Committee

Mike read out the PI report for this quarter and explained that for those that required them, the insurance “Attestations” were now readily available and easy to download from the AA Website should groups need a copy for the landlords of their meeting rooms. Mike also requested that if anybody has any information regarding upcoming conventions, could they kindly forward on to him and they will now also be put on the website. Also if anyone knows of any English publications that have not got any AA publicity in them, please let him know and he will endeavour to get in touch with the responsible persons to see about getting some AA ads in there.

Mike encourages everyone to get familiar with the website and welcomes any suggestions on material that could be published therein, it may not be possible to publish due to limitations from the traditions and guidelines, but it is always worth sending new ideas!

And lastly but not least a new meeting list will be published very shortly.

An Extra special Thank you to Nikki was given at this point in time and a round of applause for all the VERY hard work she has put in as TLO: changing the Helpline to a live 24/7 service, to get it set up, writing and re-writing a Telephone line Service Manual and giving numerous training sessions for all potential telephone responders.

• Telephone Helpline:

Simon met with Marc before the meeting as Mark was unable to attend. Mark gave the telephone helpline rundown to Simon and this was duly distributed at the meeting, Niki kindly stood in a bit here and commented on the rather low number of calls received in the last quarter. Nikki explained that this may or may not have something to do with the fact that unbeknown to ourselves, Radio Riviera had been “cut” off, or rather our weekly slot had been stopped since 30th September, in fact we were “off air” from 30th September till 21st December! The reason for this was that Riviera Radio automatically stopped our spot because they had not received payment of their last bill which Nikki never received in the first place, and unfortunately instead of getting in touch with us Riviera Radio just assumed that we were no longer interested.

As soon as Nikki realised that something was amiss, she was in touch with RR straight away and went and signed a new contract and AA was back up and “on Air” again within 3 days.

Nikki has stressed that this will never happen again it was just an unfortunate lack of communication.

Nikki is currently re-writing yet again a new updated version of the Telephone Help Line Service Manual due to yet more changes with the telephone operators, and Mike intervened here to say that he could not stress enough the requirement for new blood since written manuals are all very nice but it would be criminal to let all the knowledge and experience that has been accumulated over the years disappear when experienced people like Nikki are no longer around for example if they move (like Antonia).

Francis mentioned here that it would be good to organise extra workshops to encourage new blood. This will be looked into for possibilities.

• H&I

Mike advises that there is a lack of people to go on hospital visits, there are two hospitals still visited on a regular monthly basis, they are St. Christophe (Wednesday afternoon 5h30) and the CHPG in Monaco (Monday 3h00), all new blood here would also be greatly appreciated.

Francis asked at this point if there was any kind of “guideline” set out for potential helpers, was there any preparation work or a format to follow. Laura replied here that volunteers were asked to read certain literature related to institutions and Paivi said that she had actually participated in a hospital visit and that she had just gone along and participated after Mike had explained how things were run and seemed quite happy with this method. So if anybody is interested in attending could they please get in touch with Mike who will gladly guide you from there?

2. Literature Report

As we all now know, Antonia had already left for New Zeland by the time we had our IG meeting, however she did forward her report to Gillian who read it out during the meeting. Antonia said how much she had enjoyed filling this position and was very saddened to have to leave before the end of her term (which was due to finish in June).

Antonia explained that she had received all orders placed by groups and that they were currently stocked in the Nice Buffa rooms.

David from Monaco is still chasing a book order placed and Nikki has said that she will look into the whereabouts of the books ordered since she has a key for the room in Buffa, at this point Francis pointed out that he also has a key.

Mike spoke up to say that he was very willing for the time being to keep “an eye” on things and mentioned that whomever is willing to put themselves forward for this position should be somebody

that regularly attends IG meetings and it would also be a very good idea if this person had storage space of their own because although the books are in a closed cupboard, the rooms in Buffa are open to the general public and it has been known in the past for books to “take legs” and disappear however as Mike correctly pointed out: if somebody took books without paying then it is probably because they needed them. Also all the chips are in a box in this cupboard and since they are quite pricey and very well used and needed it would be a shame for them to go AWOL.

A very big thank you and round of applause at this stage for Antonia who did such a sterling job in getting the literature into the pristine state it is in at the moment. Thank you again Antonia you will be greatly missed!

3. **French/English Liaison Report**

Patrick who attended the last IG with Joel was voted in as taking over this position, however Patrick is not available at the moment so we will have to wait and see how the situation develops and it may be necessary to discuss this position again at the next IG meeting.

4. **CER Report**

Peter, the CER Representative, was not able to attend this IG meeting however his last CER report is attached to these minutes. Peter has also requested that we send him the write up of our replies to questions for conference as soon as possible after the IG meeting so that he could take them with him to the CER meeting that took place the weekend after our IG meeting. Peter stressed that there was not much point having a voice at the CER meeting if it was not used and that is why he requested our write up ASAP to take with him.

It was decided to discuss the Questions for Conference all together as a group one question at a time instead of splitting into smaller groups to discuss a few questions each and then re-conviene to give our answers to the chair as has been done in the past, however since the first question took a very long time to debate after the first question it was decided to get those groups that had previously discussed the Questions for Conference to send their reports to Gillian and that she would amalgamate the replies in order to send up a condensed report to Peter for him to take with him to the CER meeting the following weekend. *A copy of this condensed report is attached to these minutes.*

For the record the answers from the IG group on the first question for conference were as follows:

Question:

Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how to make AA more visible to the general public, particularly by increasing awareness and understanding of how the AA program works?

Francis reports that it is very difficult to get and ideas from groups and stressed how important it was to pass on personal experience on just how AA works, Francis actually wrote an article on this subject entitled: *“Unity Service and Recovery: From a sunny beach to a thriving Fellowship- a short history of English-speaking AA on the French Riviera”* – A copy of this article is attached to these minutes.

In presenting the AA message it is important to stress the attractiveness, we must pass on the message by showing how attractive AA is, it is not just about meetings and putting down the drink, there is a program there with 12 suggested steps and that if we work them, then the program really does work! And that life does improve beyond our wildest dreams; it really works, we must not be afraid to show that we are living proof of this fact.

Francis has also had numerous talks with “centres d’alcoologie” and the Croix Rouge and has had a lot of interest shown in just how it works.

Lynnie stressed that the General Public need to know that there is more to AA than just not drinking that it is a 12 step program that works.

Lynda mentioned here that she had already hear some newcomers say that they though AA was a sect! Mike brought up the fact that there is a lot of newspaper coverage already in local magazines and papers and a lot more info now on the AA website and we even have coverage in a Swedish magazine. It was also pointed out that we could consider making up posters with tear off tags showing AA group dates and telephone numbers, and that these could be put up in local shops or doctors’ waiting rooms and hospitals.

David expressed the sadness in noticing that in the UK AA was on a down drift and becoming quite unknown, (Mike pointed out here that they do not even have a Local London website up and running properly) however he feels that AA is quite well known and accepted and therefore transparent here in the PACA region, the English speaking community are well aware of what and who AA are.

Mike says that if there are any volunteers to join PI, he would get an “open meeting” up and running. Attraction to AA can also come through breaking one’s own anonymity, this however MUST remain a personal decision, but it can have very positive results.

5. Intergroup Accounts and Treasury Report

The Accounts from the last IG meeting were agreed and registered since the minutes from the IG meeting on 03.12.12 were approved.

Laura presented the new accounts and Treasurer’s report (copy attached, updated after IG). It was noted from the tabled accounts that before the meeting the figures were as follows:

Prudent reserve: **EUR 8259.80**

Operating surplus at date of meeting: **EUR 2052.65**

7th traditions collected at the meeting = **EUR 2,495.50**

For a balance of EUR 4548.15

Less the costs budgeted until end March (1136.96) and for next quarter (1861)

Giving us an operating balance of : **EUR 1550.19**

Laura would like it to be noted that she feels the operating funds are too high, proposes leaving the operating funds at around 1000€ and saying that anything above this amount will be sent **DOWN** the line to CER. This will not be a fixed amount, it will vary in function of income, however we will maintain our operating funds at 1000€. *(Note that this doesn’t agree entirely with the post-IG minutes, but that is what was reported at the meeting.)*

Nikki said at this point that she considers 2025.65 as operating funds to be a reasonable figure as we have budgeted expenses remaining this quarter of €1136.96.

Nikki inquired about CER expenses and the reply was that most of CER's budget goes to travel expenses for the CER delegates (those whose expenses are paid by CER).

With regards to the 0€ budgeted for Riviera Radio, Laura explained that the reason for the amount being nil was because last quarter's allocation of €700 was hardly touched with the lapse in our contract until the 21st December, and it was hoped the surplus could be used for the Radio payments this quarter.

Laura also mentioned that we would be giving Phil 50€ to pay for the room for the IG meeting and also 18.59€ in expenses, this was given from the 7th Traditions received during the meeting.

Budget

Budgeted items for a total of € 1136.96 up until the end of March were approved since the Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

The provisional budget for the following quarter from March to June is € 1861.00

C. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was unanimously voted to read the 12 concepts of AA at the beginning of all future IG meetings as well as the 12 traditions.

It was also unanimously voted that future IG meetings would be run in the business meeting style, that points to be discussed would be discussed in an orderly fashion and in a allocated time and that anything that was unable to be covered in the time allocated for the meeting would be carried over to the next IG meeting.

A timeframe of 2 hours was agreed upon and Mike suggested including in the budget (for next time) a cattle prod, in order to spur on “stragglers” in discussions (this was just a joke of course but does merit some consideration!).

Pamela read out the Aix en Provence groups suggestion for increasing 7th tradition income at group level, this consist of having a “Serenity week” around the 10th of June, which is the date that AA actually began. During this week the basket would be passed around twice during the meetings, once at the beginning and again at the end of the meeting.

Anthony mentioned here that this used to be called “founders week” and that the funds collected during this week was sent directly up the line to York.

Apparently in French AA meetings in France and Canada this is also a custom but is in the month of November and last for a month.

It was decided during the IG meeting that the “Serenity or Founders” week (not month) suggestion be adopted and that it be put up on the info site one month prior and also mentioned during meetings. Mike will therefore be reminded to put this info up on the site during the month of May.

The idea was again unanimously adopted.

D. CLOSING

Simon thanked everyone for their reports and for members for attending and to those who set up the rooms and to all those who contributed towards the Fab lunch!

Suggestions were requested for the venue of the next meeting. It was decided in the end to hold the meeting on the first weekend in June even though this coincides with the CER meeting, due to the Grand Prix at the end of May and the IG secretary not being available the weekend prior to the Grand Prix, the date was set as Saturday 2nd June and Linnie is looking is going to ask if it is possible to have the meeting at the Antibes rooms (*Gillian will follow this up and inform everyone once she is sure of the outcome for the location of the next IG meeting on June 2nd*).

After the 7th Tradition the meeting was closed at 16.40(ish) p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

Intergroup Literature Secretary's Report. Feb 2012

I am sorry I am unable to be here today.

As most of you know by now, I am leaving France to return home to New Zealand and I necessarily need to resign my service position as Intergroup Literature Secretary. My 3 years term of duty will be up in June so I am doubly sorry to have to resign before completing the full term. However as I write this, I can't help thinking rather wryly that in the 'bad old days' I would never have made it past 3 months let alone 3 years - so this is progress indeed!

I do not have a successor but would like to leave this report which can serve as a reference for the new secretary as to the state of the literature store.

This is a really nice job and one which I have loved doing. It is with great regret that I have to give it up. It is easy to manage and the ordering system is not at all complicated.

The following is how it works.

HOW IT WORKS

The literature is ordered from the website of AA York UK. It is an excellent site, very easy to use and gives a running total of expenditure so you can see how the budget is eeking out. The order is then placed and will be filled and shipped only once our Intergroup Treasurer has sent the cheque paying for the order.

At the time of writing all requests for literature have been sent out to the groups and there is a considerable stock of literature in the cupboard in Buffa. There is also a stock of birthday chips in a shoe box on the bottom shelf of the

cupboard in Buffa.

The old metal trunk is no longer allowed to be stored under the piano in the Buffa room but it is in the safekeeping of 'American Joel' who will pass it onto the new Literature Secretary should he/she want it.

A generous budget was allocated this year and approximately 300 euros was spent on the last order. I am unable to provide exact figures as they are in my PC which is now somewhere on the high seas between here and New Zealand. I apologise for this – with such a huge move, can't think of everything! However the Treasurer will have the numbers budgeted and spent.

Finally I would like to say a very fond goodbye to you all and to thank you for this wonderful opportunity to do service in AA. It has been an enriching and very rewarding experience.

Your grateful (and I hope 'trusted') servant,
Antonia.

IG Income Expenditure Report
February 29 2012

INCOME REPORT	09 Dec '11	2011 Year	26 Feb '12
Total Group Contributions	2,601.93	11,592.60	2,610.60
Literature Sales	117.50	431.30	41.50
Meeting Lists	22.00	89.50	
Interest on Prudent Reserve		91.21	168.59
Total Income	2,623.93	11,773.31	2,779.19
Convention Repayments			161.04
EXPENDITURE REPORT			
Bank charges	-35.88	-143.52	-23.92
Insurance Civile IG		-626.78	-651.05
Insurance Civile Convention		-155.04	-161.04
Assurance Juridique IG		-179.57	
CER Delegate Expenses	-338.80	-1,183.18	
Literature orders	-567.00	-3,309.46	-65.91
PI		-3,585.00	-1,000.00
PI Radio Spots	-700.00	-4,150.00	-700.00
IG expenses	-77.16	-117.16	-68.60
Literature Expenses		-183.00	
CER Contribution	-400.00	-1,400.00	
Total Expenditure	-2,118.84	-14,877.67	-2,509.48
<i>Cleared Transfers/Cheques</i>			
Bank charges	-35.88	-143.52	-23.92
Insurance Civile IG/Conv		-781.82	-812.09
Assurance Juridique IG		-179.57	
CER Delegate Expenses		-844.38	-338.80
Literature orders		-3,027.64	-632.91
PI		-3,585.00	-1,000.00
PI Radio Spots	-700.00	-4,150.00	-700.00
IG expenses	-77.16	-117.16	-68.60
CER Contributions + chgs	-1,003.75	-1,003.75	-403.80
			-3,980.12
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	5,864.17		4,494.65
Transfer to Prudent Reserve	0.00		0.00
Balance Prudent Reserve	8,091.21		8,259.80
Prudent Reserve Livret A			8,259.80
BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS	13,955.38		12,754.45
Rev 29 Feb 2012			

IG Treasurer's Notes 29 Feb 2012 (period 09 Dec 2011 – 29 Feb 2012)
 What we were like, what happened, and what we are like now, financially.

<table> <tr> <td><u>Balance as at 09 Dec 2011:</u></td> <td><u>13955.38</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8091.21</td> <td>Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5864.17</td> <td>Operating Funds</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>What went out:</u></td> <td><u>3911.52</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>403.80</td> <td>CER contribution ¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>338.80</td> <td>CER Delegate exp</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1000.00</td> <td>PI 1st half 2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>700.00</td> <td>Radio spots to Mar 31</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>812.09</td> <td>Insurance</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>632.91</td> <td>Literature order (Dec 2011)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>23.92</td> <td>Bank charges</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>68.60</td> <td>IG expenses (Feb)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>What came in:</u></td> <td><u>2779.19</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2569.10</td> <td>Group 7th tradition</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>41.50</td> <td>Group 7th tradition</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>168.59</td> <td>Interest on Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>New Balance 29 Feb 2012:</u></td> <td><u>12754.45</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8259.80</td> <td>Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4494.65</td> <td>Operating Funds</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Balance as at 09 Dec 2011:</u>	<u>13955.38</u>			8091.21	Prudent Reserve		5864.17	Operating Funds	<u>What went out:</u>	<u>3911.52</u>			403.80	CER contribution ¹		338.80	CER Delegate exp		1000.00	PI 1 st half 2012		700.00	Radio spots to Mar 31		812.09	Insurance		632.91	Literature order (Dec 2011)		23.92	Bank charges		68.60	IG expenses (Feb)	<u>What came in:</u>	<u>2779.19</u>			2569.10	Group 7 th tradition		41.50	Group 7 th tradition		168.59	Interest on Prudent Reserve	<u>New Balance 29 Feb 2012:</u>	<u>12754.45</u>			8259.80	Prudent Reserve		4494.65	Operating Funds	<p>Looking ahead:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Budgeted items to end March:</td> <td>818.36</td> <td>per budget approved Dec IG ²</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>500.00</td> <td>Literature provision</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>300.00</td> <td>CER delegate March</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6.40</td> <td>IG expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11.96</td> <td>Bank Charges</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Next quarter March - June:</td> <td>1861.00</td> <td>see IG Budget 2012 ³</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>0.00</td> <td>Radio Spots ⁴</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Total Monies Committed:</u></td> <td><u>2679.36</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With €4494 in operating funds, we have some €1815 surplus after providing for all expenditure until end June. ⁵</p>	Budgeted items to end March:	818.36	per budget approved Dec IG ²		500.00	Literature provision		300.00	CER delegate March		6.40	IG expenses		11.96	Bank Charges	Next quarter March - June:	1861.00	see IG Budget 2012 ³		0.00	Radio Spots ⁴	<u>Total Monies Committed:</u>	<u>2679.36</u>	
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Notes and recommendations

1. Total CER contribution last year : €1400.
2. HNLO provision (€250) moved into March-June quarter.
3. Includes €700 provision for contribution to CER
4. PI already holds a reserve of nearly €700 as our contract was not renewed until late in last quarter.
5. As agreed at IG, to bring our operating surplus down to €1000, we will contribute to CER, in this case, €815.

Intergroup C.E.R. Representative report for the Central European Region meeting
Düsseldorf December 3rd. & 4th. 2011

I had the pleasure of representing our intergroup at the C.E.R. meeting held in Dusseldorf on the 3rd.& 4th. Of December .

I apologise for the lateness of this report but I wanted to wait until I had received the minutes & the various reports from the Secretary Tim S.

We met at 11:00 on the morning of the 3rd. & met through till 5 p.m. with several breaks for sandwiches & coffee. Business was conducted in a timely manner & as last time I will report on each item using the agenda. (below)

Sunday was taken up with a meeting the members of CERES*, this is an entity similar to the board of an “Association” in France. This is necessary in Germany to set up a bank account for C.E.R..

They were invited to this meeting in December, at our last C.E.R. meeting in Brussels in September, to explain what they do & to answer any questions the intergroups may have had. This was done most effectively, by the Chairman, Dan, by answering a series of “ Frequently asked questions”. Questions from the floor followed.

Our position in the South of France makes us familiar with the necessity of having an entity, for us an association, to administer our bank account on our behalf. Here intergroup is able to do this, but in Germany where the C.E.R. banking is done, things seem a little more complicated. However it was good to put some faces to names & the presentation was a success.

My travelling expenses were €338-80.

The next C.E.R. meeting is on the 3rd. & 4th. of March again at Düsseldorf. At this meeting we will be discussing the Questions for Conference. These are available on the A.A.U.K. website or in A.A. Service News, which you should have received from York, if your group is registered with the General Service Office, forms available from intergroup. So please read the questions & discuss them at your meeting, I am your voice at C.E.R. that sends delegates to conference with your answers & ideas on these questions. This is vital to the future success of the service structure of A.A. which does for the groups what they cannot do for themselves. I will be happy to answer any questions anyone may have.

Yours in fellowship & service
Peter M

**Continental European Region Agenda for Region Meeting on the 3rd and 4th of December
2011 Düsseldorf Germany** Page 1 of 1

Saturday December 3rd, 2011

11:00

1. Open our meeting with the Serenity Prayer and a reading of the 12 Traditions
2. Introductions
3. Approval of the minutes from our September 2011 meeting in Brussels

4. Chair's Report [Chairman Dave gave a brief report & welcomed us all.](#)
5. Secretary's Report [Tim S](#)
6. IG Reports [each of the dozen or so intergroups reps; attending they came from the South of Spain to the North of Germany, from the Netherlands, Scandinavia & Belgium.](#)
7. Treasurer's Report [see attached](#)
8. Sister City Report [An editor is need Sister city newsletter, any volunteers?](#)
9. Young Person's Contact Report [report from Dave attached, he is rotating out & applications are requested](#)
10. Public Information Officer's Report [Dan F also rotates out at the end of the year, his report is attached](#)
11. Archivist's Report [Delores gave us a fascinating report & I have attached her History of A.A. in Europe in full](#)
12. ECC Report [Attached](#)
13. Trustee's Report
14. Old Business [see minutes, attached](#)
 - a. Travel expense guidelines discussion: [Again this old chestnut turns up I think it's finally been put to bed with a proposal to publish a list of helpful websites to access cheap travel.](#)
 - b. Registrar Position discussion [A decision was made to drop the idea, see minutes](#)
15. New Business [See minutes](#)
 - a. Approval of the Welcome to Region Handbook changes [Approved](#)
 - b. Discuss putting Inter Group PI Reports on the web site [To be included under the "service" tab see minutes](#)
 - c. Election of Alt Delegate to Conference to replace Glen B [Monica C was duly elected after 3 rounds of voting & reverting to "the hat" in time honored A.A. tradition.](#)
 - d. Election of Arena Editor [No Candidates were available, the position remains open.](#)

Sunday December 4th, 2011

09:00

Meet and Greet with the CERES* members who have
joined us this weekend.

[An excellent discussion & I will forward the questions & answers as soon as I receive them](#)

The meeting Closed with the Serenity Prayer at 1200

PI Committee Report 25 February 2012

A very energetic PI committee meeting was held six weeks ago on 14 January in Nice. Of the ten members present five were new to PI. This blew a very welcome blast of fresh air and enthusiasm into our committee.

Apart from the usual agenda items of the treasury, meeting lists, Riviera Radio etc, discussion was widened to include advertising on magnetic things that stick to fridges, Facebook, Google & Twitter and new business cards.

On the website you will find the 2012 Insurance Attestation which can be downloaded should the landlords of your meeting require it. We now have a new heading on the website on the Events page listing upcoming AA conventions. We urge you to take an interest in your website and let us have any ideas you might have. We might not use them as we are limited by the traditions and guidelines, but we will if we can.

We would ask that if you know of any English language publications in your area that we do not advertise in, let us know.

There will be a new meeting list published very shortly.

The role of Telephone Liaison Officer was formally handed over to Mark Mc and we'll hear from him separately in a minute regarding the state of the phone service.

Although originally created from within PI and probably should remain so for continuity, the TLO is very much an intergroup entity. Now would be an appropriate time for intergroup to thank Nikki for all her tireless work in setting up the phone service from its inception. It seems like another age when we invited Pauline from the West Country of England to share her experience and her telephone service manual with us. From that has sprung so much knowledge that many intergroups around Europe look to us for help with setting up their own telephone services. It can be forgiven that many are apt to take for granted that the phone service is there and working, but it must not be forgotten the reason we have a 1901 Association for the telephone line in our name, the many weeks of discussions with faceless France Telecom functionaries to install a system which according to their own staff does not exist and is technically impossible (that is still the case). When Pauline spoke to us it was stressed that a landline phone was essential and that under no circumstances should our responders use mobiles, yet now all our responders use mobiles, why? This is the sort of information that needs to be passed on whilst it can still be remembered. Nikki has amended the service manual repeatedly so we have the seemingly effortless system we have today. It is important that this knowledge is passed on; it can be so easily lost. That can only be done if new members join us.

Topics/Questions for Conference 2012

Committee No.1

- 1. Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how to make AA more visible to the general public, particularly by increasing awareness and understanding of how the AA programme works?**

Background

1. According to the 2010 membership survey of AA in Great Britain, 31% of members heard of AA from an existing member. According to the AA Census published by the GSO in Great Britain, in 1997 4.1% of AA members reported that their point of entry into AA was media. By 2002, that number had dropped: only 1.6% of AA members listed media as their point of entry into AA. In 2005, 5% of members indicated that they came to AA because of radio, internet, newspaper adverts, or tv. In 2010, 4% of members first heard of AA through radio or newspaper (tv was not listed as a category). A further 6% listed the internet; however the internet may not be available to as many people as newspaper, radio or tv.

In figures taken from the GSO website for Great Britain (www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk), there are 34,000 AA members (from the 2005 AA Survey). (The 2005 survey was used because the 2010 survey online did not indicate numbers of members.) This means that 0.056, or nearly six-hundredths of a percent, of the population of Great Britain is a member of AA. According to the AA Fact File on the GSO website, there are "approximately 4,400" AA groups in Great Britain. Based on a population of 60,000,000 (source: wikipedia), that means there is one AA group for every 13,636 people.

Given the relatively low percentage of AA members in Great Britain (0.056 percent), the chances of a person with a drinking problem are also relatively low. (A person only has a six-in-ten-thousand chance of personally knowing an AA member), national-level press could be one vital means of ensuring that the public at large is aware of the existence of AA and that it offers a program of recovery from alcoholism that has worked for many.

Mindful of all the good work carried out by PI at all levels of the Fellowship, all too often the media tend to focus on the problem rather than the solutions. It is the hope of this question that Conference might consider whether there might be more that can be done at the national level of AA in Great Britain to reach out to national-level press in order to increase the awareness of AA among the public as a whole.

Establishing a committee to study this question, perhaps including outreach to GSOs in other regions of the world to learn about what methods they are using for press outreach and whether those have been beneficial, might be a prudent approach to examining whether additional public information efforts by GSO in Great Britain could be an effective means of ensuring that there is greater public awareness of the existence of AA in the UK.

2. Section 17, AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, 'Public Information'.
3. "We believe that there are opportunities for all members to participate in PI activity, and that carrying the message is every member's responsibility". (Conference 2011, Committee 4, Question 1).

2. **Would the Fellowship ask itself the question: “Are there too many meetings and not enough groups?”**

Background

Traditions 4, 7
Pamphlet ‘The AA Group’
The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA

Committee No. 2

1. **Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make recommendations on how the Telephone Liaison Service and its relationship to Twelfth Step work might be further improved?**

Background

At a recent TLO workshop responders declared that they did not offer to arrange a twelfth step call (visit) and were unsure of how they should respond and what actions to expect of the person carrying out the twelfth step call. This combined with the high turnover of responders, and the constant updates to the twelfth step list, suggests that more frequent workshops would be of great benefit to new members and the Fellowship as a whole. Clarification and experience should be shared and guidelines explained.

- A twelfth step call – Visiting an alcoholic who has asked for help and explaining the twelfth step programme – AA pamphlet, Questions and Answers on Sponsorship – page 8,
- Bill’s first visit to Dr. Bob. As a result of *Manna from Heaven* call by Bill Wilson to Henrietta Sieberling. Pass It On chapter 7 page 142.
- Our growing experience is that successful telephone service concentrates on putting the suffering alcoholic in touch with an individual or local AA group. It is the responsibility of the local group to carry out necessary twelfth step work, to provide a welcome for the new members and to share experience, strength and hope with them thus setting them on the road to recovery. AA Telephone Services, Service Handbook for Great Britain Guideline 6.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Working with Others – this chapter emphasises the importance of visiting the still suffering alcoholic – one alcoholic talking to another.

2. **“In view of the need for AA to find further cost savings, would Conference consider...**

A) ...whether Service News, Share and Roundabout should be amalgamated into a single paid-for magazine, integrating recovery and service topics.

B) ...if Service News should remain a stand-alone publication, then it should be by paid-for subscription, like Share and Roundabout.

C) ...if Service News is to remain “free”, then it should be distributed primarily by email/online, and mailed by post only on request.

Background

Vital although Service News is to our open communications within AA, the costs of distributing Service News in its current form should not be considered above review.

In an ideal world, we would have a separate publication about service, mailed freely to all officers and GSR's. But in reality, of course, Service News isn't "free". A large proportion of the copies mailed out may never get read. Many will not even be opened. The waste of print, postage and administration must be considerable. Groups and Intergroups are not always prompt in notifying changes of officer posts and address details to GSO, hence the mailing lists used will inevitably contain many out of date or duplicate details. Because Service News is "free", recipients have little incentive to take responsibility for the cost, which is one reason why groups are not particularly motivated to update GSO promptly about changed officer details.

Share/Roundabout and Service News were conceived to fulfil separate roles: Share/Roundabout is mainly on the topic of recovery; Service News is obviously mainly for disseminating news on service. That distinction may now be working against our need for Unity. To have separate publications perpetuates the misconception that Recovery can exist alone and apart from Service. A common problem we have across in the fellowship is that Service is little discussed at regular meetings - if Share is truly 'our meeting in print', then perhaps it should show that meetings need to deal with Service matters as well as Recovery, and combine the two legacies in a single combined journal. The overlap is already recognised to some extent: Service News contains many stories of how AA's have strengthened their recovery by doing service. There is also some duplication of service-related news already: Share/Roundabout already contains some bulletins about meeting venues, conventions and service vacancies, which are repeated in Service News.

On whether Service News should continue as a 'free' publication, there is an argument that to charge for Service News would infringe Tradition 3 – as the only requirement for membership a desire to stop drinking, not access to cash. On the other hand, under Tradition 7, we also need to be self-supporting through our own contributions. We might consider how these two Traditions are met in other matters: we expect to pay and reclaim from our groups for other essential service literature – for example, every group and officer should have a copy of the Handbook and guidelines – which are not 'free'.

There is a risk that if Service News was paid for, then fewer AA's might read it, resulting in more service vacancies. On the other hand, Service News currently appears to preach to the converted - read mainly by those AA's who are already interested in service and who already take responsibility for their own growth in service. Perhaps, if we want carry the message of the joys of service to those not yet involved, then the better vehicle for that message would be an attractive, colourful, well-designed magazine that even newcomers to service would want to read – along the lines of, or as part of, Share and Roundabout - which we are content to pay for.

Committee No. 3

1. **Share experience and make recommendations on involving members without computers in liaison service work e.g. PILO, ELO, HLO.**

Background

1. One Member's Experience

I was two years sober and going along fine in my sobriety. I was doing service at Group and Intergroup. All of a sudden at Intergroup they were talking about e-mails and computers. This scared me. I thought, "I don't have e-mail and know absolutely nothing about computers." I thought, "Well, I'd better get out of here as I don't know

anything about these things". I didn't, but the fear was there that I would not be able to do service at Intergroup and Region. I hadn't thought about it beyond that yet, so we must let our Fellowship members know that they don't need e-mail, computers and loads of other gadgets to be able to do service in AA, but they are all very helpful now.

2. The use of information and communication technology in the field of AA service is increasingly reflecting its usage in the wider society. Its usage is seen in the production of reports for Intergroup or Region, for the exchange of information between members involved in similar service, in communication with members of the professional community and in the preparation and delivery of presentations. Some members, who would otherwise be willing to be involved with public information and co-operation with the professional community, feel disadvantaged because they either don't have access to a computer or the use of computers has not been part of their experience. This, they consider, would make it difficult for them to take up a liaison officer position at Intergroup or Region.

3. Extract from Guideline No. 19:

'Although there can be many advantages to using electronic communications, we must always remember that there can also be disadvantages. Care must be taken to ensure that no member is disenfranchised through lack of a computer or internet connection'.

2. **Would the Fellowship review and re-affirm what constitutes an AA Group, within the Fellowship in Great Britain with specific reference to Traditions 4 – 6?**

Background

The Traditions
Preamble
Concepts

Committee No. 4

1. **Review the draft Structure Handbook.**

Background

Draft Structure Handbook

Committee No. 5

1. **Inventory Question**
Are we using and responding to reports by the General Service Board and Conference to the best of our abilities and for the utmost good of AA as a whole?

Background

1. *Alcoholics Anonymous comes of Age*, page 217-218:
On their first day, the delegates inspected our Headquarters, got acquainted with the service staff, and shook hands with the Trustees. In the evening there was a briefing session under the name of "What's on your mind?" We answered questions of every

description. The delegates began to feel at home..... They were proving as never before that A.A.'s Tradition Two was correct. Our group conscience could safely act as the sole authority and sure guide for Alcoholics Anonymous. As the delegates returned home, they carried this deep conviction with them."

2. Issues have been raised in the recent past regarding the content of Conference questions, and a possible lack of interest within the Fellowship at large pertaining to Conference questions.
 3. Concept 1, Traditions One, Two and Five.
2. **With specific regard to the history of our AA service structure, can the Fellowship share experience on how we can best strengthen unity by trusting and valuing the decisions of the group conscience at all levels of the Fellowship?**

Background

'The unity, the effectiveness, and even the survival of AA will always depend upon our continued willingness to give up some of our personal ambitions and desires for the common safety and welfare. Just as sacrifice means survival for the individual alcoholic, so does sacrifice mean unity and survival for the group and for AA's entire Fellowship'.

AA Comes of Age, pp. 287-288 (Quoted in As Bill Sees It, p. 220)

Committee No. 6

1. **Would the Fellowship discuss, share experience and make practical suggestions as to how we can highlight the importance, effectiveness and value of Sponsoring into Service?**

Background

The main reason for this question is the many gaps to be found in the Directory of Intergroup & Regional Officers, indicating that a significant number of Service positions are not being filled.

References:

General Service Conference Report, 1983, Committee 1
Directory of Intergroup & Regional Officers, 2011/2012
Leaflet "Sponsorship: Your Questions Answered"
The Service Handbook

2. **Would the Fellowship share experience and make recommendations on how a greater understanding of the Traditions and Concepts of AA might be increased among the Fellowship?**

Background

Recommendation of Conference 2011, Committee 5, Question 2
Reports of disunity in some areas of the Fellowship
A noticeable lack of AA members to fill service positions at all levels
The Declaration of Unity

GROUP	GSR or REP.	7th €	Lit. €
SUNDAY			
11:00 Nice	Nikki	234.50	
11:30 Lorgues	Rosalynde	150.00	
17:00 Vence		0.00	
18:00 Goult		0.00	
19:00 Antibes	Alan	No contribution this time	
MONDAY			
11.30 Montpellier	David	150.00	
17:30 Cannes	Linda	100.00	
18.00 Nice	Mike		
19:00 Cannes	Laura	50.00	
19:00 Monaco	Francis	200.00	
20:00 St. Tropez			
TUESDAY			
12:30 Monaco	Gillian	200.00	
17:30 Nice	Nikki		
18:00 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela	40.00	
19:00 Nice	Laura	100.00	
WEDNESDAY			
12:00 Nice			
18.30 Ganges			
19:00 Nice	Mike	117.00	
19:00 Valbonne	Phil	50.00	

THURSDAY			
17:30 Cannes	Linda	80.00	
18:00 Nice	Nikki	100.00	
19:30 Nice	Nikki	180.00	
19:00 Monaco	Francis	100.00	
20:05 Monaco			
FRIDAY			
18:30 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamel	60.00	
18:30 Montpellier			
19:00 Nice	Francis	200.00	
19:00 Valbonne	Linda	50.00	
SATURDAY			
11:00 Nice	Nikki	50.00	
18:00 Valbonne			
19:00 Nice	Laura	300.00	
19:30 Antibes	Linnie	54.00	
		2,565.50	0.00

COMMENTS

THERE WERE SOME FIGURES FOR LITTÉRATURE HOWEVER I APPOLOGISE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN GROUPED IN THIS ROLL CALL TO THE GENERAL AMOUNT GIVEN BY GROUPS - IF ANYBODY WOULD LKE TO RECTIFY PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO - SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE - GIGI

Strong group with numbers increasing steadily now stabalised around 15 to 25

Small but stong meeting

This meeting will not dye!! There are between 2 to 6 members usually more 2 than 6 and all donations will be gladly accented!

David is on a personal retreat, appologies read out by Gillian,
Sorry I did not get this one down!! I think Linda said there were more people coming but not 100%sure!

Mike spoke for this meeting but was not sure about finances as the treasurer is on holiday

Big Book Study with variable number of attendees

Strong meeting with an average of 15 to 25 members

Mail appology from Bela who was not sure if any 7th was being sent

Daily reflections meeting with variable attendence but strong core - average 5 - 7 more in summer

The meeting is still going

The meeting may need to move for renovations, Pamela will inform events

Big Book study - There have been some workshops - Solid meeting with stong core

New comers meeting - very encouraging following with often more newocmers than old timers at last

Small meeting between 2 to 4 members (7th tradition not given to the treasurer on the day)

Living Sober meeting with around 6 to 7 people, will probably greatly increase with the upcoming Cannes Festival

No Snivelling Big Book study, this meeting has grown and there may be a change in time

12 Step meeting, quite well attended numbers vary

This meeting is no longer held at the moment, Mike requests we check if it is to be kept on the list?

Around 8 members, the meeting had requested a set of scrolls and is happy to report that Valbonne kindly gave them a set - Thank you Valbonne

Meeting getting stronger as it goes

Big Book Study - very good meeting with around 2 to 4 people -

Acceptance meeting - meeting will not die although it should have!

Good strong meeting averaging around 20 people

Linnie standing in for Peter - Meeting is a Big book study

**AA SOUTH OF
SUMMARY AN**

from 1st March

2007

—

18 FEB

2012

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total for
	Newcomer	Existing Members	AIAnon	PI	Other	French	Quarter
2007							
1 March - 28 June	3	26	7	5	10	32	83
29 Jun - 14 Sept	3	42	6	5	4	49	109
15 Sept to 5 Dec	8	24	5	0	9	58	104
2008							
5 Dec to 26th March	8	30	5	1	7	45	96
27 March to 18 June	17	42	2	0	2	6	69
19 June to 19 Sept	10	41	9	2	6	21	89
20th Sept to 11 Dec	5	31	5	2	3	20	66
2009							
12 Dec 08 to 7 Mar	5	9	5	2	12	11	44
8th March to 7th June	4	21	8	2	3	11	49
8th June to 8th Sept	4	44	1	1	11	15	76
9th Sept to 8th Dec	10	19	2	1	7	20	59
2010							
9th Dec to 8th March	6	15	2	1	0	9	33
9th Mar to 30 May	9	21	5	0	4	9	48
1st June to 29 Aug	17	34	8	0	7	16	82
29 Aug to 27 Nov	4	23	3	0	12	2	44
2011							
28 Nov to 8th March	13	16	2	1	1	16	49
9th March to 4th June	10	15	5	0	6	8	44
5th June to 10th Sept	24	51	8	0	5	10	98
11th Sept to 26th Nov	9	10	10	0	12	15	56
2012							
27th Nov to 18th Feb	6	11	1	0	8	4	30

Nikki

2/12.2011

"The Twelve
Concepts for
World Service"



The
what?

**The
Twelve
Concepts
for
World
Service
illustrated**



Oh!

*This is A.A. General Service
Conference-approved literature*

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Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

www.aa.org

Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163

The Twelve Concepts for World Service

How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird
A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

This is a pamphlet about the Concepts; it is NOT the Concepts themselves. They are found in the book *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and should be read by every "trusted servant." (A condensed version, in mimeographed form, is also available from the General Service Office on request.)

As A.A. grew up, it began with the groups — first only a few, then hundreds and then thousands. Very early an Alcoholic Foundation, later renamed The General Service Board, was formed to be responsible for our affairs. And with Dr. Bob's death and Bill's facing up to his own mortality, a General Service Conference assumed the leadership which had fallen to the co-founders. Meanwhile, a tiny publishing operation and service office had grown in size and importance to the Fellowship, and a monthly journal, the *A.A. Grapevine*, was being published.

Which of these entities was supposed to do what? Little wonder there was confusion! What was their relationship? Who was in charge? What were their responsi-

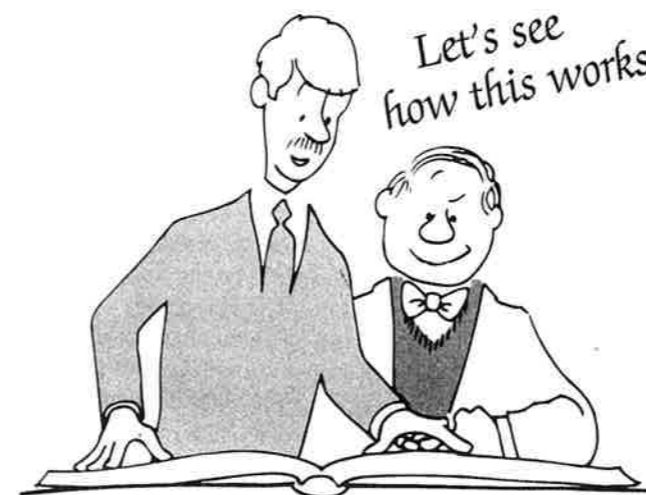


bilities — and what were their rights? Bill W. himself sometimes took part in the pulling and hauling that took place, and so he saw the need to "reduce to writing" his concepts of the "why" of the whole structure, the lessons to be drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles.

As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts III through V, IX and XII deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together.

What follows in this pamphlet is an illustrated introduction to the Twelve Concepts. If it is answers or guidance you are seeking, go to the Concepts themselves.

Throughout this pamphlet, wording from the Twelve Concepts themselves (subject to some editing for clarity) is indicated by quotation marks; the rest of the text is either descriptive or explanatory.



Let's see
how this works.

Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the “ultimate responsibility and final authority for . . . world services” resides with the groups — rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.

In Concept I, Bill traces how this came to be. The first step in 1938 was “the creation of a trusteeship,” first called the Alcoholic Foundation, renamed in 1954 the General Service Board. Why? To perform the services the groups could not do for themselves: e.g., uniform literature, uniform public information about A.A., helping new groups get started, sharing with them the experience of established groups, handling pleas for help, publishing a national magazine, and carrying the message in other languages and in other countries. A service office was formed to carry on these functions under the board’s direction. Both the board and the office looked to the co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob, for policy leadership.

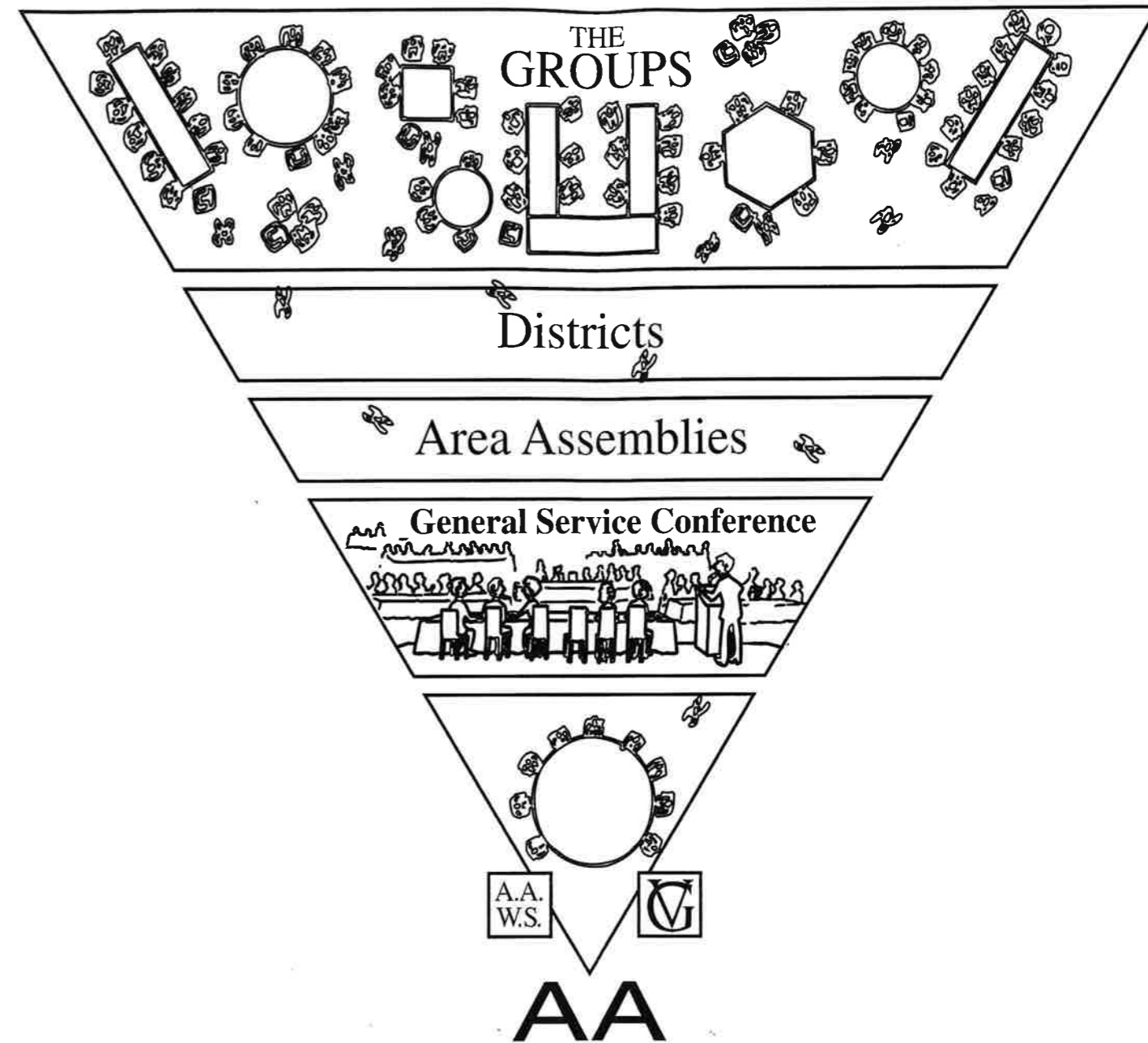
In the midst of the “exuberant success” of early A.A., Dr. Bob became fatally ill and Bill asked, “When Dr. Bob and I are gone, who would then advise the trustees and the office?” The answer, Bill felt, was to be found in the collective conscience of the A.A. groups. But how could the autonomous, widely scattered groups exercise such a responsibility?



Over great resistance by trustees and members devoted to the status quo, Bill managed to “sell” the idea of calling an A.A. General Service Conference (see Concept II), and eleven years later Bill was able to declare, “The results of the Conference have exceeded our highest expectations.” This Concept is rooted in Tradition Two, which states:

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

The principles of Tradition Two are crystal-clear, Bill asserts: “The A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.” The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it “a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work . . .”



Concept II

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.



Concept I establishes the "final responsibility and ultimate authority" of the A.A. groups; but, in actual practice, how are they to manage A.A.'s service affairs? By delegation, Concept II declares.

Bill and Dr. Bob, entrusted by the early groups to get the program going and to spread the message, found nonalcoholic friends to help them. They formed a trusteeship and delegated to it the responsibility for finances, the Big Book and other literature, public information, the service office and the A.A. Grapevine. However, as the trustees constantly looked to the co-founders for advice and guidance and the groups also continued to hold them accountable, it was evident that the leadership should be transferred to the A.A.

groups as a whole. But if the groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference. They do this by electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 91 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, the staffs of the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine and certain other service workers. Thus, this General Service Conference of A.A. is "the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs."

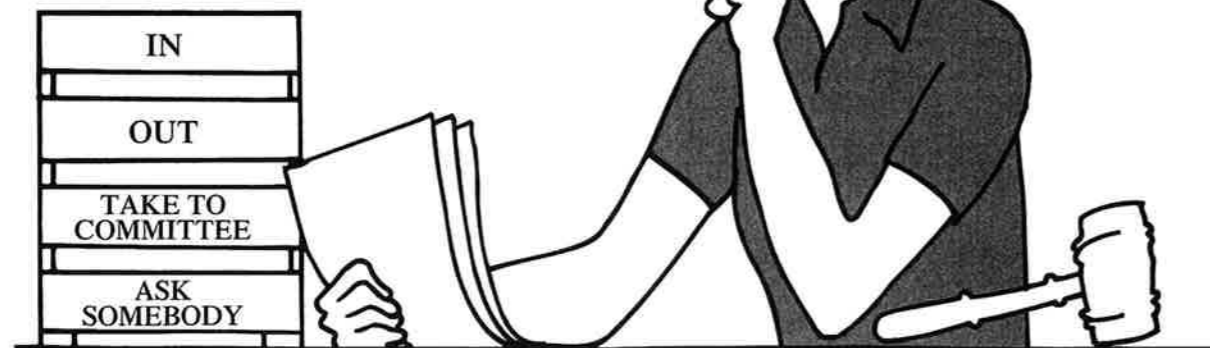
The groups have to delegate.

Otherwise nothing would get done!

Concept III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

The Right of Decision

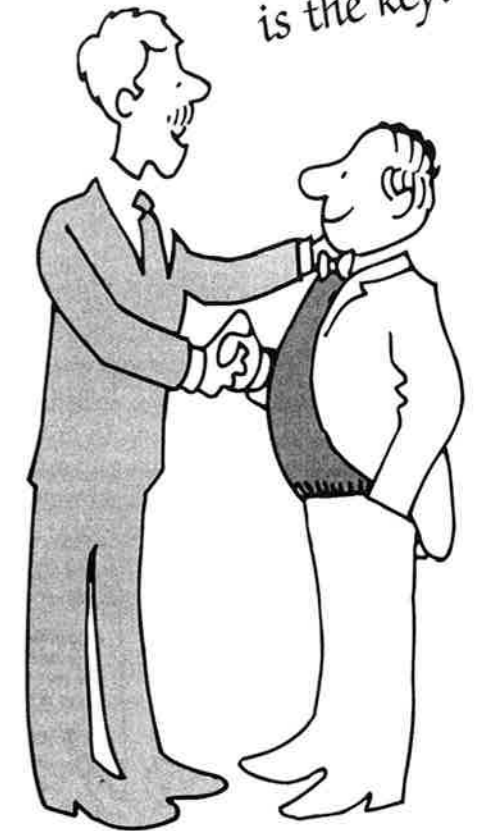


AT ALL LEVELS OF SERVICE

A background for this Concept, you should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, both of which are found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. For, except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service — has the right “to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.” That is, they can “decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.” This is “the essence of ‘The Right of Decision.’”

But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its “trusted servants.” If the groups *instruct* their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s *instruct* the area delegates rather than giving them a “Right of Decision,” then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, “our Conference delegates are *primarily* the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.”

Mutual trust
is the key!



Similarly, if the General Service Board, acting through its subsidiary boards, “were to attempt to manage” the General Service Office and the A.A. *Grapevine* “in detail, then . . . the staff members . . . would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot.”

Bill warns against using “The Right of Decision” as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes:

“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.”

Concept IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.



The principle of "Right of Participation" is built into the General Service Conference through the Conference Charter. Voting members include not only delegates, but also the trustees, and the directors and staff members of A.A. World Services (i.e., G.S.O.) and the A.A. Grapevine.

In the same way, the boards of these two operating entities include as voting members not only trustees, but also nontrustee directors and paid administrators and staff members.

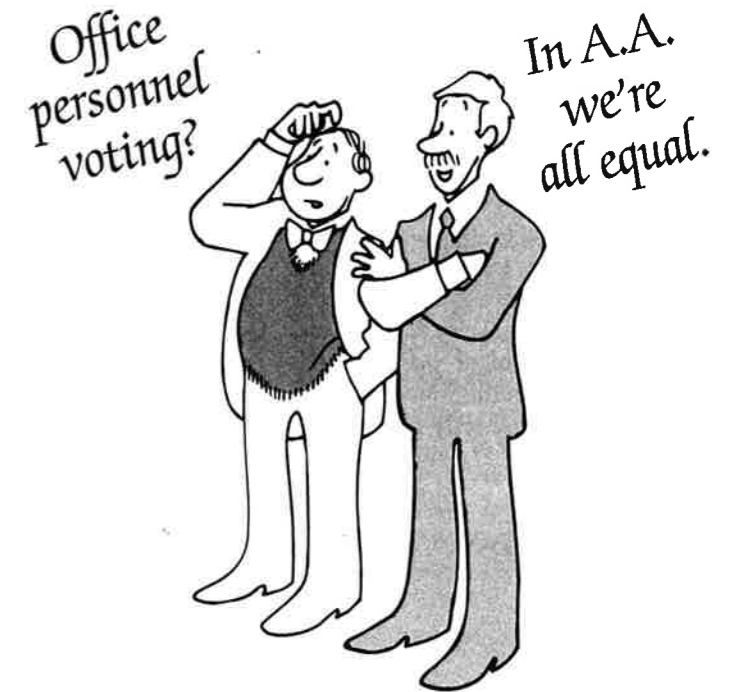
The chairperson of the General Service Board appoints nontrustee members to the standing committees in order to have the advantage of their expertise, and staff members serve as committee secretaries. "There are no 'superiors,' no 'inferiors,' and no 'advisers.'" New trustees on the General Service Board and new directors of the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine boards are sometimes surprised to see paid executives, staff members and outside accountants attending the board meet-

ings. They are invited because of A.A.'s "Right of Participation." Thus, the trustees and directors "are put into direct communication with these workers, who . . . feel wanted and needed. Although they do not vote, these workers may freely participate."

Bill warns against the possibility of new delegates or trustees trying to "weaken, modify or toss out" the "Right of Participation." He cites arguments by delegates to take away the trustees', directors' and staff members' vote at the Conference. "Certainly," he says, "our trustees and service workers are not less conscientious, experienced and wise than the delegates."

"It is vital," he continues, "to preserve the traditional 'Right of Participation,' in the face of every tendency to whittle it down."

Finally, there is a spiritual reason for the "Right of Participation." All of us desire to belong. In A.A., no members are "second class." The "Right of Participation" therefore reinforces Tradition Two, that no member is placed in "ultimate authority" over another. We perform our service tasks better "when we are sure we belong-when our 'participation' assures us we are truly the 'trusted servants' described in Tradition Two."



Concept V

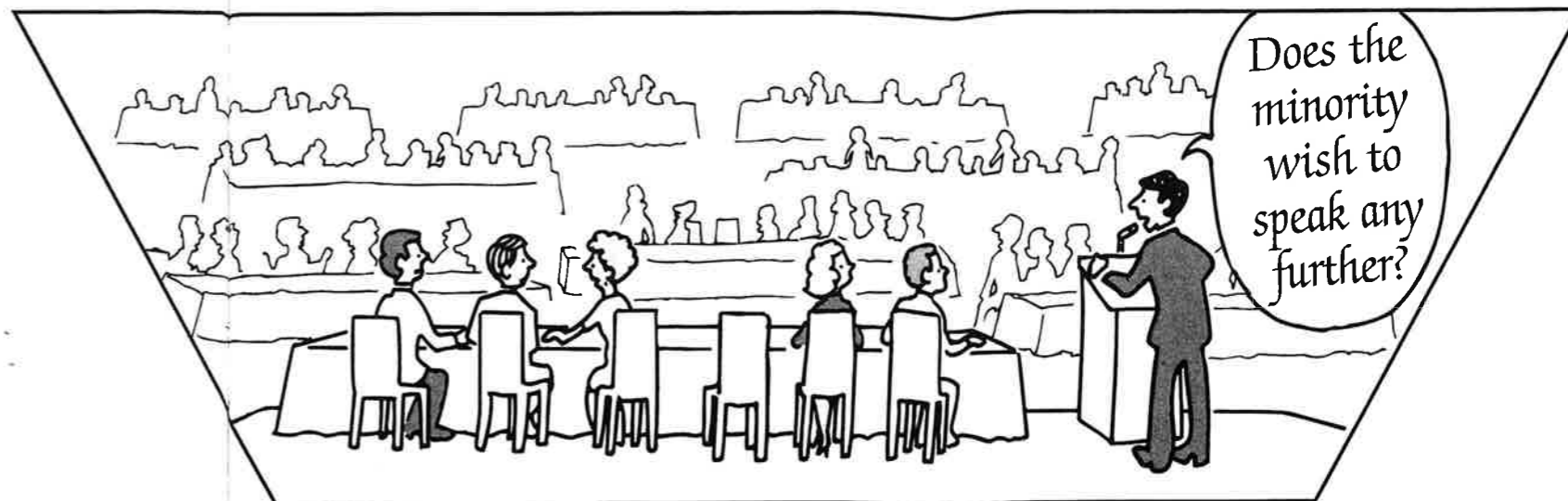
Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered

Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a "substantial unanimity" is reached, those opposed are polled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which this minority view is so compelling the Conference has then reversed itself.

This is A.A.'s "Right of Appeal" in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees, trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual *duty* of presenting its views.

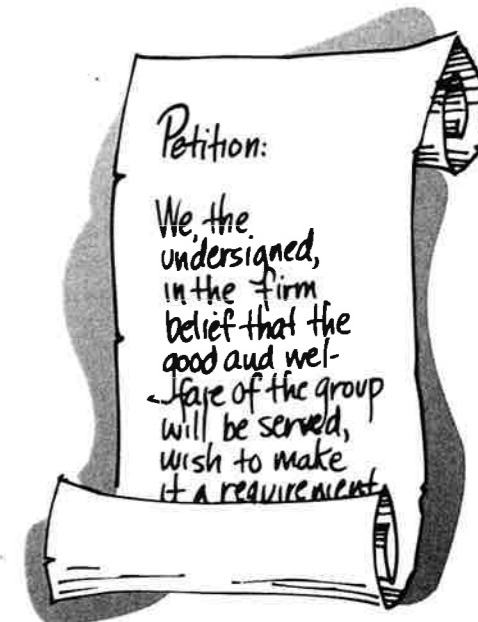
This "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

"Trusted servants," according to Bill, "do for the groups what the groups cannot or should not do for themselves." And in exercising their "Right of Decision" (see Concept III), trusted servants are almost always "a small but truly qualified minority" — whether in the form of area committees, staffs, boards or even the General Service Conference itself. It is incumbent upon them, therefore, in their own meetings, to pay special deference to the minority voice.



This Concept also warns us of "the tyranny of the majority" and points out that in A.A., a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision. That's why we usually require at least a two-thirds majority. Lacking this, it is preferable to delay the decision; or in the case of an election following the "Third Legacy Procedure," to "go to the hat." (See *Service Manual*, Chapter I.)

The "Right of Appeal" also permits any person in the service structure, whether paid or volunteer, to petition for redress of a personal grievance. He or she can complain directly to the General Service Board, without prejudice or fear of reprisal.



Concept VI

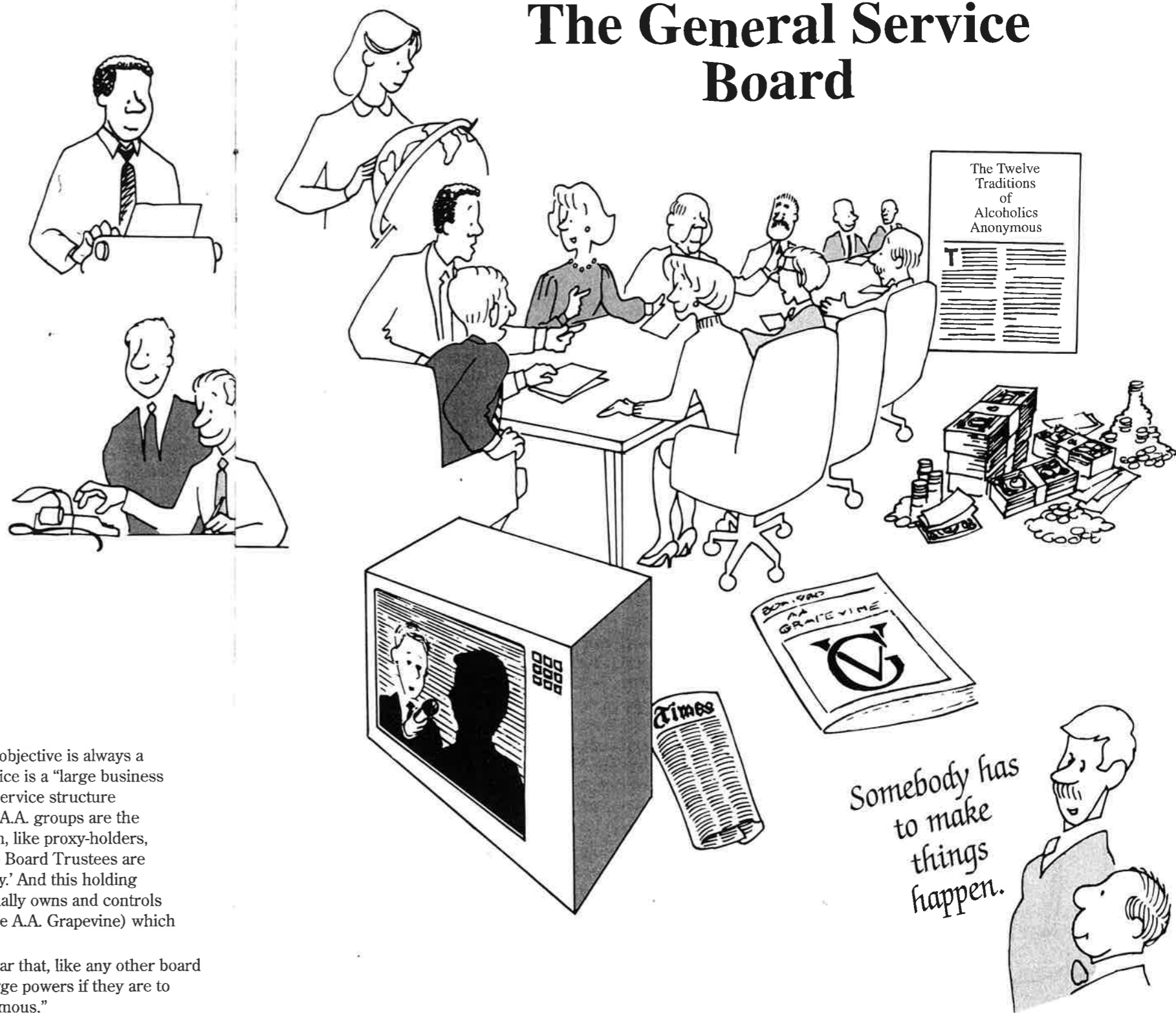
On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We have seen that the "final responsibility and ultimate authority" for A.A.'s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. Again, it is helpful if you are familiar with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the trustees must have.

The trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. (which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office) and of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for A.A.'s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They are A.A.'s "bankers," overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.'s substantial Reserve Fund. (Read the text of Concept Xi for a more detailed account of their functions.)

Bill makes the point that although "our objective is always a spiritual one," nevertheless our world service is a "large business operation." "Indeed," he says, "our whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, at the annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a 'holding company.' And this holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two 'subsidiaries' (A. A.A.W.S.S. and the A.A. Grapevine) which carry on the . . . services.

"This very real analogy makes it . . . clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the . . . affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous."



Concept VII

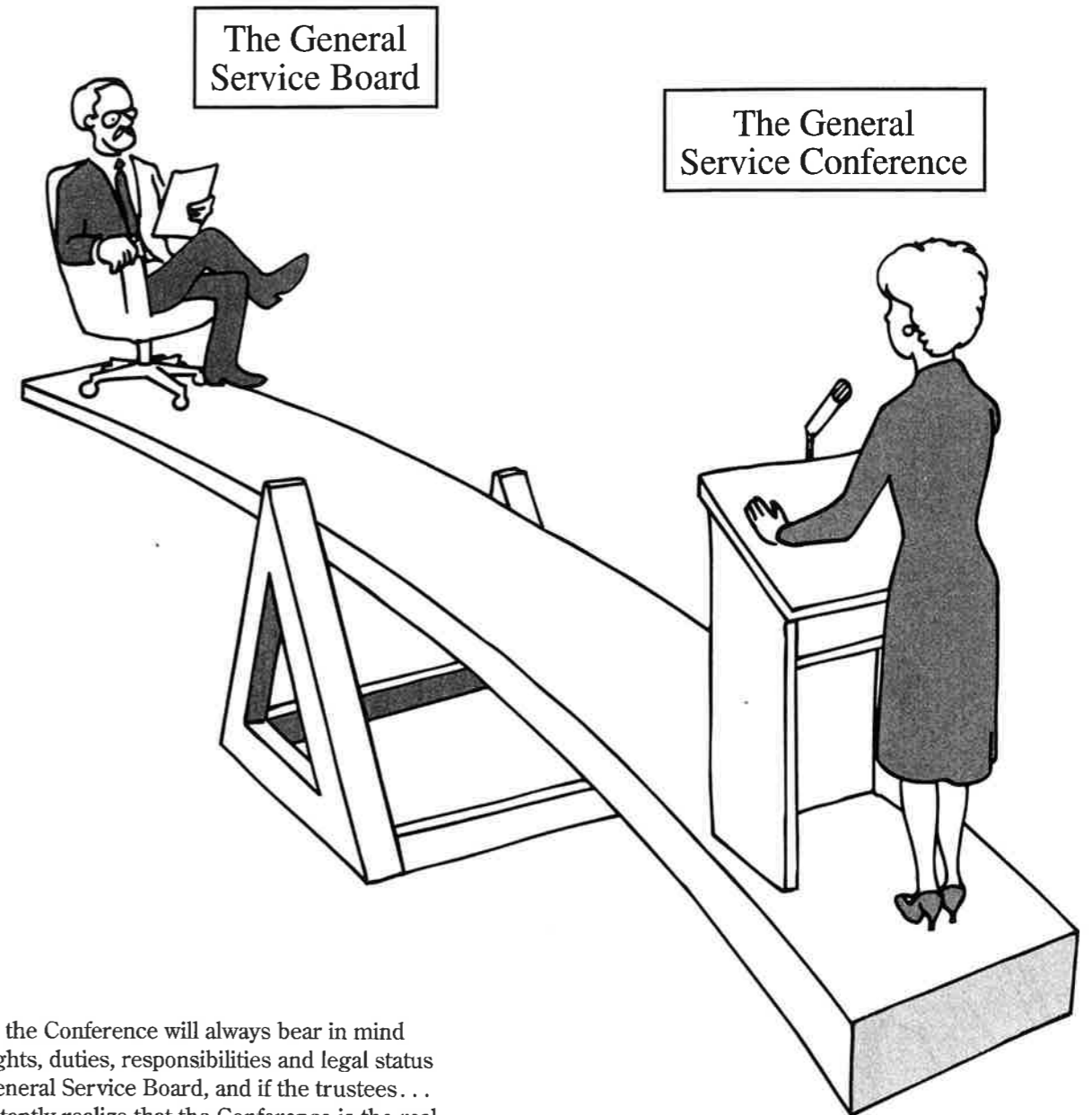
The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.



This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and "balance of powers" between the Conference and the General Service Board. "This . . . may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object." On the one hand, "the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

"Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members"; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. "Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need."

The Conference "recommends" — though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation — but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees "simply refrain from using their legal right to say 'no' when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say 'yes.'"



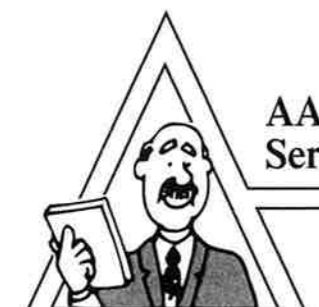
"If . . . the Conference will always bear in mind actual rights, duties, responsibilities and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the trustees . . . will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority . . . neither will be seriously tempted to make a 'rubber stamp' out of the other . . . In this way, grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule."

Concept VIII

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.



General Service Board



AA World Services Inc.

General Manager



GSO
Box 459



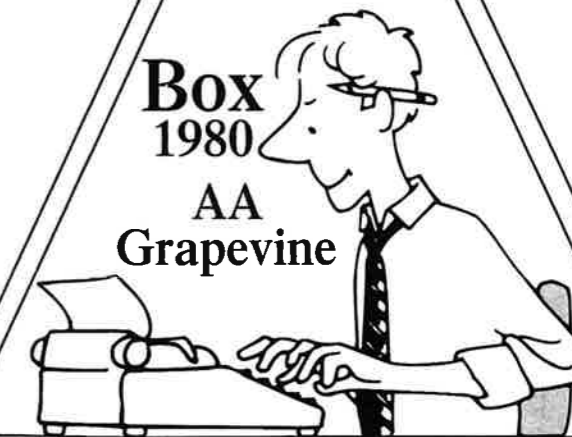
The AA Grapevine, Inc.



The AA Grapevine, Inc.



Executive Editor



Box
1980
AA
Grapevine

This Concept deals with the ways the General Service Board "discharges its heavy obligations," and its relationship with its two subsidiary corporations: A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Long experience has proven that the board "must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger questions of policy, finance, group relations and leadership. . . . In these matters, it must act with great care and skill to plan, manage and execute."

The board, therefore, must not be distracted or burdened with the details or the endless questions which arise daily in the routine operation of the General Service Office or the publishing operations, including the *Grapevine*. "It must delegate its executive function" to its subsidiary, operating boards.

"Here, the board's attitude has to be that of custodial oversight. . . . The trustees are the guarantors of good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. . . . by electing the directors of these service arms, a part of whom must always be trustees. . . . The executive direction of these functions is. . . lodged in the. . . service corporations themselves, rather than the General Service Board. Each corporate service entity should possess its own bylaws, its own working capital, its own executives, its own employees, its own offices and equipment."

Bill draws from earlier mistakes by the General Service Board in trying to run the service functions directly and warns repeatedly against "too much concentration of money and authority."

Concept IX

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

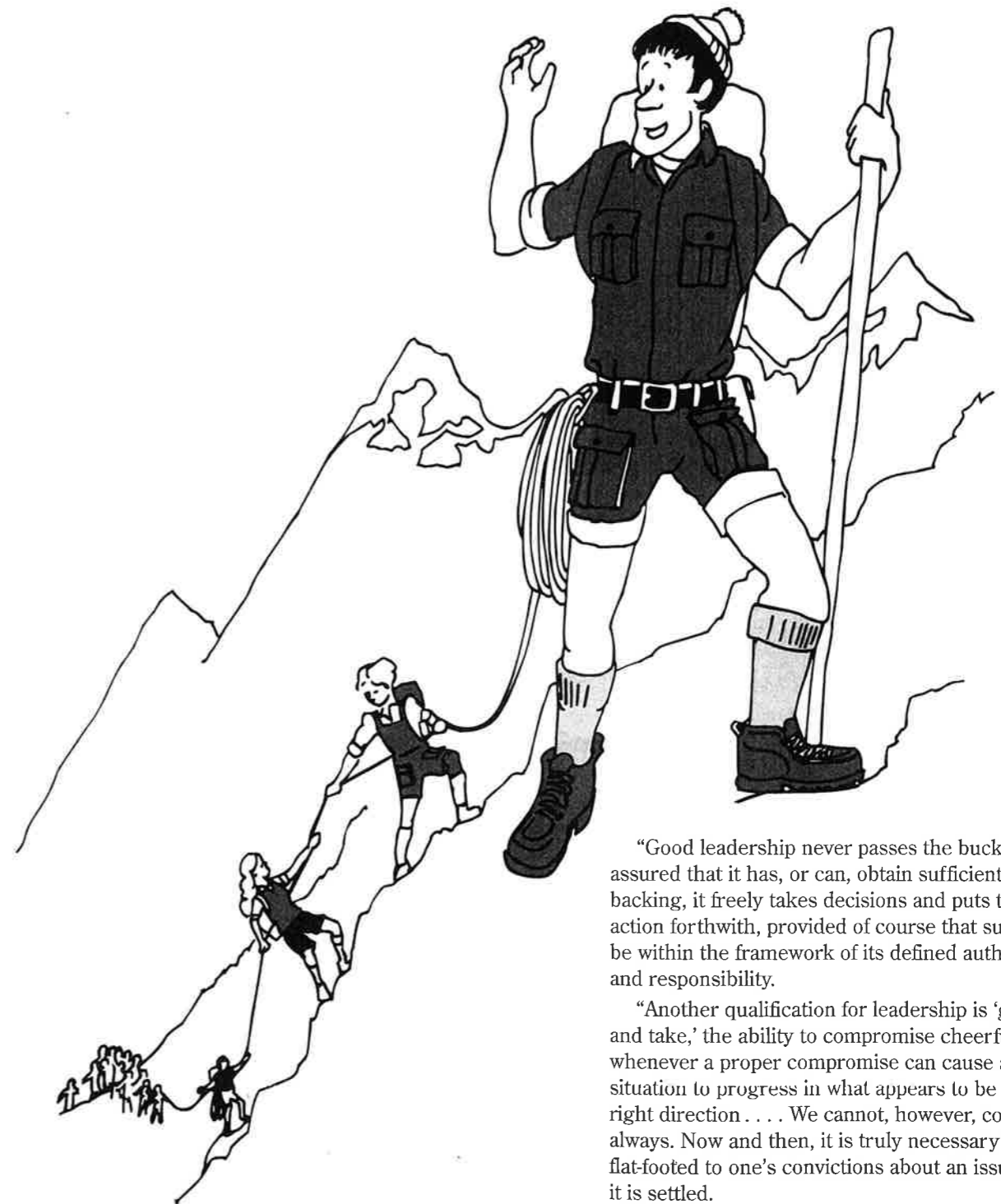
No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures."

Due to A.A.'s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative. The G.S.R. is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole. Together the G.S.R.s are A.A.'s group conscience — and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area's candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. And as the G.S.R.s meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. "Who are the best qualified people?" should be the thought of all.

"No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of *real* leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

"A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help him with his job.

"Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.



"Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.

"Another qualification for leadership is 'give and take,' the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction . . . We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's convictions about an issue until it is settled.

"Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, 'Act for us, but do not boss us.'"

Concept X

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

Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously unless, at every level, each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it. This requires that authority must be *delegated* at every level — and that the responsibility and authority of every entity are well defined and clearly understood.

As we have seen (Concept I) “final responsibility and ultimate authority” reside with the A.A. groups, and they *delegate* this authority to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, *delegates* to the General Service Board the authority to manage A.A.’s affairs (Concept III) in its behalf. The board is in authority over its subsidiary operating conditions — A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. — but it *delegates* to the directors of those corporations the authority necessary to run these service entities. The directors are in authority over the executives of the corporations, but delegate to these officers the authority needed to carry out their administrative responsibilities. And finally, the executives *delegate* to the G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members and other employees the *authority* necessary to carry out their important service jobs.



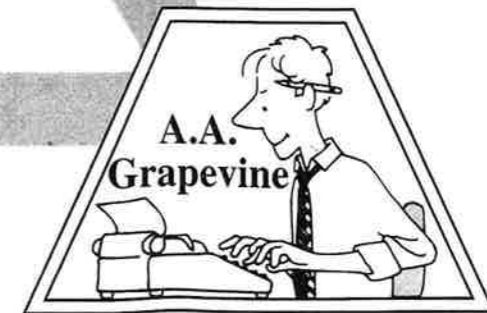
AA World Services Inc.



General Service Board



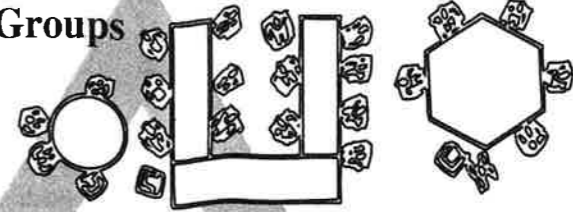
Grapevine Corporate Board



General Service Conference



the Groups



Responsibility
Authority
Service

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

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

Concept XI

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

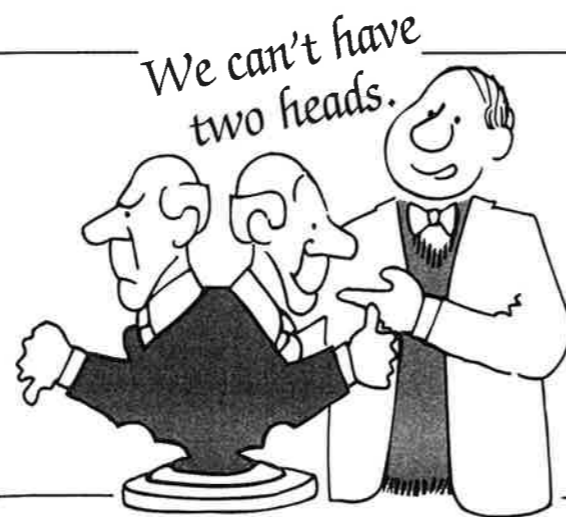
In this, the second longest of the Concepts, Bill explains in great detail the composition, functions and relationships of the standing committees of the General Service Board, its subsidiary operating boards, the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine — as they existed in 1962. As A.A. has grown and changed, many of the descriptions would be different today, and some of the issues that are addressed are no longer relevant. Nevertheless, the full text is valuable as an historical document, and many of the principles still apply, as summarized below.

Underlying the service structure we have been discussing, there is another, internal structure of service consisting of the nontrustee members of the trustees' committees; the nontrustee directors of the two operating boards, and the executives and staff members. "Members of this group," declares Bill, "not only support the leadership of the trustees: they share leadership with them."

The following are "several principles . . . which" apply to A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.:

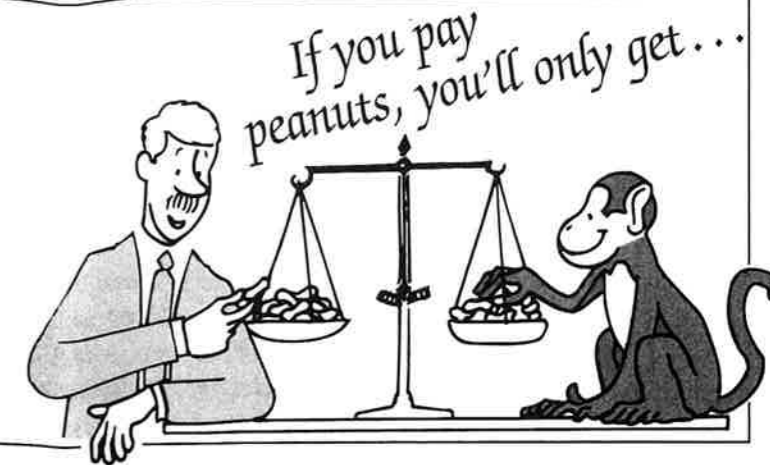
1. The status of executives

No active service can function well unless it has sustained and competent executive direction. This must always head up in *one person*, supported by such assistants as he needs. That person has to have ample freedom and authority to do his job, and he should not be interfered with so long as his work is done well.



2. Paid workers, how compensated

Each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world . . . Cheap help is apt to feel insecure and inefficient. It is very costly in the long run. This is neither good spirituality nor good business. Assuming service money is available, we should therefore compensate our workers well.



It's like musical hats!

3. Rotation among paid staff workers

At A.A.'s General Service Office, most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job in the place — excepting for office management.

Remember our worker in Concept IV.

4. Full "Participation" of paid workers is highly important

We have already discussed the necessity of giving key paid personnel a voting representation on our committees and corporate boards. They should enjoy a status suitable to their responsibility, just as our volunteers do.



Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter "can be readily amended," these General Warranties — like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions — be changed only by "written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups" in the world!

Why?

Because "these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess. . . . These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves."

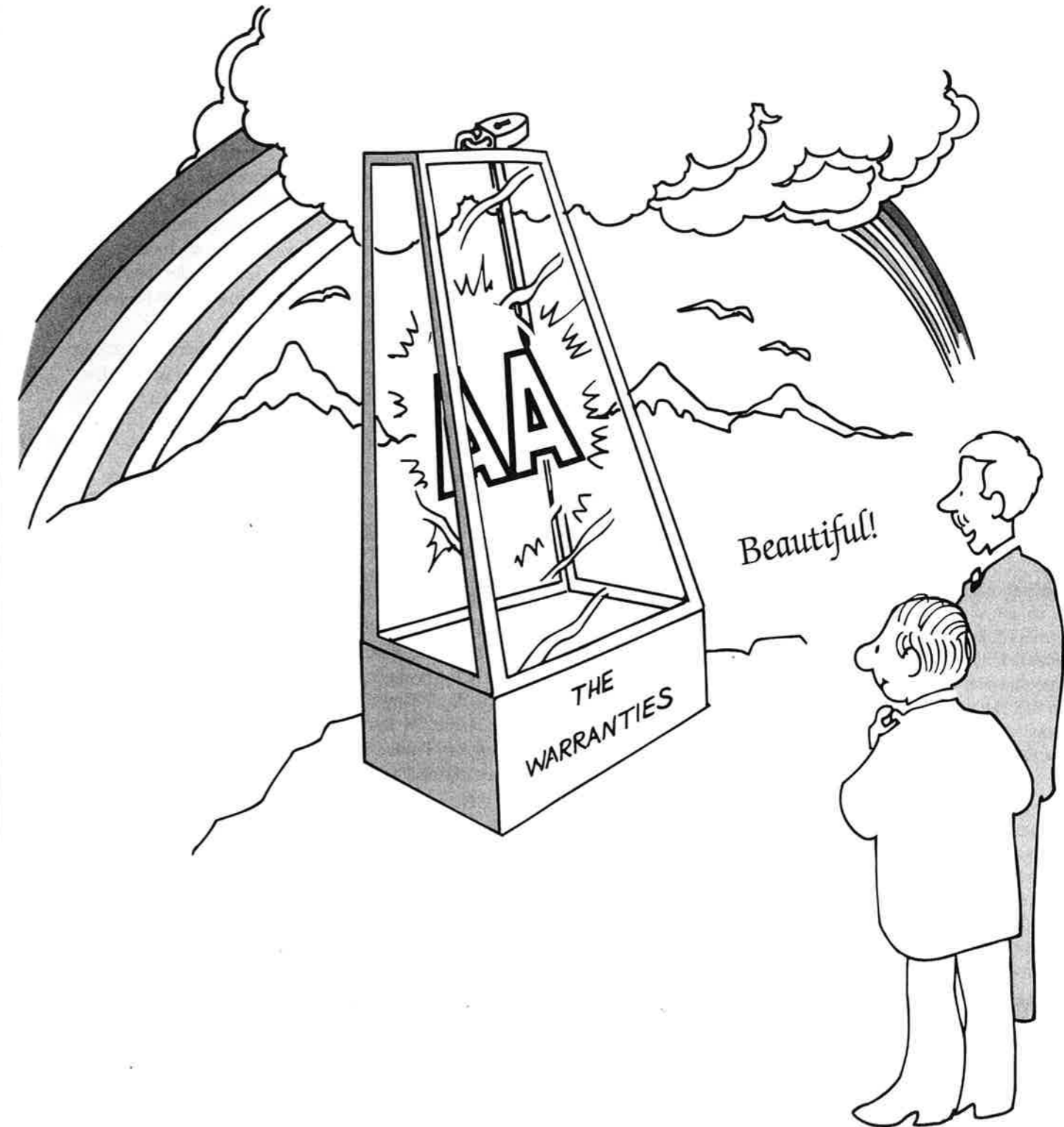
The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one by one:

Warranty One: "The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power." The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual member's donations, "we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense." And if we live by

Tradition Two — that "our ultimate authority is a loving God" and that "our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern" — then we are safe from perilous power.

Warranty Two: "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle." Although many of us as active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting "A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant." Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year's operating expenses of the G.S.O. and the *Grapevine*. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services.

Warranty Three: "None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others." This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but "it is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty" — a



AA Service News

SPRING 2012 No.150

Unity Service and Recovery

From a sunny beach to a thriving Fellowship - a short history of English-speaking AA on the French Riviera

They had the sun, sea, sand and Mediterranean skies as blue as a Raphael Madonna, but those American AA members holidaying on the Riviera in the 60s and 70s were still missing something from back home, namely their regular AA meetings. As there were none on the coast, they held their own impromptu meetings on beaches or in the lobbies of the chic hotels that line the palm-fringed seafront of Cannes, and it was from these fledgling beginnings that AA spread to the towns and cities set along one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world.

Famous as the chic, film-festival city on the French Riviera, Cannes then became the venue for first ever *official* meeting of AA on the Côte d'Azur, held, in 1978 in a church hall just behind the beautiful Carlton Hotel on the seafront. That meeting had its troubles, it closed, it re-opened, finally got established in 1986 and today it is a permanent fixture on the local AA landscape.

In nearby Nice, in December 1983, a bi-lingual Frenchman and two Americans living on the coast started what is now the longest continuous running AA meeting in the area - on Tuesdays at 17:30 - in the Anglican Church in rue de la Buffa.

Then in 1987, an expat AA member who had, some months earlier, started the first ever AA meeting in Monaco in any language, went looking for a more suitable meeting room.

“That’s a coincidence’ said the welcoming priest from a local Monaco church, “we pray for a particular cause each year, and this year it’s for alcoholics.”

The meeting therefore moved to a more suitable venue but it later proved to be at an unsuitable time, Sunday afternoon, and while it closed 5 years ago, from it sprang three other AA meetings, all still running in Monaco.

In those early days, that seem pioneering now, French AA, already well established here, provided us with our first rudimentary English-language telephone service in 1988 (an old-fashioned answering machine in their AA office), and they helped us get our first meeting lists printed (by prisoners, inside the local prison who produced a folded card design). They also lent us their AA office for our first English-speaking Intergroup meeting in 1994.

By this time new meetings had emerged in St Tropez in the 80s, in Antibes in February 1990, in Valbonne in November 1991, and further west in Aix-en-Provence. Today there’s even a meeting in Montpellier, 330 km from Nice.

By the mid-90s we had upgraded to our own dedicated phone line that could be accessed from our home phones, so calls were answered promptly. The telephone number was printed in local publications, available in the hotels, given to local medical personnel, and of course published in relevant AA literature. We also got occasional media coverage at the local English-language radio station, and we often gave visitors to our groups a bunch of A4 printed fliers and asked them to spread the word.

Further meetings sprang up – an evening meeting in the historic town of Vence, a further meeting in Valbonne, a sudden surge of new meetings opening in Nice in 2004. One or two of these have since closed, but most have remained open so that at present we have over 30 AA meetings per week in the south of France from Monaco to Aix-en-Provence.

Our service structure kept pace – today we have a state-of-the-art 24/7 telephone service, where every call is answered personally by an AA member; we have a website www.aa-riviera.org; we have a unique system of literature and chip distribution; we have an enthusiastic Public Information Committee, we are members of AA’s Central European Region, there is a daily AA announcement on the local radio, and we have professionally printed AA meeting lists (the prisoners didn’t mind).

Conventions have been an important part of our growth, from our early participation in the French-speaking weekend conventions in the 80s, to our first English-speaking one-day gathering in a hall in Antibes in March 1990 that somehow attracted 50 people. Monaco got into the act in the 90s with three English-speaking conventions in the sumptuous Metropole Hotel, 2 minutes away from the mythic Monte Carlo Casino. Very successful conventions were also put on each year for 5 years at the 4-Star Park Hotel on Nice seafront, each time attracting around 200 participants. We've even had the odd AA visitor, charmed by the area, who came to live here.

Today English-speaking groups include members from a host of linguistic and cultural backgrounds – apart from our native English speakers we have Belgian, Brazilian, Columbian, Dutch, French, Finnish, German, Greek, Iranian, Italian, Norwegian and Swedish nationals all speaking English, and the language of recovery.

Can our experience help others? In this year's Conference Question n° 1 we are asked to *"share our experiences and make recommendations on how to make AA more visible to the general public, particularly by increasing awareness and understanding of how the AA programme works."*

Well, we have given talks at local schools, hospitals and institutions and we felt we needed to do more than tell our story and present our contact details. We wanted to say just what our message is. We explained what we do, and don't do, to people who have only a vague idea of AA.

In this Internet age, knowledge of the existence of AA is a mouse-click away, but knowledge of what AA is, and how attractive it can be, may not be so well known. How many times have we heard new members say they had no idea what AA was before they joined?

Whether on the Riviera beaches, in hotel lobbies or in the 4-Star Convention Hotels or, more prosaically, in the basement rooms of the local churches and other rented rooms, day after day AA in the south of France has grown from those impromptu summer meetings to its present 30 meetings-per-week Fellowship. It makes me think.

AA was made available to me when I came to live here, so I could survive, it was made attractive to me so I could stay, and in gratitude I try to do my bit to help pass the message along to the next sufferer, so that I can stay sober myself today. And through this process those sober days have become sober decades.

English-speaking AA in the south of France - 24/7 tel: 0820 200 257 / web: www.aa-riviera.org

**Public Information Officer's Report
for the March 3rd and 4th, 2012 Continental European Region (CER) business meeting
in Düsseldorf, Germany**

One of the most important public information efforts we can make as CER is carrying the message to ourselves: to members, groups and intergroups of English language A.A. in continental Europe. Consequently, when a trusted servant in one intergroup wrote to ask “What does CER do?”, we responded.

How would you respond?

Here is what CER Vice-Chairperson Nicola wrote and below that, what I had written:

“Hello Roger,

Dan forwarded me your question and I am glad you asked. When I came to CER some time ago, I asked myself the exact same thing and have heard many people since ask the same question. This shows that the question is a good one and needs to be answered.

Dan has already mailed you some answers and I would like to add my personal view as well. My name is Nicola and I am at this time a Conference Delegate for Region (CER) in my last (3rd) year and the Vice Chairperson of Region. I live in Germany.

1. CER does service that a single group might be not able to do. For example, we provide the CER website www.aa-europe.net where people from all over the world find meetings and where English language groups and intergroups in continental Europe post their events. It is updated on a daily basis and is far more accurate than the printed international meeting lists from AA International (New York) or GSO Great Britain (York, England). We are offer email addresses connected to this site for groups to make communication easier. Here is a list of groups and convention committees that have made use of this service:

- 1 aa-antwerp@aa-europe.net
- 2 aa-bagram@aa-europe.net
- 3 aa-helsinki@aa-europe.net
- 4 aa-maastricht@aa-europe.net
- 9 antibes@aa-europe.net
- 10 athens@aa-europe.net
- 11 balad@aa-europe.net
- 12 belgrade@aa-europe.net
- 13 berlin@aa-europe.net
- 16 cairo@aa-europe.net
- 17 cannes@aa-europe.net
- 24 copenhagen@aa-europe.net
- 25 cyprus@aa-europe.net
- 26 dresden@aa-europe.net
- 27 duesseldorf@aa-europe.net
- 28 dusseldorf@aa-europe.net
- 30 first164yp@aa-europe.net
- 34 gailiac@aa-europe.net
- 35 ganges@aa-europe.net
- 36 goteborg@aa-europe.net
- 37 gothenburg@aa-europe.net
- 43 hnloden@aa-europe.net

- 44 Incirlik@aa-europe.net
- 45 kaiserslautern@aa-europe.net
- 46 kiev@aa-europe.net
- 47 kyrenia@aa-europe.net
- 48 l.isle.jourdain@aa-europe.net
- 49 landstuhl@aa-europe.net
- 52 leipzig@aa-europe.net
- 55 Lorgues@aa-europe.net
- 56 luxembourg@aa-europe.net
- 57 lyon@aa-europe.net
- 58 marmaris@aa-europe.net
- 59 milan.group@aa-europe.net
- 61 monaco@aa-europe.net
- 63 montpellier@aa-europe.net
- 64 moscow@aa-europe.net
- 65 mykonos@aa-europe.net
- 66 Nice@aa-europe.net
- 67 NSC@aa-europe.net (North Sea Convention)
- 68 orhei@aa-europe.net
- 69 ortaca.dalyan@aa-europe.net
- 70 paris@aa-europe.net
- 71 patmos@aa-europe.net
- 73 portugal@aa-europe.net
- 75 ramstein@aa-europe.net
- 78 rethymnon@aa-europe.net
- 79 reykjavik@aa-europe.net
- 80 rhodos@aa-europe.net
- 81 Riga@aa-europe.net
- 82 Rome@aa-europe.net
- 84 sliema@aa-europe.net
- 85 st.julians@aa-europe.net
- 86 st.tropez@aa-europe.net
- 87 stockholm@aa-europe.net
- 88 Tallinn@aa-europe.net
- 89 Timisoara@aa-europe.net
- 90 torrevieja@aa-europe.net
- 92 uebach-palenberg@aa-europe.net
- 93 umea@aa-europe.net
- 94 Uppsala@aa-europe.net
- 95 valbonne@aa-europe.net
- 96 valletta@aa-europe.net
- 98 vienna@aa-europe.net
- 100 young-peoples-committee@aa-europe.net
- 101 zagreb@aa-europe.net
- 102 zakynthos@aa-europe.net

This is not a complete list, but it gives you an idea.

2. CER answers hundreds of help emails that come in through the website.

CER has a web response team that makes sure people who are looking for help, contact, a meeting, a person to talk to or have a question like yours will find answers and help. Your question being answered is the best example for that. More important though are the people

looking for help, writing to an internet page in hope of an answer to their pain. And they find an answer. CER makes sure of that.

3. CER gives you the opportunity to participate in the service structure of the General Service Conference, even when you are only one person sitting in nowhere. I don't know how familiar you are with the service structure, but to put it simply, it is your opportunity to vote. To make sure that AA will be there in 20, 50 years from now and not self-destruct. The service structure was set up to make sure that the fellowship as a whole participates in group conscience decisions that affect AA as a whole. The platform for this is Conference. Where about 100 delegates from all over the area show up and take votes on literature or other decisions. "Conference approved literature". I am sure you have heard that term. Even though having a vote there might not sound too important for one's personal recovery, it is important as a way of securing AA's future.

4. CER connects you to groups with the same problems. English language groups in Europe all have similar problems: Military people moving, tourists not staying, in short, a lot of fluctuation, different ideas of how a group is to be run, as people show up from all over the world and bring their input. Most groups are small, sometimes consisting only of 2-4 members. CER gives you the opportunity to communicate about these things via intergroup and other intergroups sharing their experience. It catapulted me from being a loner to the feeling I am part of a vital membership in all of Europe, which gave me personally a lot of hope and power to continue my recovery forward and not believe it is all hopeless in Europe. I became a regular member in my first meeting in San Diego, California with 500 people, showing up once a week. San Diego has 800 meetings a week. And then I came home to Germany and first felt very lonely. Now I feel just the opposite.

5. CER gives you the opportunity to send your 7th tradition through the structure to York, making sure the money is used for English speaking AA in Europe, especially in underdeveloped regions.

6. CER offers to pay for national English speaking phone-helplines, a thing that a single group would have a hard time to do.

There may be more things, but these are the most significant 6 to me.

I thank you for the opportunity to reflect on them again and wish you a happy new year!

Nicola“

Here is how I had responded to the question:

“ Hi, Roger. Bonjour. Je te souhaite un Joyeux Noël et bonne année.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Here is some information for you for the SW France Intergroup:

The Aims of Region are:

- To promote communication and cooperation between neighbouring Intergroups, thus implementing our tradition of Unity and creating service boards or committees where needed;
- To ensure that the Region recognise areas that are sparsely served by the Fellowship do not remain isolated but become part of the Region's responsibility;

- To share Intergroup experience in the field of co-operation with outside agencies, prisons, health services, schools, social services, alcohol abuse agencies, churches, courts, probation services, industry, and any other appropriate institutions and areas of society;
- To increase opportunity for members to participate in our Third Legacy of Service;
- To enable members with particular experience to serve wider area.

[From Guideline No. 5, "Regions"; *Guidelines for AA in Great Britain (Revised November 2006)*; *The AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, 2008*]

We remind all members of English language A.A. in continental Europe that ***CER belongs to them:***

- Any member of English language A.A. in continental Europe can receive CER Agendas, Minutes, and other reports by writing CER Secretary <aa-secretary@aa-europe.net> or <cer.secretary.aa.europe@gmail.com> and asking to be put on the Secretary's emailing list.
- Any member can have access to an always up to date CER Treasurer's Report on Google.docs by writing to CER Treasurer <aa-treasurer@aa-europe.net> and asking for an access code.
- Any member can serve as a 'hand of A.A.' on the CER confidential (not for public distribution) public information contact list by writing the Public Information Officer at pi-cer@aa-europe.net
- Any member can attend CER business meetings as a non-voting observer.
- And any member of English language A.A. in Continental Europe can send Agenda proposals directly to the CER Steering Committee at <aa-steering-committee@aa-europe.net> **a month or more in advance** so that the proposals can be considered for placement on the Agenda of the next scheduled CER meeting, just as any member of English language A.A. in continental Europe can submit directly to the GSO in York, England before August 31st of any year questions to be considered by the Conference Steering Committee for the General Service Conference held in York the following April.

CER funding comes only from 7th Tradition contributions that members of English language A.A. in continental Europe (and from some groups outside of Europe, such as in Iraq and Afghanistan) put into the hat at their local meetings and that Treasurers pass on above prudent local group and intergroup reserve, so information on how CER uses these funds is available to all members, whether they, their group or intergroup contribute to CER or not.

There are no dues or fees for CER service and support.

CER is one of 16 Regions that participate in the English Speaking Service Structure in York, Great Britain, and send voting Delegates to the annual General Service Conference in York.. It is suggested that English speaking AA Groups register with GSO, York. You can email your group's details to groupinformation@gsogb.org.uk Registration with GSO York will get you included on the meetings listed at their website, and information about AA Service throughout Great Britain and CER.

English-speaking members of A.A. in continental Europe participate in the annual General Service Conference in York through the six Delegates CER sends every year. That way, members of English-speaking A.A. on the Continent have input and a vote, for example, into what becomes English language "Conference Approved Literature".

I am copying other CER officers and delegates on this message should they want to provide you additional perspectives.

All the best, Dan”

How would you respond to the question “What does CER do?”

It is my experience that a majority of people who come to A.A. these days are coming through recommendations from someone in the helping professions....a doctor, nurse, psychiatrist, psychologist, family or social counselor, etc.

When I presented a Public Information workshop at the Berlin Convention two years ago, **everyone** of the nearly 40 people attending the workshop had come in to AA at the recommendation of a member of the helping professions. (I did in December 1976. The family counselor my first wife and I had been seeing recommended that I go to AA.)

Consequently, it is my belief that the most important public information effort that local groups and intergroups can do these days is to reach members of the helping professions in their geographic area. This was true in Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith's day:

“Carry this message to other alcoholics!... **You can easily find some by asking a few doctors, ministers, priests or hospitals....**Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss.” Page 89, *Alcoholics Anonymous* © 2001 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

and it is truer today than ever before.

We are more and more carrying the message through members of the helping professions.

From the Happy Landings Group Stockholm
Roger C., Rep to Nordic Intergroup

Writing press releases about AA

Here in Sweden we have launched what amounts to a new PI concept for us.

It works like this:

A new English language group was recently formed in north metro Stockholm. We wanted to make this fact known.

So we turned to the local freebie newspaper.

We gave them a complete press release about founding of the new group, and why we were doing it. The article went on to explain what AA is all about.

This 300 word release, written in Swedish, was run in full by the newspaper, without a single change. They added a picture to turn it into a major article aimed at the local community.

We also decided we wanted to be listed on their regular "events" page. So we wrote an item about our meetings, where to find us, etc. This item, written in English, is now being run in *English every single week, in what is otherwise a Swedish language publication*. The very fact that the item appears in English makes it jump out from the page.

None of this cost us anything. The newspaper was delighted to get fresh news, already written in their style. I got a thank-you note from the editor for providing the items.

Giveaway newspapers abound. We're going to extend the concept throughout Greater Stockholm.

We have also discussed providing newspapers with short articles about notable speakers who turn up now and then. The important thing is that we know in advance how the speaker is going to tackle the question of sobriety. *Writing this type of press release does call for certain guidelines for those who have never written press releases.* It's easier for me, because I'm a trained journalist, but I recognize that we do not always have trained journalists in our midst.

The new Public Information page in the Service Section of the Continental European Region website www.aa-europe.net is up and running on for groups and intergroups to share their public information experience, strength and hope:

Go to
<http://www.aa-europe.net/extra/service.htm>

and click on the
Public Information box.

The only documents attached at the moment are five from me and one from the Nordic Intergroup (Writing press releases about A.A.), but you can post reports of your group's or intergroup's public information activities by emailing them to

pi-cer@aa-europe.net

who will forward them to Webmaster John at

ecc-committee@aa-europe.net

for posting.

I will rotate out at the Region meeting on 1-2 December 2012. Members of English language A.A. in continental Europe who think they might possibly be interested in being a candidate for the position at the Region assembly in December 2012 are invited to contact me now at pi-cer@aa-europe.net to 'shadow' me and to learn about the opportunities for service that the position offers. Five members so far have volunteered to shadow me with at least two of them indicating they are not interested in being a candidate in December, but would like to know about public information efforts. More shadows would be quite welcome. 'To shadow' me means I blind-copy you on PI emails I send. A job description is below. It's an opportunity to practice all three legacies...recovery, unity and service. I am a complete alcoholic. I feel most fulfilled when I try to practice the complete program in all my affairs. What I accomplish in service is not as important as what I learn from practicing unity and service, strengthening my recovery. As Lois Wilson pointed out when Bill complained that none of the men he was working with were staying sober, she said "But Bill, you are."

A job description for the CER Public Information Officer can be:

- (1) Responds to requests for help or information. Maintains a confidential (not for public distribution) public information contact list to help respond.

- (2) Contacts Region member intergroups and unaffiliated local groups in continental Europe to inquire what public information activities they are doing, what they would like to report, and what public information support they need from Region.
- (3) Prepares summaries for Region of new public information activities at member intergroup and unaffiliated local group level, and related PI activities.
- (4) Maintains a file of sample public information letters, posters, activities and workshop formats for use by all members of English language A.A. in Europe.
- (5) Serves as a member of the Region's Electronics Communications Committee.
- (6) Serves as Region's liaison with the General Service Board's PI Subcommittee and its PI News published by GSO in York, England.

Yours in service, Dan
January 23th, 2012

Continental European Region

<http://www.aa-europe.net/extra/service.pi.home.htm>

Public Information Officer (from Dec.2009 to Dec. 2012)

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C.E.R. Report Düsseldorf 3rd. & 4th. March 2012

Dear all

First I must apologise to Intergroup for the tardiness in posting of my report, due in part to busyness but mostly to forgetting to get it done, I regret this & will do better in future.

The C.E.R. meeting on Saturday was taken up with the various reports from the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer (attached). Then came the various Intergroup rep's. reports followed by Electronic Communications Committee, Archivist & Young Persons Contact, who is rotating out & will be replaced by Jay G from Stockholm.

Old business:

This consisted mostly of a re-run of the discussion of delegates expenses, it was agreed, again, that no rule could be put in place but a guideline would be written & posted on the website & in the "Welcome to region" doc. It concluded with a reminder of the groups & Intergroups to register with A.A. U.K. in York.

Please note we don't appear to be registered as a European Intergroup, it is possible that our registration has lapsed & needs to be renewed.

New business:

Franconia IG proposed we discuss & review the advert in "The Stars & Stripes" (U.S. military magazine) as the cost of 4,000 euros seemed high for the circulation. This will be revisited when more information on readership & circulation are available.

A proposal to add an alternate Treasurer to the Steering Committee to be reimbursed by C.E.R. there didn't seem to be much enthusiasm for this proposal & ended with a question to the IG delegates to take to their group consciences.

The discussion of the elimination of the Hospital committee was postponed.

Elections for the Young Persons Contact Officer & Arena Editor were held & Jay G (YPCO) & George M (Arena) were elected by a "from the hat" vote after 3 rounds proved inconclusive in each case.

Sunday was entirely taken up with the Conference Questions. I passed Intergroup's responses to all the delegates in hard copy & e-mail.

I have also sent the various reports & the forthcoming agenda to the Intergroup Secretary.

The next meeting of C.E.R. will be this Saturday & Sunday 2nd; & 3rd. June in Düsseldorf. The next will be in September 1st & 2nd. , again in Düsseldorf. Which I may not be able to attend due to work & other personal commitments, I will do my best to reschedule, but I can't be certain at this distance. Perhaps Intergroup could elect an alternate delegate in case I can't attend.

Finally I think our attendance at C.E.R. is very valuable to us & the wider English speaking Fellowship in Europe. This Intergroup is perhaps the largest & best functioning in Europe & though we can still learn from others experience, we can offer a wealth of our own to help other Intergroups & individual groups within the Region.

In Fellowship & service Peter M

CER YPC report February 2012

Hello friends!

This is probably and hopefully my last report. Business as usual. From time to time, I get a receipt that the work done is worthwhile, when someone emails me again after a month or two to thank me for putting them together with someone in the new country and tells me about how they're staying sober and happy. I can never get enough of the success stories in this fellowship.

This period, I got another kind of joyous news: A girl emailed me, fearing that she wouldn't find the fellowship she craves moving from the states to Vienna. I tried to share some experience, strength and hope and told her about how I started a meeting once when I felt there was a need. A couple of months later we got an email: There's a new english speaking young people's meeting in Vienna!

This should be my last CER meeting this time around. But I haven't heard of anyone interested in the position yet. Maybe I should have been more active in the search of my successor. I supposed that someone would show up and saw that as preferable to me appointing someone. I'd love to get some input from region on how this should be handled.

Again, this position is very fun and rewarding and not too time consuming. I strongly recommend anyone who likes getting to know other members from around the world and loves seeing the web of fellowship strengthen to apply. If you have any questions please email me: young.people@aa-europe.net

I saw on the agenda a discussion about prolonging the term to three years. My personal opinion is that this position is an excellent entry point to service at the region level, and the nice opportunity that has been given to me should be given to as many members as possible. Therefore, I would suggest we keep the two year term. But if no one applies, I'm ready to continue to fill the position until someone willing and able pops up.

Next summer (July 27-29) the Eurypaa convention will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In fellowship and service,
David B, CER Young Peoples Contact.

MINUTES OF THE INTERGROUP MEETING
Held on 2nd June 2012 AT 1.30PM
At La Maison des Associations in Antibes

A. OPENING:

The Chair opened the meeting with the serenity prayer and the reading of the twelve traditions and twelve concepts.

1. Introduction from those present and Group Roll Call

Simon (IG Chair)	Mike (PI/GSR Nice)	Joel (Nice)
Anthony (Vice-Chair/Lorgues)	Nikki (GSR Nice)	David N (Lorgues)
Gillian (Secretary/ GSR Monaco)	Pamela (GSR Aix en Provence)	Andy (GSR Nice)
Laura (Treasurer/GSR Nice)	Maria (Monaco)	David C (GSR Montpellier)

Apologies were received from the following members who were unable to attend: Pete M (CER/GSR Antibes) / Bela (GSR St. Tropez) / Mark (TLO/ Monaco) / Francis (GSR/Nice)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Valbonne on 25th February 2012 were tabled and were unanimously approved and adopted without any comments or changes.

Report from the Chair

There was no report from the Chair this time.

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

UPCOMING SERVICE POSITIONS IN 2012 – All quite urgent really

Question asked: who to contact with persons coming forward from groups? The answer was to contact the current IG Secretary.

It has been stressed how important it really is for GSR's to take back to groups that there are positions open and which ones. It may be very useful because we tend to forget things if they are not brought up over and over so if we just say once at our meetings that positions are open and then do not say it again, then people are likely to think, oh well, I guess the positions are filled so no point putting myself forward eh? Also people are sometimes "shy" to put themselves forward, so positive motivation and reminders that positions are still out there waiting to be filled may help them make up their minds.

Literature Secretary

One of our Nice Members volunteered for this position and another member from Monaco has volunteered to second, this had previously been discussed between the two members before the meeting and it was unanimously decided that it would be a great idea – So a very big Thank You and Welcome to our new Literature Secretary and "second in command"!

Treasurer

Our Treasurer will be rotating out of the Treasury position in September of this year so it would be good to start taking this back to the meeting rooms and letting everybody know that we will be looking for a new treasurer soon.

The current Treasurer asked during the meeting if anyone present would like to put themselves forward but there were no takers since the IG meeting was a very small one and most people present already occupy one position or another in IG.

It arose that we are slightly restricted with this position as it can be difficult to pay money into the bank unless the Treasurer is actually in Nice and can go to the bank to pay in 7th Tradition at the bank where the account has been opened.

Our Treasurer with the help of a fellow member will try to clarify the situation regarding paying in of cash as it appears that Monaco seems to be problematic for letting someone put money into the Intergroup Account, if this can be sorted out it may be easier to find a volunteer for the position of Treasurer. Mike wanted it to be noted at this point that it would be a disaster if no treasurer could be found and therefore could all GSR's please try and push at meetings the importance of this position please.

Vice-Treasurer

The Vice-Treasurer actually rotated out of this position in December 2011 and is only just very kindly "standing in" at the moment as Vice Treasurer there is therefore the same situation here as for the Treasurer above although slightly less dramatic, we need to find a vice- treasurer very rapidly.

Vice-Secretary

Our ex-IG Secretary has very kindly been "standing in" at the moment helping the new IG Secretary when necessary and possible.

During the IG meeting, One member very kindly put herself forward for the position of Vice-Secretary and was voted in unanimously, so a big WELCOME and Thank you to our new Vice-Secretary!

Telephone Responders

We need new blood all the time in order to make sure that all the accumulated knowledge and years of experience can be handed down and not lost. Again this situation and request for responders is to be taken to groups by GSR's.

The Chair would like to bring special attention to the fact that it is really essential that vacant positions be filled as quickly as possible.

C. REPORTS

1. Public Information – PI Committee

The PI report was read out.

There has been no PI meeting since last intergroup.

There is a Vacancy for chairman of PI, however this positions needs to be filled by someone from inside the committee who at least knows what it is all about – Nearly the entire PI committee were

actually at this IG meeting (three out of four!), therefore this shows the urgent need to try and motivate the “troops” to get some people joining up with PI

The Websites work very well and are extensively used, so that is a very positive point and we should maybe start using them more to attract people into coming along to PI to find out what it is all about and they may see that it suits them and get kind of “roped” in.

There is currently a lack of enthusiasm within PI due to a lack of people participating, there are currently only four “active” members and it is always the same ones doing PI work. It would appear that as a result of years of active working on PI that there are now a lot of people sort of gravitating around that come in from time to time without any real commitment. Basically it needs to be spiced up!!

Anthony pointed out at this point that the “newer” members of AA are capable of doing things if they are properly sponsored so it may be worth saying that newish members of AA could be accepted into service positions.

Apparently at the last PI meeting there was a lot of enthusiasm from very young members so it is really worth trying to develop this possibility, in the past there have been quite big meetings with several newcomers eager and willing. Again correct sponsorship and guidance and encouragement are necessary here.

One of our Aix group members who was attending the IG meeting brought up the fact that in Aix, some people who had been looking for English meetings on the French website could not find them, it was noted that we can do nothing about this but that we could perhaps write to the French AA and see if we could suggest that they include at least a “link” to the English website on their own website.

It was suggested that since we had decided to divide from French AA, this could be one reason why we were taken off their website.

However it was correctly pointed out that even though we had divided from French AA the fact of taking information relative to the English AA meetings was countered because it was not allowed, that does seem logical after all we are all in the same boat!! It was pointed out here that the Secretary of individual meetings needs to send correct info up-line to York or to the AA website or whomever necessary in order to keep things updated. It may be good for GSR’s to remind their meeting Secretary’s of this fact.

The possibility of sending a message to French AA to say they could just put a message saying where to go to find English AA was suggested. However it would appear that we had already tried this but it did not work, Our ex-IG chair volunteered to write a letter to GSO in Paris (is President of AA south of France) to suggest putting a link from the French AA website to the English AA website, this does not seem unreasonable since AA Europe has a direct link to AA south of France, therefore why not AA France?

PI have asked us to let them know if any erroneous info is found by anybody on the AA websites and that way they could try and sort out cleaning up things.

IG Chair has approved sending official letter up to AA France from AA South of France President. A copy of this letter will be given to intergroup.

- **Telephone Helpline:**

There is no report this time, our Telephone Liaison Officer did not have all figures and was called away at very short notice to Ireland to be with his father who is very unwell.

- **H&I**

No specific report other than the confirmation that hospital visits continued as usual.

2. Literature Report

No Literature Report this time round since we have no Literature Secretary. Several members have been keeping an eye on the stock in the interim period and we thank them for their efforts.

One of the Monaco group's is still chasing a book order placed, two people have said that they have the key to the room in Buffa and they will look into the whereabouts of this order.

When the asked who to ask about ordering new books, both Andy and Maria replied just to send request of books direct to them.

It has been requested for all GSR's to request that all groups make an inventory of books and literature currently in stock at their meeting rooms and to send on their "stock taking" report to the new Literature Secretary in order to give him a starting point.

3. French/English Liaison Report

There was no French/English Liaison Report this time and as mentioned earlier this position will need to be put back up as being vacant.

It was brought up at this point that Staff at St. Christophe and at the C.A.L.M.E. in Grasse (Cabris) had mentioned that they would be closing down?? The Government is pulling out?? Our ex-French Liaison Officer will find out about this and will report back to IG.

4. CER Report

Our CER Representative was not able to attend this IG meeting however his last CER report is attached to these minutes and was read out by the Chair during the IG meeting.

It was asked why no contribution was given by CER to York? Our Treasurer had noticed that in the last CER minutes it was noted that money was being sent to York but had also noticed that this was not the case according to their accounting.

The Treasurer was also surprised that in CER there is no allowance or budget for the possibility of sending money down the line.

A text message was sent during the meeting to the CER Representative requesting if there has been any contribution to GSO York in 2011. A reply was received saying that 1800 Euros was given in the last quarter of 2011 and none was given in the first quarter of 2012 due to cost of sending delegates to Conference (York) in April.

5. Intergroup Accounts and Treasury Report

The Accounts from the last IG meeting were agreed and registered since the minutes from the IG meeting on 25.02.12 were approved.

Laura presented the new accounts and Treasurer's report (copy attached, updated after IG).

We came into the IG meeting with a healthy balance of €3768, including late contributions since the last IG. Budgeted spending to end of June left us with an operating surplus of €2440. Contributions at this IG were €2361. If we spend the full budgeted amounts of €5306 to the end of quarter (30 Sept), we should have an operating surplus of €360. Our prudent reserve, held in a separate Livret A account, stands at €8259.80.

When asked if we should send anything to York this time around Mike noted here that we sent money up to York at the Last IG meeting and since there were a lot less groups represented this IG meeting and a lot less contributions due to numerous absences, we should not worry about sending money to CER this time and should suspend till next IG meeting. The Treasurer voted that it looked like we would have less than €400 surplus by September and we could not send money down the line this time. This was agreed by all present.

On the subject of Budget, a suggestion was made that groups needing material could ask around other groups and see if they have any surplus that could be used instead of spending extra money buying new items when not absolutely necessary. No point having double items gathering dust in certain rooms. This is a very valid point and we could maybe suggest that GSR's also take back to their groups that an Inventory of available materials necessary like signs, posters etc... could be made up by each group when they get a chance and in this way we could get an overall "picture" of what is available and at hand to maybe help out new groups or "struggling" groups to set up properly especially if funds are short.

Another suggestion that we need to keep extra prudent reserve rather than send to CER since some groups like the Montpellier one are requesting a set of "blinds" with the 12 traditions and 12 steps. It was suggested at this point that should several meetings be held in the same venue, the material should be "shared" between the meetings apparently this is not always the case which is why it would be beneficial to have a general "stock take" of available materials within individual groups in much the same way as for the literature.

D. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Regarding finding a replacement for our CER Representative at the next CER Meeting in Düsseldorf on 1st and 2nd of September.

Our Treasurer suggested that if we agreed she may be able to go since she has been voted in as Alternate treasurer for CER and needs to go to a CER meeting to have a training / hand over session so it would appear that it would be great to sort of "kill two birds with one stone" which would mean that our Treasurer could represent IG at CER and have her training session sometime that weekend.

A vote was taken regarding this matter and the Treasurer was unanimously voted in for going to represent IG at the September meeting.

2. Article on the history of AA down here in the South of France, written by one of our long standing member:

The Secretary apologised for having omitted to attach the above mentioned article to the last minutes as she had written in the minutes that she would. However it is attached to these IG meeting minutes so I guess better late than never as they say and thank heavens for our devise of "Progress not Perfection"! The Secretary does aim to improve her performance....

At this point the discussion on how to promote vacant positions within AA was carried over from the beginning of the meeting, the following arose:

Vacant Positions within IG

- Treasurer
- Vice Treasurer
- French / English Liaison Officer
- PI – very low on troops and could use some new blood! All help welcome
- Telephone Liaison Officers – We could also use some new blood here

One of the GSR's present at the IG meeting informed us that when she sends out the minutes she will also send out at the same time a reminder of the fact that we have the above mentioned positions vacant.

The IG Secretary will also put out a gentle reminder in mail accompanying the Minutes in order to perhaps spark any interest that may be lingering in the background without actually having the courage to come forward.

It was also decided that it may be a good idea to put out a little notice on events with a list of positions that are vacant and to stress that anyone can put themselves forward for these positions if they feel that they would like to.

It could then be up to individual groups to take into consideration the motivation of people coming forward and taking a vote at group level and then bringing up propositions at next IG meeting, after all it is the group itself that knows their own members best and are in a good position to evaluate feasibility or not of volunteers.

It was brought to the attention to of the meeting the rather obvious lack of attendance at Intergroup and suggested that it may be a good idea to propose that it could be a reasonable idea to send just one representative for several groups if there are several groups operating out of the same area, it may be possible to get at least one representative in this way, anyway, we need to try and find a solution to have at least someone from each town or area at IG.

The IG chair intervened here to say that we cannot force this issue but subtle hints could work, but we must be careful not to make it sound like an order or obligation because it certainly is NOT. It would just be great however to get a bit of enthusiasm for IG meetings because attendance is declining and it must be pointed out that Intergroup will disappear if we do not have attendance.

Several members discussed here the issue of can one or cannot one be GSR for several groups, or can one person be GSR and also occupy another position within IG, the upshot of this discussion was that you can be GSR to several groups, but ultimately you will only have the one vote at IG, which would not appear to cause any great problem.

The Montpellier GSR wanted it said that we must communicate to groups that it does not need to be a GSR that comes to IG meetings, everybody is welcome and we would love to see new faces! Especially newcomers who are still totally "in the dark" as to what IG is all about!

Two members suggested that we should encourage people to come to intergroup to meet other people within the fellowship, when you regularly go to the same meetings you always see the same faces so by coming to Intergroup, you can get to meeting other members from other groups and it may be that this will then encourage members to go to different meetings.

We must encourage Secretaries to keep telling their meeting members about positions that are vacant and the fact that Intergroup exists and they would be more than welcome.

Mike mentioned that there is a lot of enthusiasm for meetings themselves however a great lack of willingness to come to IG meetings, so again we must attract.... Any suggestions will be very gratefully received!

It was pointed out that if groups do not come and do not send any 7th tradition, then eventually IG will no longer be able to function – Financially someday soon this will no longer work.

It may be a possibility to send round a message saying something along the lines of: meetings that do not come to IG and do not send any 7th Tradition may have to be taken off the Literature distribution. Obviously this does not apply to struggling and very small groups who would like to contribute but cannot because just keeping their own meeting going is hard enough. We cannot "fire a meeting" they can quit, not other way around, and the upshot is we do not want to "Fire" anybody; we would just like to try and "drum" up some enthusiasm and sometimes a little "shake" can help.

The Treasurer suggested it may also be an idea to get group members to see the twelve concepts, there is a little "leaflet" in images that shows how Intergroup is here to serve groups. *(A Scanned copy of this leaflet is attached to the minutes.)*

One of our brought up the fact that the Ganges group may not even exist, the person down as being the contact person does not even reside in France during the winter so again we should perhaps try to send

round a little message to all groups just to find out how they are doing and show some interest in them at group level, which may in turn get groups to take an interest in IG in a sort of roundabout way.

PI reminded us during the meeting that the week including the 10th of June was gratitude week and suggested that the Secretary send a mail to Events in order to remind all GSR's.

One member asked at this point if we should just keep a separate record of how much money is taken during this week by groups and they could keep the amount separate and bring this sum to Intergroup in September it was decided to add this to the mail to be sent by IG Secretary to Events for circulation and it was also added that if preferred Monies gathered during this week could be sent directly to York by individual groups.

(IG Secretary sent a mail to events on the Monday after the IG meeting with a little message of reminder about "Gratitude week" and to explain what to do with monies collected during this week in the extra "gratitude pot").

E. CLOSING

Next meeting to be held in Monaco on 8th September – Availability of room was checked following the IG meeting and the Library at St. Paul's Church will be available from 12h45 onwards.

After the 7th Tradition the meeting was closed at 16:20 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

IG Treasurer's Notes 15 June 2012 (period 29 Feb – 15 June 2012)
 What we were like, what happened, and what we are like now, financially.

<table> <tr> <td><u>Balance as at 29 Feb 2012:</u></td> <td><u>12754.45</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8259.80</td> <td>Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4494.65</td> <td>Operating Funds</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>What went out:</u></td> <td><u>1349.54</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>818.80</td> <td>CER contribution+chgs</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>452.90</td> <td>CER Delegate exp</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>47.84</td> <td>Bank charges</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>30.00</td> <td>IG expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>What came in:</u></td> <td><u>2522.14</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2190.10</td> <td>Group 7th tradition</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>121.00</td> <td>Literature Sales</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>50.00</td> <td>Meeting Lists</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>161.04</td> <td>Conv. Insurance Re-Pmt</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>New Balance 04 June 2012:</u></td> <td><u>12027.91</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8259.80</td> <td>Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5667.25</td> <td>Operating Funds</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Balance as at 29 Feb 2012:</u>	<u>12754.45</u>			8259.80	Prudent Reserve		4494.65	Operating Funds	<u>What went out:</u>	<u>1349.54</u>			818.80	CER contribution+chgs		452.90	CER Delegate exp		47.84	Bank charges		30.00	IG expenses	<u>What came in:</u>	<u>2522.14</u>			2190.10	Group 7 th tradition		121.00	Literature Sales		50.00	Meeting Lists		161.04	Conv. Insurance Re-Pmt	<u>New Balance 04 June 2012:</u>	<u>12027.91</u>			8259.80	Prudent Reserve		5667.25	Operating Funds	<p>Looking ahead:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Budgeted items to end June:</td> <td><u>1397.70</u></td> <td>per budget approved Dec IG ¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>934.00</td> <td>Literature provision</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>412.30</td> <td>CER delegate June</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>51.40</td> <td>IG expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Surplus to end June:</td> <td><u>4269.55</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Next quarter June-Sept:</td> <td>3209.00</td> <td>see IG Budget 2012 ²</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>700.00</td> <td>Radio Spots</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Total Monies Committed:</u></td> <td><u>5306.70</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With €5667 in operating funds, and €5307 planned spending from now until September IG, we cannot send funds down the line this quarter, expecting an operating surplus at end of quarter of approx. €360.</p>	Budgeted items to end June:	<u>1397.70</u>	per budget approved Dec IG ¹		934.00	Literature provision		412.30	CER delegate June		51.40	IG expenses	Operating Surplus to end June:	<u>4269.55</u>		Next quarter June-Sept:	3209.00	see IG Budget 2012 ²		700.00	Radio Spots	<u>Total Monies Committed:</u>	<u>5306.70</u>	
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Notes

1. Figures include unspent budgeted funds from the 1st quarter.
2. HNLO provision (€250) moved into June-Sept quarter.

Contributing Group	2010 Year	2011 Year	2012 Feb 29	2012 June 4
Sunday Nice 11h00	605.50	878.50	234.50	220.50
Lorgues 11h30	51.50	450.00	150.00	200.00
Antibes 19h00	129.30	0	0	0
Goult 18h00	80.00	0	0	0
Vence 17h00	100.00	120.00	0.00	0
Monday Cannes 17h	250.00	645.00	100.00	0
Nice 18h00	285.00	555.00	0	380.00
Cannes 19h00	230.00	325.00	50.00	0
Monaco 19h00	1,083.00	1,050.00	200.00	0
St Tropez 20h00	250.00	560.00	0	0
Montpellier 11h30	300.00	250.00	150.00	150.00
Tuesday Monaco 12	100.00	562.25	200.00	100.00
Nice 17h30	475.00	275.00		50.00
Aix-en-Provence 18h	80.00	86.00	40.00	55.00
Nice 19h00	567.50	160.00	100.00	50.00
Wednesday Nice 12	500.00	525.00	0	0
Ganges 18h30		0	0	0
Nice 19h00	419.00	299.00	117.00	60.00
Valbonne 19h00	520.00	0	50.00	30.00
Thursday Cannes 1	280.00	330.00	80.00	0
Nice 18h00	490.00	370.00	100.00	50.00
Nice 19h30	707.00	592.00	180.00	175.50
Monaco 19h00	350.00	470.00	100.00	0
Friday Aix 18h30		96.00	60.00	55.00
Nice 19h00	550.00	860.00	200.00	200.00
Valbonne 19h00	200.00	0	50.00	50.00
Saturday Nice 11h0	230.00	242.75	50.00	150.00
Nice 19h00	450.00	780.00	300.00	150.00
Antibes 19h30	388.35	545.00	54.00	150.00
Valbonne 18h00		0	0	0
Other Donations	550.00	77.16		
IG 7th Tradition	192.15	191.44	45.10	35.10
Cannes Film Festival	220.00	275.00		
Outside Literature Sa	20.00	22.50		
Total Contributions	11,068.30	11,592.60	2,610.60	2,311.10
Rev 15 June 2012				

GROUP	GSR or REP.	7th Tradition including Littérature sales €
SUNDAY		
11:00 Nice	Nikki treasurer	220.50
11:30 Lorgues	Anthony	200.00
17:00 Vence	No show	0.00
18:00 Goult	No show	0.00
19:00 Antibes	No show	0.00
MONDAY		
11.30 Montpellier	David C GSR	150.00
17:30 Cannes		0.00
18.00 Nice	Nikki -on behalf of brigitta	380.00
19:00 Cannes	Simon (IG chair and ex GSR of this meeting)	0.00
19:00 Monaco	Apologies from Mark	0.00
20:00 St. Tropez	Apologies from Bela	0.00
TUESDAY		

12:30 Monaco	Maria	100.00
17:30 Nice	na	50.00
18:00 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela GSR	55.00
19:00 Nice	Laura GSR	50.00
WEDNESDAY		
12:00 Nice	No Show	0.00
18.30 Ganges	No Show	0.00
19:00 Nice	Mike(secretary)	60.00
19:00 Valbonne		30.00

THURSDAY		
17:30 Cannes		0.00
18:00 Nice	No Show	50.00
19.30 Nice	Mike	175.50
19:00 Monaco	No Show	0.00
FRIDAY		
18:30 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela (GSR)	55.00
19:00 Nice	Maria (on behalf of Francis)	200.00
19:00 Valbonne	No Show	50.00
SATURDAY		
11:00 Nice	Nikki(GSR)	150.00
18:00 Valbonne	No Show	
19:00 Nice	No GSR - Joel was at IG and spoke for this meeting	150.00
19:30 Antibes	Laura - Peter unable to attend due to being at CER	150.00
		2,276.00

COMMENTS

A good solid meeting of around anything from 10 to 20 members for some time now - living sober meeting

An average of 7 members every week - The meeting is always open

There was nobody from this group at the meeting however Laura thinks that the meeting is still going on

This has developed into 2 meetings now with one being held on Friday at 18h30 member are up between 5 and 15 can even reach 20 on occasions, this may be because of the success of the montpellier convention, which had a Majority of Irish and lots of people came from Agdad west of Langeudoque. There was a literature stall that worked well and there was a good show of coordination between English and French AA - David is standing down as GSR however since the meetings have grown so much it may be easier to find someone to replace him now. Laura asked if maybe numbers were to do with advertising in local papers? David was not sure - One member complained that she came to Montpellier in Jan and could not find the meeting, David said maybe there are old website info that may need to be tidied

Meeting going strong - Also a meeting was held every day during the Cannes Festival

This is a Topic meeting at the buffa rooms. Meeting going strong

Simon has rotated out of GSR at this meeting to become chair at IG therefore the meeting is still looking for a new GSR. The rent is paid but no contribution this time. Meeting of 3-4 max getting small

Strong speakers meeting

Varies greatly 4-10 sometimes all women - Daily reflections meeting. Closed meeting except the 1st Tuesday of every month when it is Open meeting

Meeting averages between 3-12 at the moment around 7-8 depending on tourists. May be moving to another room not too sure when not moving far though from top to ground floor this is due to renovation. Open step and big book meeting - When date is known for the move Simon suggest we inform events and website for ease of finding meeting

Big Book meeting with an average of 6 members but can be bigger sometimes

Newcomers meeting of around 8-9 members but it can go up to 15. The meeting concentrates on step one and

Brigitta gave cheque of 50 Euros to Laura

No snivelling does very well - 8 average seems to be liked - strong meeting - stories and passages from big book

Step study workshop meeting - IG secretary to send message paul to ask if we can take the "Meditation" meeting off the meeting list as it would appear that it no longer exists

Meeting averages between 3-12 at the moment around 7-8 depending on tourists. May be moving to another room not too sure when not moving far though from top to ground floor this is due to renovation. Open step and big book meeting - When date is know for the move Simon suggest we inform events and website for ease of finding meeting

Strong well attended "As Bill sees it" meeting with 12 to 20 members. Newly introduced the "12 questions for a group conscience meeting". They now have a regular Treasurer (Andy M)

Well attended meeting that has now grown considerably and has anything up to 15 members

Strong meeting with an average of 15 and sometimes even peaks at 30. Speakers meeting

Steady meeting but very variable in numbers due to the fact that members travel a lot or are working. They have one newcomer at the moment

CER Treasurer's Report			
29 Feb - 29 May 2012			
			Balance
Feb 29	Beginning Balance		10,919.25
Contributions and Donations			
Mar 04	Contribution: CER Meeting D'dorf	857.74	11,776.99
Mar 07	Contribution: Triborders Intergroup	2,500.00	14,276.99
Mar 20	Contribution: South of France Intergroup	815.00	15,091.99
Mar 20	Contribution: Vogelweh Rheinland Pfalz Intergroup	750.00	15,841.99
Apr 19	Refund of bank fees	140.00	15,981.99
May 11	Milan Group	100.00	16,081.99
May 11	Triborders Intergroup	1,807.30	17,889.29
May 14	Rheinland-Pfalz Intergroup	750.00	18,639.29
May 15	Costa del Sol Intergroup	840.00	19,479.29
May 22	Hamburg Groups	84.00	19,563.29
			19,563.29
			19,563.29
	TOTAL	8,644.04	
Payments			
Mar 02	Delegate Marketa K (travel to/from airport for 3 CER meetings)	-93.60	19,469.69
Mar 04	RELO Monica C (D'dorf - Dec 2011)	-100.58	19,369.11
Mar 04	Delegate Jens V (D'dorf March 2012)	-287.40	19,081.71
Mar 04	Delegate Erik A (D'dorf March 2012)	-235.20	18,846.51
Mar 06	Vice Chair Nicola K (food for meeting)	-23.36	18,823.15
Mar 06	Deutsche Telekom	-42.70	18,780.45
Mar 06	RELO Monica C (D'dorf - March 2012)	-106.28	18,674.17
Mar 06	PIO Dan F (D'dorf - March 2012)	-75.00	18,599.17
Mar 07	YPO David B (D'dorf Mar 2012)	-53.80	18,545.37
Mar 07	Secretary Tim S (D'dorf- March 2012)	-114.00	18,431.37
Mar 08	Delegate Marketa K (Conference)	-311.57	18,119.80
Mar 26	Delegate Jens V (Conference)	-368.76	17,751.04
Mar 26	RELO Monica C (D'dorf June 2012)	-205.21	17,545.83
Mar 31	Bank fees	-2.70	17,543.13
Apr 02	Bank fees	-140.00	17,403.13
Apr 03	Delegate Evyan D (Conference)	-222.17	17,180.96
Apr 06	Deutsche Telekom	-47.09	17,133.87
Apr 09	D'Dorf Youth Hostel (bill for March meeting)	-2,523.00	14,610.87
May 08	Deutsche Telekom	-41.53	14,569.34
May 23	Treasurer Kate Mc (Website payment)	-24.51	14,544.83
May 23	Gothaer versicherung (CERES* insurance)	-208.92	14,335.91
May 23	Delegate Erik A (Conference)	-370.54	13,965.37
May 23	Delegate Jens V (Conference)	-94.44	13,870.93
May 23	Treasurer Kate Mc (2011 Web hosting)	-168.43	13,702.50
May 23	Riebschlager & Partner (CERES* tax prep 2010)	-2,857.31	10,845.19
May 23	Riebschlager & Partner (CERES* legal fee)	-321.30	10,523.89
May 23	Delegate Evyan D (Conference)	-140.56	10,383.33
May 23	Delegate Marketa K (D'dorf June 2012)	-251.41	10,131.92
May 29	Delegate Evyan D (D'dorf June 2012)	-247.14	9,884.78
			9,884.78
	TOTAL	-9,179.96	
Outstanding CERES* Commitments			
Ongoing	Phone bill x 3 months	-150.00	9,981.92
	TOTAL	-150.00	
May 29	Available balance		9,981.92
Pending Payments (waiting for documentation)			
(received by CER)			
Dec 04	Chair Dave A (D'dorf - Dec 2011)	-138.00	9,843.92
Mar 26	Delegate Marketa K (Hotel in York)	-112.80	9,731.12
May 11	Delegate Nicola K (Conference)	-306.22	9,424.90
May 29	Deutsche Telekom	-45.39	9,379.51
			9,379.51
			9,379.51
	TOTAL	-602.41	
Cash Transactions at March Meeting			
	Cash Contribution: CER meeting Saturday	255.85	
	Cash Contribution: CER meeting Sunday	161.25	

* See list below

* Refund of fees from April 02 (see below)

* Includes Treasurer travel

* Fees to change signatories on bank account (new CERES* officers)

<-----Current Bank Balance

<-----How much money we have to work with after the bills are paid

<-----Here's the list

Cash Contribution: Turkish Intergroup	214.35	500 TL x .4282
Cash Contribution: Jeroen S	69.00	
Cash Contribution: Rosalind S-G	147.00	
Cash Contribution: Peter M	69.00	
Cash Contribution: Sophie L	69.00	
Cash Contribution: Ralf S	69.00	
Cash Contribution: Brian	69.00	
Cash Contribution: Dennis	69.00	
Cash Contribution: Uwe M	34.50	
Cash Contribution: Patrick L	34.50	
Cash Contribution: Colin H	69.00	
Cash Payment: Nigel P	-458.35	
Cash Payment: Marketa K	-14.36	
<i>Total cash transferred to CER</i>	<i>857.74</i>	

**Public Information Officer's Report
for the June 2nd and 3rd, 2012 Continental European Region (CER) business meeting
in Düsseldorf, Germany**

Alcoholism is a disease of isolation.

We are all 'loners', emotionally isolating ourselves from others in one way or another (through anger, envy, jealousy, judging others, demanding that others do what we want, blaming others when they don't, etc.).

Using the complete program of A.A. provides a solution for reversing our isolation. One of the ways is in carrying the message of our recovery to others through **public information**, practicing the 'we' of the A. A. program in communicating to others where they can find us in Continental Europe.

Years ago, I took the Myers Briggs Personality Inventory test which classified me as extremely extroverted, perfect for the corporate Human Resources career I was pursuing at the time. In my profession in the Washington, D.C. area, I was known as "Mr. Network". The same personality trait is also appropriate for the CER Public Information Officer role you elected me to.

However, two years ago when I was thirty-three years sober, I had an experience which showed that my extrovert personality trait has always masked a bottomless pit of dark loneliness within me. I was among thousands of people on a bright, sunny December day in the beautiful and lively Nürnberg Christmas market, one of the most well-known in Germany. Kate was away in the States visiting her recently-widowed mom in Atlanta, Georgia. In the middle of the market were several sister-city booths. When I happened across a booth signed "Atlanta, Georgia, USA", I excitedly telephoned Kate and said, "Guess where I am? I am standing in front of an Atlanta, Georgia sister-city booth here in the middle of the Nürnberg Christmas market!"

And then I began uncontrollably sobbing.

Kate immediately got worried, but I reassured her (as my sobbing continued) because I realized almost immediately that the experience was yet another one of those initially-painful steps of self-discovery on the road of sobriety. I realized then that this feeling of aloneness, even in a crowd, had in fact been with me all my life. It is the disease of alcoholism that Dr. Silkworth talks about in "The Doctor's Opinion" in the Big Book published seventy-three years ago and which medical science has confirmed through brain research over the past twenty to thirty years.

We alcoholics have a deficiency in the part of our brain that emotions come from, leaving us in a natural state of ill-at-ease, irritability, anger or depression which was relieved only with alcohol.

We were born alcoholic without ever having to take a drink.

In my case, I found relief from that feeling of aloneness as a teenager not with alcohol, but with hyperactivity, becoming a super-achiever in the world I grew up in and being honored as the top graduate of the top Catholic high school in San Francisco, California in 1957. I was not attracted to alcohol in those years. But, when I left that world to serve for two years as a U.S. Army officer (successfully protecting the City of Chicago from the Russians, no less) and then to work as a Human Resources professional, manager and executive in the corporate world, alcohol became the increasing solution to my lonely unhappiness even though I was married and had two children at the time. As we all know, alcohol only isolated me more and it wasn't until I

crash-landed into A.A. in Washington, D.C. on Pearl Harbor Day (December 7) 1976 that I found the solution for me for that isolation...the complete program of A.A.

I didn't limit my drinking. Once I got started on any given day, I drank until I passed out. So each day, I would try to hold off from drinking as long as I could because I knew that once I started, I wouldn't stop.

To reverse that downward spiral of isolation, which still exists, I don't limit my sobriety. I try to use all of the program in my daily life...Recovery, Unity, and Service, reading and re-reading all nine A.A. books, commitment to a home group, going through the chapters on the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts with sponsees, serving others inside and outside the program. (I am retired, but continue to do volunteer teaching and translating at Médecins sans frontières [MSF – Doctors without borders] in Brussels.) After 35 years of sobriety in A.A., I still have that sense of aloneness, but I get a daily reprieve through the solution provided by the whole program of A.A.

By personally practicing **public information**, carrying the message to others outside our group, intergroup, or Region, we have a better chance of reversing that alcoholic isolation on a daily basis and staying sober. As Lois Wilson pointed out to Bill when he came home one night complaining that none of the men he was working with were staying sober, "but you are, Bill".

That is why I believe that **public information**, one way of carrying the message, is an A.A. activity that belongs to all of us, not just to whoever is elected to serve as Public Information Officer in a group, intergroup or at Region. Participating in carrying the message to the public belongs to each and every one of us to help our own sobriety and recovery from our isolating behavior on a daily basis.

Below are examples of members of English language A.A. in continental Europe and Morocco who are practicing carrying the message.

Your help is requested!

Trevor in Milan, a long-time member of the Milan Group and the CER Web Response Team sent me this message recently:

Our group has asked the local Lombardia Region to organize a Big Book Study seminar "Ritorno alle Origini" - With the help of the Italian Verona Group that has already done one 4 years ago, the main scope is to pass the message to the Italian Groups on how important the Big Book is and the Steps therein.

The Italian speaking Verona group had a great influence from the members in the Nato base and the Vicenza US base where members started having meetings outside the base and so about 7/8 years ago a new group was formed in Verona based on Big Book study - I attended the seminar there and have gone a few times to their group and met some really nice old timers who are trying to pass the message to others on how to read and study the BB in Italian.

After some research in going to various Italian speaking groups here in Milan I discovered that there is no such thing here, in fact the Big Book is almost totally ignored and almost not referred to in meetings. A few weeks ago I had the privilege to share my story at one of these meetings and after that the conclusion was obvious - we need to organize some kind of seminar to help the

newcomers and other members in the Italian Fellowship with a seminar on Big Book study.

This motion will be presented to the next Area Lombardia meeting in early April and then they will decide. We have the support of our bi-lingual members, the Verona group, the Firenze Italian group and have sent Evyan a short note if they will contribute. If the Area Lombardia will not support this, we will promote this seminar as the English speaking group and go ahead and do it with the help of the others.

Dan believe me I work with Italians members and saw the faces of the young newcomers and I can see that if no one tells them and shares there is little hope - That is why it will be called "Ritorno alle origini" and this will reflect what it my experience and many others that have done *precisely* what the first 100 did.

Many members are enthusiastic about this but i am alone in trying to do this work - hopefully you may suggest some ideas you may have that have happened in other countries and share them with me.

Yours very grateful in AA, Trevor

What experience can you share with Trevor?
Write him directly at milan.group@aa-europe.net

Here's what I shared:

Hi, Trevor!

I am copying CER Vice Chair Nicola and Ralf S. out of Munich. They have prepared and delivered a Twelfth Step workshop in German A.A. to try to overcome resistance to talking about the Steps in German A.A. Perhaps they can share their experience, strength and hope with you.

Kate and I experienced resistance to the Steps in the two French language meetings in our town of Verviers when we arrived eleven years ago. When we started to talk about how the Steps helped us get and stay sober, one big fellow said in French, "That's American. We don't do that here." Their meetings are more like social occasions without alcohol where some old-timers tell everyone else what to do.

Fortunately, there are French meetings near us in Spa and Theux where the Steps are used and discussed at meetings.

What you want to do is exactly what I have been encouraging others to do -- **reach out to the host nation A.A. to help deliver the whole A.A. message, not just part of it.**

The Geneva English and French intergroups are an example of that. They sponsor bi-lingual workshops on the Steps. Kate and I were invited to lead a bilingual afternoon workshop on the First Step last year after a sober French doctor had made a morning presentation on the disease of alcoholism. I am copying Paul, Maurice and the Mont Blanc group in Geneva asking them to share their experience, strength and hope with you in that regard.

My only recommendation would be to make it a workshop of the A.A. Twelve Steps using quotations from both the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve, the latter containing wisdom garnered in the first 15 years of A.A. and being reviewed and approved by the General Service

Conference in the early 1950s with input from thousands of successfully recovering alcoholics, building on what the first 100 accomplished.

The Steps are the heart of the program, aren't they, the Big Book introduces them and the Twelve and Twelve provides much more depth and wisdom for understanding and using them in all our affairs for a fulfilling life in sobriety.

Thanks for continuing to practice all three A.A. legacies...recovery, unity and service!

Dan

(I also copied Jay in Stockholm who has been instrumental in English and Swedish language A.A. working together to attract people of all ages into A.A.)

The Florence Group englishaaflorence@gmail.com is alive and well, holding five meetings a week at St. James Episcopal Church, Via B. Rucellai 9, 50123 Firenze. They receive, of course, many visitors from abroad who visit Florence as tourists. Most find the meetings through the CER www.aa-europe.net website, but the group also pays to run an advertisement in *The Florentine* www.theflorentine.net a local English-speaking newsletter in Florence which is published every other Thursday. They also have an A.A. announcement under the Health, sport & wellness section of the Classifieds of *The Florentine*. The ad is expensive and they are thinking about cutting it back to once a month, but a member of the group told me that two members of the group who live in Florence came to the group as a result of the ad.

The five aims of CER are to support English language A.A. in continental Europe. But, as you can see on the meetings page of our website, we offer support when requested to those areas in Northern Africa, the Middle East or Afghanistan which might not have other A.A. support services to turn to. One such example is Morocco. I receive and respond to three to five inquiries a week, and blind-copy A.A. members on the confidential (not for public distribution) PI contact list I maintain, asking them to respond to the inquiry if they can. Below is an example of a very encouraging response from Maggie in Morocco to Mitch who had written me through the CER website. It is an example of carrying the message and practicing "Anonymous but not invisible", the theme of last year's General Service Conference.

Hi Mitch!

If you get anywhere near down here in Tiznit we would love to visit you or have you stay here in our guest room, me and my sister. However, there are more meetings going now, there are some in Casablanca and one in Marrakech and there is a group in Rabat which I will copy in this email.

Here is the information that I have now-
my telephone number is 0528 60 12 01.

The meetings in Casablanca are in Arabic but there should be English speakers- go to this web site for a map-
<http://www.kreizker.net/article-maroc-casablanca-aa-arabophone-67088995.html>

There is one on Saturdays at 3:30 and there is now one on Wednesdays, I have heard.
Here is the address=REUNION ALCOOLIQUES ANONYMES EN LANGUE ARABE A
CASABLANCA

Chaque samedi à 15H30

Adresse : CHU IBN ROCHD Centre d'Addictologie
Rue Tarik Ibn Ziad (près de la Faculté de Médecine) CASABLANCA

There is a meeting in Marrakech on Saturdays at 3:30, and it is in French but has English speakers to help translate, who are very nice. (I have heard that it may be earlier now, so it would be good to contact Claude first, and he will meet you across the street. He is also a good contact number to have even if you cant make the Saturday meeting. Here is some info=

REUNION ALCOOLIQUES ANONYMES FRANCOPHONE A MARRAKECH

le samedi à 15h30

Immeuble Berdai 3° étage n° 14

Rond Point Place de la liberté

Marrakech

For more information, please contact Claude (vacheronix@hotmail.com copied into this email). We also have some members based near Marrakech or who visit from time to time, and they are also copied in.

claude tel
0640470112

For meetings anywhere around Agadir, there is not a set meeting time right now, but please email me or call me and my sister- we can be very flexible as to meeting with travellers through the area. Call 212 (0)528 60 12 01, or email matthews_maggie@yahoo.com.

regarding the meetings in Rabat-It would be best if I just CC the RABat people on this email, and they can contact you.

Best wishes and hugs to you and all,
Maggie and Liz M. /Tiznit

As a reminder to all groups and intergroups, you are all welcome to share your public information experience, strength and hope with others through:

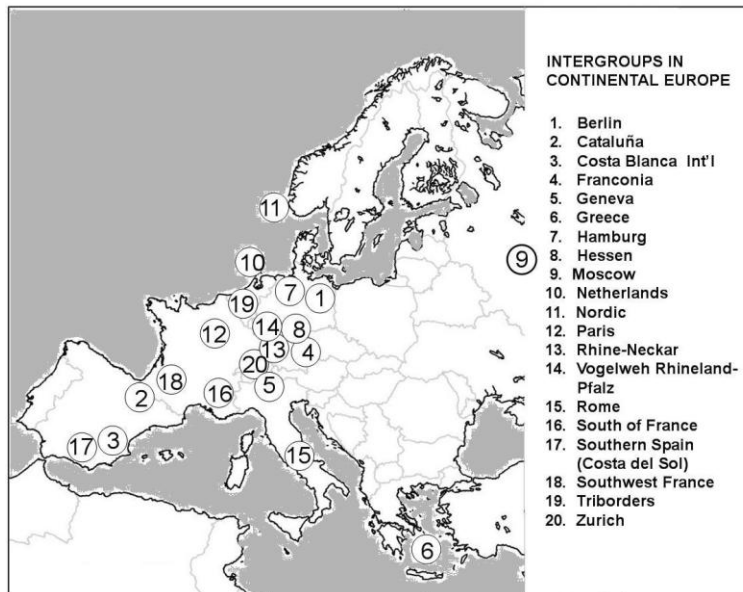
<http://www.aa-europe.net/extra/service.pi.home.htm>

Service in the Continental European Region of Alcoholics Anonymous

Public Information

Mindful of all the good work carried out by PI at all levels of the Fellowship, we like to help communicate here by showing what other Intergroups do, to help to make the best use of all the work and efforts practiced in our region. Hopefully you will find something useful for you, your group or your intergroup and be able to share experience.

Email your input to the CER Public Information Officer (see our Contact page for the address)



Responding to public information inquiries and online meetings

I continue to answer three to five inquiries a week, with an increasing number of those inquiries asking for information about online meetings.

The demand for online meetings is expanding quite rapidly. When I ‘temporarily substituted’ for first164yp founder Dallas, a former CER Young People’s Contact, over two years ago as meeting host, there was only one meeting, Monday night, and only 13 million people using Skype worldwide during meeting time.

After I provided public information about the meeting on three websites, first164yp grew significantly, became an A.A. group rather than just a meeting, elected trusted servants, established a PayPal 7th Tradition account, and started hosting four meetings a week on Skype. Today, nearly 40 million people are on Skype worldwide at meeting time, indicating the popularity of that still-free means of communication.

But the demand for participation in first164yp meetings is outpacing the ability of the first164yp group to respond. The group is testing other online meeting platforms in addition to Skype, is offering a second simultaneous meeting if more than 12 people want to participate in a meeting (Skype tends to become unstable above that number of participants), and is encouraging others to start online meetings, particularly members of A.A. outside of continental Europe. A challenge is to attract more continental Europe technical hosts, the person who sets up the conference call so that a meeting can take place.

First164yp’s primary aim is to provide meetings for alcoholics in continental Europe who can’t get to a face to face meeting or who want to supplement their face to face meetings. The meetings are open meetings. At times, a first164yp meeting at 9:00 p.m. continental Europe time will have a participant from Mexico where it is only 12:00 noon, to a participant from New Zealand where it’s 9:00 a.m. the next day, with the majority of participants somewhere in between in the four continental European time zones.

The internet will continue to play an increasingly larger role in carrying the message and our public information role at Region will need to grow with it.



I will rotate out at the Region meeting on 1-2 December 2012.

Any member of English language A.A. in continental Europe who is interested in Public Information is invited to contact me now at pi-cer@aa-europe.net to 'shadow' me and to learn about how public information enhances sobriety.

Five members have already volunteered to shadow me with at least two of them indicating they are not interested in being a candidate in December, but would like to know about public information efforts. More shadows would be quite welcome. 'To shadow' me means I blind-copy you on PI emails I send.

A job description is listed under the service section of the website, in the "Welcome to Region" handbook. Past Public Information Reports are available at <http://www.aa-europe.net/extra/service.pi.home.htm>

This is an opportunity for any member of English language A.A. in continental Europe.

Yours in service,

Dan

April 2012

Continental European Region
Public Information Officer (from Dec.2009 to Dec. 2012)
Daniel Flynn, Verviers, Belgium
Mobile: +32-(0)474-710-173
Skype : daniel.flynn39
Email: pi-cer@aa-europe.net

Intergroup Agenda, 8th September 2012

Place: St. Paul's Church, Avenue de Grande Bretagne, Monaco
Pot Luck/Bring and Eat Buffet lunch from 12h45 onward

The meeting will commence at 13h45 to 14h00 (Since the meeting room is not available before 12h45 after the Library closes)

A. OPENING: The Serenity Prayer and the reading of the 12 Traditions followed by the 12 Concepts (this was agreed upon and initiated at the last IG meeting).

1. Group Roll call and Introductions from those present.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the IG Meeting of 2nd June 2012
3. Vacant Positions:
 - Treasurer
 - Vice Treasurer
 - French Liaison Officer (*since there is no news from Patrick it was decided at the last IG meeting to put this position back up as vacant*)
 - PI Chairperson (*this however needs to be someone from within the PI committee*)
 - Telephone Liaison Officer
 - Telephone Responders are always welcome!

B. REPORTS

1. Public Information – PI Committee
2. Literature
3. French/English Liaison Report
4. CER – Peter
5. Intergroup Accounts and Treasurers Report – Laura

D. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Motion to have the Website paid for directly through the IG accounts and not through PI.

Background: Our website can only be paid for by bank/credit card. Originally the payments went through an individual member's card and were reimbursed by IG. Then we were able to get a bank card attached to the PI account. This card expired some months ago, without an offer of renewal (it may have been lost somewhere at Buffa in Nice). So again an individual member has been making the payments using a personal card and being reimbursed. It is in the best interests of the continuity of the site that it be in the hands of IG (or IG committee) rather than those of an individual member.

It was suggested at the recent PI committee meeting that perhaps IG might get a card attached to the IG account and take over the responsibility for the website payments. The card could also be useful for payment of literature orders with GSB in York, UK, or elsewhere (as with chip orders) depending of course on the charges associated with using the card. Currently, when we pay for literature or send a donation to CER, the International Electronic. Bank Transfer charge is €3.80 per item. The cost of a bank card is approximately €37 per year.

2. PI have mentioned that it may not be necessary to ask for the €700 for radio spending for the next quarter, as it has plenty of reserve in its coffers (even with new spending just approved for an ad in the Aix region). Therefore alternately, or even in addition to contributing to CER, we did in the past consider the possibility of sending a second person to CER. Perhaps this would be the time to address this possibility again. December's CER meeting is to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

From the Chair.

The chair has nothing to report at this point.

CLOSING – Decide on date and place of next Intergroup Meeting. Thanks to the Officers and GSRs.

7th Tradition and Serenity Prayer.

Simon
Intergroup Chair

MINUTES OF THE INTERGROUP MEETING
Held on 8th September 2012 AT 14:00
At St. Paul's Church, Avenue de Grande Bretagne, Monaco

A. OPENING:

The Chair opened the meeting with the serenity prayer and the reading of the twelve traditions and twelve concepts.

1. Introduction from those present and Group Roll Call

Simon (IG Chair)	Mike (PI/GSR Nice)	Jean-Luke (Nice)
Anthony (Vice-Chair/Lorgues)	David (Lorgues)	Richard (Monaco)
Gillian (Secretary/ GSR Monaco)	Pamela (GSR Aix en Provence)	Paul (Monaco)
Laura (Treasurer/GSR Nice)	Maria (Monaco)	Elisabeth (Visiting Nice)
Helen (Valbonne)	Gabriella (Monaco/Nice)	
Francis (GSR/Nice)		

Apologies were received from the following members who were unable to attend:
David (Montpellier) – Nikki (Nice) – Peter (CER Representative)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Antibes on 2nd June 2012 were tabled and were unanimously approved and adopted with slight modifications.

Secretary will redo minutes from June IG meeting omitting personal names in order that they may be published on the AA website.

Report from the Chair

Chair will ensure quick turn around of minutes and agendas.

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

UPCOMING SERVICE POSITIONS IN 2012 – All quite urgent really

In General

Everyone that has any suggestions can get in touch with the IG Secretary who will make sure that the suggestions get to the correct person to be dealt with.

Members can also just liaise with the Secretary of their meetings or the GSR who can then forward all info to the IG secretary in order that she may either act immediately upon information or where appropriate put into the Agenda for the next IG meeting.

However if for example you know whom the correct person to contact is, telephone responders and 12 steppers for example; currently Nikki would be the person to get in touch with. In this case you could go directly to Nikki and do not have to go through the IG Secretary.

Treasurer

Treasurer is due to rotate out of the Treasurer position, now, however she has kindly said that she would stay on until a suitable candidate is found.

IG Secretary will re-issue a "Vacant Positions" message to be put out on Events and the AA website to say that the Treasurer position is now really vacant and that we need a treasurer now.

Vice-Treasurer

The position of Vice-Treasurer is also currently available and although the ex-vice Treasurer did say that she would stand in until a replacement was found it would be preferable to find a suitable candidate as soon as possible

A question was raised as to whether or not it was still the case that the Vice Treasurer was considered to be "in training" so that they can take over the actual position of Treasurer after they rotate out of vice-treasurer. It was agreed that this can be the case however that if we say that this is a training position to become treasurer it may put some people off, as both Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer positions are for 3 year rotation and it could be "off-putting" to be having to think so far ahead! One never knows and should not be thinking so far ahead.

It may be a solution to say that "Vice Positions" can indeed lead up to following in to the actual position, however it does not HAVE to be the case if the person occupying a "Vice Position" does not want to take on another responsibility straight away

Telephone Liaison Officer

The ex-Telephone Liaison Officer rotated out of this position quite some time ago and it was filled for a short space of time by a new person however he is unable, due to personal commitments to continue for the time being and therefore this Position is still Vacant.

Our ex-Telephone Liaison Officer is covering again for this position in the interim period and our ex-Treasurer has expressed a possible desire to take over as Telephone Liaison Officer, however she will need to rotate permanently out of the Treasurer Position first.

French Liaison Officer:

One of our members sent an E-mail to the IG Secretary prior to the meeting and would like to put himself forward for this position; however he wants to know what IG thinks about this possibility due to the fact that he is actually out of the country for a number of months during the winter period. Karl would like to be at an IG meeting in order to properly "present" himself in person.

This candidature was discussed at quite some length. The general consensus was that Intergroup do know this member and that he was liaison at an AA conference, he also used to be liaison officer, however since he is away a lot the group feels that it may be a big drawback. The candidate works more on an international level and is not a regular local attendee and therefore may not be the best solution, since "long distance" help although still greatly appreciated, is always very difficult to keep running smoothly. It is much easier to be "implicated" when you are "at hand" as it were to speak.

It would obviously be better if the Liaison officer went to both English and French AA meetings in the PACA region and also lived in the area on a permanent basis.

Question brought up: What actually do we want from a Liaison officer?

We need someone to continue all the good work that has been going on in the PACA region.

There has been a lot of good will on-going ever since the English speaking meetings have started down in south of France, and there has always been "someone" from French AA in contact with certain members. There has been a lot of spontaneous assistance from the French speaking AA community in general, however it would be better to have a "resident" French Liaison Officer who attends both English and French AA meetings and has the time and desire to co-ordinate between the two.

This is a significant position and does need to be filled to avoid losing all the good will that has been so willingly provided in the past.

This position could also help to avoid “misunderstandings between the French and English speaking AA groups in general, we can take for example the situation that arose when the decision was made to “split” from French AA for insurance reasons.

Paris AA were under the mistaken impression that we had become a “free agent” and requested a meeting with the IG chair at the time who explained our set-up and the fact that we were still attached to CER, and that the “split” was merely to help things run smoother and avoid complications.

Question : Has anyone asked the French groups if they would have anyone that would be willing to do this?

It would be very beneficial for us to know what French groups are doing and how they work, the last Officer we had was a French AA member who kept us very well informed of what was happening and allowed us to get involved for example in hospital visits etc....

One member present at the IG meeting said that they thought they may know of a possible candidate and were willing to mention to them.

Question also brought up: How best to advise Alcoholics about French meetings?

The resulting discussion brought to light the fact that, if you call the helpline, they will always orientate you to the correct person in order to get information across.

We are not just an intergroup we act as a Regional Group even though we are in fact an Intergroup and this because of our geographical expanse. It may be an idea to think of a way of having IG meetings for “smaller” regions as well – Food for thought, this could lead to a constructive discussion at the next IG meeting.

Dominique is the “regional” Liaison officer and we do get news from him on wide spread matters.

C. REPORTS

1. Public Information – PI Committee

The PI report was read out:

A copy of this report is attached with the minutes.

Meeting lists down to 200 and there are some changes to be made, however we are going to “hold off” on re-print until Christmas since this is an expensive affair and 200 copies should “tide us over” till the close of the year, then we can start with nice new fully updated lists in January of 2013.

Quick rundown of report:

If anyone knows of anywhere or any publications, magazines, newsletters etc. that we could maybe publish AA articles – please let PI know so that they can get in touch with these publications, they are always looking for new places to spread the “good news” that help is at hand.

20 Big Books have already been placed so far this year and PI are happy for anyone to say if there is anywhere they think it would be good to give a book, so please just let them know.

PI are looking to find numbers of English speaking Psychologists so if anyone knows of any, could they get in touch with Website. It was suggested checking up the Riviera Reporter to see if any English Psychologists are listed there.

PI Chairperson

PI is still on the lookout for a Chairperson. This would need to be someone who is already within PI and knows the general workings and due to the small number of current PI members it is difficult to find volunteers. Again here it may be useful to keep bringing up from time to time during our regular meetings the fact that PI are always on the lookout for new members and would be delighted to have you come and join them!

- **Telephone Helpline:**

Telephone Liaison report was distributed.

Telephone Responders & 12 Steppers

Telephone responders and 12 Steppers are always needed and it may be good to bring this up during individual meetings from time to time just to “spur” some interest.

Although our ex-Telephone Liaison Officer was not actually at this IG meeting it was brought up that she has always been keen and willing to do training sessions and has even been known to do so for just one person!

It is very important to try and recruit “new blood” for these positions because it is important not to lose all the knowledge that has been accumulated over the years by the Telephone Liaison Officer and the only way for her to pass on the knowledge is by having helpers to pass it on to!

- **H&I**

Regarding St. Christophe Hospital in Nice, there may be some changes to the days and time for visits and PI will keep us informed.

Training sessions to help volunteers to know what happens during visits to schools, hospitals etc. are being arranged for the near future. When dates, times and places are known, it would be good to let people know via website and Events well in advance to give them time to organise themselves in order to be available.

2. Literature Report

The new Literature Secretary was travelling, the Literature assistant read out the report.

There has not been much response following the request for stock-taking in individual rooms, or for orders. Only 6 groups came back with orders.

It was suggested we should perhaps start pricing leaflets and request that they are paid for (except for starter packs that are given out to newcomers). It should not be too difficult a job to price them now the Literature Secretary can do this upon receipt of Leaflets before sending round to the groups that have ordered them.

The Literature Secretary will make up price list for the most “used / useful” leaflets and send to the IG secretary, for further distribution to the Steering committee (this was done following the meeting). IG can then give out this info to all groups. Pricing of leaflets will be decided at group level. In this manner we would only have a small variety of leaflets to display/sell. Then any other particular pamphlet that a group might require would become the object of that Group’s own literature order. This could be a good solution for all future order of new leaflets especially since certain leaflets such as the 12 traditions and concepts illustrated are slightly more pricey but very useful. For the old and tattered leaflets pricing does not seem appropriate.

Also we really need groups to look into making a stocktake of what exactly they have in their rooms because in some places there are loads of unused leaflets, again we should take these suggestions back to our individual groups and see if we can get some volunteers organised to “stock take”.

All Birthday chips are quite expensive and the smallest “time frame” ones are the most needed and used, however this can vary greatly from one meeting room to another and therefore it would be very helpful to try and rally chips from one group to another, it would be good to get an exchange system going whereby all groups make up a simple spread sheet of chips in their possession and numbers and this info could be made available to everyone in order that when one group is lacking in certain chips and another may have too many of that one, then they can arrange to swap. This may take a bit of discipline to start with but once we get the “hang” of it groups could bring along “chips” for swapping at the same time as they bring in their 7th Tradition contributions.

We can also ask again for members that no longer need their “chips” to bring them back to the rooms for “recycling”; this however is very personal because for some of us these chips can have great sentimental value.

Regarding books for sale some groups have extortionate prices compared to others, this could be due to the fluctuating Euro and also for some of the big books that have very high prices the reason is that they were originally convention Big Books that had special covers, however after the convention, the covers were taken off but they forgot to bring the price down. This will be corrected.

We have to accept however that prices will vary from one order to another, either up or down so the price marked on the books at the time of delivery to the group, should be the price they are sold

3. French/English Liaison Report

No report this time since we have no Liaison officer at the moment.

3. CER Report

Chair read out the CER report as the CER Rep was unable to attend due to “clashing” of dates with CER meeting again this time around.

A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

A round of applause was given here for our ex-Treasurer who has been voted in as CER Alt-Treasurer.

5. Intergroup Accounts and Treasury Report

The Retiring Treasurer read out the Treasury Report.

After reflection and discussion it has been decided that it is best that everyone read the Treasury Report and Treasurer’s notes attached to these minutes, rather than try to summarize them in the minutes. This is mainly due to the fact that the figures read out during the IG meeting always change following the meeting and therefore we end up with conflicting amounts in the minutes and Treasury Report which is confusing for those that were not present at the time of the IG meeting itself.

A Vote was taken to send 1000 € to CER this time and this was unanimously accepted.

It was suggested that IG could reduce their prudent reserve because it is really very large, especially as we have “over” budgeted for Riviera Radio - since we only spend ½ as much now for Riviera Radio allocated “slots” it may be a good time to change the amount of the Prudent reserve.

This was discussed at some length and although the general consensus was that the Prudent reserve is very high, you never know what could happen, at the moment our income through 7th Traditions is quite healthy but you cannot guarantee that this will always be the case.

Another point that was brought up was the fact that the telephone company that we have our contract with has changed their rules and we may have to pay extra for telephone responders phones since the new telephone rules stipulates that they will only allow ½ as many responders from now on, we will only be allowed 10 responders on the same contract and if we wish more we may have to pay extra.

The above situation will be looked into before the next IG meeting and we will bring up the subject of prudent reserve again at that point in time and make a decision for how to go forward in 2013.

D. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The AA Website has always to be paid by Credit Card and so far this has been done by an individual member who is then reimbursed, however it is now suggested that IG take out a Credit Card on their account in order to pay this fee directly, since the PI visa card expired.

We cannot afford to lose the Website therefore the motion to apply for Credit Card with the IG account was unanimously agreed and voted in.

PI may buy some extra “domains” and get them appointed to our “global site” to make it easier for people looking for the AA website in South of France.

2. This point was discussed earlier at the end of the Treasury report.

**Other items discussed at this point of the meeting:
Possibility of holding a CER meeting in the PACA region**

It was brought up that CER would like to hold a meeting here in South of France. This has been requested in the past but due to the fact that CER could never give a firm date, it has never been feasible to sort this out.

One of the other problems has also been that you need to give a budget in advance for CER and it is difficult to do this around this in the south of France because you cannot get bookings without having to pay upfront so it is a vicious circle.

A few members present at IG expressed a desire to help out with this organisation and therefore it was voted to try and “rustle together” a Subcommittee who have the time and energy to look into the possibilities of arranging a CER meeting in the South of France.

The room we held the June IG meeting in, the Antibes – “La maison des associations” is free and it may be a possibility – Another possibility of a School that may be able to host us was mentioned.

Again this will be discussed between individual members and the results will be brought up at the next IG meeting, so good luck to all involved in this new endeavour!

Meetings that exist in our region for “Associations”

There is a meeting in Nice for “Associations” and it was brought to the attention of IG that since this exists it would be a good idea to try and get involved, if not for this year then for next year, this again can be brought to the attention of individual groups by GSR’s to see if we can get some volunteers to go along.

Can IG say how much it costs them for each individual group? Insurance etc.

The simple answer is the Annual Budget divided by the number of groups.

The Treasurer (ex Treasurer now standing in) came to a round sum of 9€20 taking into account the above, however the vice-chair did say that this could be split down into more detailed figures such as % for Literature, radio, helpline etc. Again this would be based simply on the figures available in the annual budget and divided by the number of groups.

Literature Orders – Missing books in some meeting rooms

One member brought to the attention of the IG meeting that the Monaco rooms were “missing” an order of literature. This was explained during the meeting, the problem had been that due to the very rapid departure of our last Literature Secretary, this particular order had been left in the Nice Buffa rooms and that some of the books ordered had ended up being given away by accident. However this is no problem and the Monaco Literature person just needs to get in touch with the new Literature Secretary to say which books they are missing and this little “contretemps” will be duly sorted.

From now on all requests for new literature are to be sent straight to the new literature Secretary

E. CLOSING

The next meeting will be held in Lorgues on 24th November – Meeting to start at 14:00 with pot lunch before from 12:30 onwards.

The room at Iorgues does not have any facilities for heating up and washing so we will need to anticipate by bringing plastic cutlery and plates, cups etc... IG Secretary will find out what is necessary and sort this out before the next IG meeting.

After the 7th Tradition the meeting was closed at 16:20 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

First 164yp Group report to CER

The good news is that our group has largely outgrown the capacity of Skype. Some of our meetings have as many as 24 people in them and we have to open an ad-hoc second meeting to accommodate everyone. The bad news is that we don't have enough technical hosts to manage this for all of our meetings.

We have been collecting 7th tradition funds for some time, and we now have enough to subscribe to a platform that's more robust and more stable than Skype. Having evaluated 6 possible platforms and tested two of them, we chose WebEx. We will move several of our meetings to WebEx as of June 1. Two meetings will remain on Skype to accommodate those members and technical hosts who prefer that platform.

We have opened a new meeting on Friday nights. We now have a total of five meetings each week on two platforms. Please see the table below for details of how to attend. We hope to see you in one of our meetings!

We wrote an article for Share and the Grapevine describing our group and how to start a Skype group for AA members who are isolated and/or unable to attend face-to-face meetings for whatever reason. The article was submitted and we're waiting to see if it will be published. It was also submitted to Roundabout who declined to publish it on the grounds that it's an outside issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McNally
GSR

First 164yp Meetings

	Skype	WebEx
	* Add first164yp as a Skype contact * Be on line 15 minutes before the meeting and send a chat message saying you'd like to join the meeting	Access to meetings on WebEx at: https://first164yp.webex.com/meet/first164yp@gmail.com * You don't need a password to enter, and you will not be asked for your email address. * NO first164yp meetings will be recorded (option is disabled). * Please come 15 min early to allow for time to adjust your audio and video settings.
Monday	8 pm <i>open discussion</i>	
Tuesday		8 pm <i>open discussion</i>
Wednesday		8 pm <i>open discussion</i>
Thursday	7 pm <i>open discussion</i>	
Friday		9 pm <i>steps and traditions</i>

* All times are Central European Time (GMT + 1 in winter, GMT + 2 in summer)

* Headsets with microphones will make your life easier in meetings on both platforms

* Questions: Write us at: first164yp@gmail.com

Franconia Intergroup Report
CER Meeting in Dusseldorf, Germany
June 1-3, 2012

The following report is based on the last two IG meetings held on March 25th and May 27th, 2012 in MUNICH.

Attendance:

1 Chair, 1 Treasurer, 1 PI/Litterature in May ,in March: N/A, IG Archivist , Archivist in March, in May: N/A, IG Secretary, 2 Region Representatives

IG – Treasurer`s Report:

Balance to date: \$ 111,45 €1642,24
Prudent Reserve: \$ 600,00 plus amount for stars&stripes Ad €1200,00
Motion on the floor: „to transfer the funds from Euro account to dollar account to bring dollar account to prudent reserve level, then transfer any additions funds over prudent reserve to Region.“

GSR Reports

Just the new informations/changes from the GSR`s

Ansbach/Katerbach: around 3-4 people

Bamberg: no meetings at the moment

Erlangen: starting a women`s meeting: more info will be available soon

Fürth: no change to the meetings. Moving the meeting place to Nürnberg, Fürtherstrasse.

Grafenwöhr: 6—10 or 12 people. Contributions are still down, attendance is not that good
Looking how to get in contact with the ASAP. (ASAP= army substance abuse program)

Hohenfels: no GSR present. Meetings are going on. 5-10 people

Illesheim: no GSR present. But the wednesday meeting is going on

Munich Monday: running for 20-25 people and is getting stronger. Good sobriety.

Munich Tues/Thurs: is still going on

Munich Wed/Fri: a lot of new-comers, service is going well, 25-40 people

Munich Saturday: „As Bill sees it“, is increasing, 20-25 fellows

Munich Sunday: 10-15 people, 12+12 study

Regensburg: is a new meeting, small group, asked for help

Bad Kissingen: no GSR yet but getting meetings in place. No meeting at this point but contact with german AA to see what happens

Schweinfurt Tues/Frid: one meeting

One fellow mentioned that a new meeting opened in April 2012 in **Innsbruck/Sunday**, which is in Austria and very close to Bavaria. We`ll send an invitation for our next IG meeting.

And there is a meeting on Thursday in **Salzburg/Austria**

Region Report:

Next CER meeting will be held in Dusseldorf in June. Stars and Stripes ad will be voted on again at the next CER meeting.

IG Archives Report:

New archive newsletter, 4 folders of Archives

PI and Telephone Report: one member of the Munich AA would organise a new contact list: (who is willing to answer. Who can do a 12 step call. How can a newcomer get a sponsor) Franconia Intergroup has actually 3 cellphones. For the Munich, Nurnberg and Wurzburg area.

Old Business:

-Ad in „Toy Town Germany“- motion to not post an ad on toytown.
- Leaving Names on Group Histories for publication online (GSR reports) –Using first name and last initial. In public documents we don`t use first names and last initials.

Elections:

Vice chair: Winter P.

Secretary: will be voted on the next IG meeting

New business:

Host CER Meeting – in Munich 2013.

German Speaking AA meeting birthday November 2013 – would like english speakers

Next IG meeting 29th July

Respectfully submitted,

Region Representatives

Will C.

Stefanie M.

Franconia IG

IG Income Expenditure Report
21 September 2012

INCOME REPORT	09 Dec '11	2011 Year	26 Feb '12	04 June '12	21 SEPT '12
Total Group Contributions	2,601.93	11,592.60	2,610.60	2,311.10	4,392.40
Literature Sales	117.50	431.30	41.50	121.00	96.20
Meeting Lists	22.00	89.50		50.00	
Interest on Prudent Reserve		91.21	168.59		
Total Income	2,623.93	11,773.31	2,779.19	2,361.10	4,392.40
Convention Repayments			161.04		
EXPENDITURE REPORT					
Bank charges	-35.88	-143.52	-23.92	-47.84	-35.88
Insurance Civile IG		-626.78	-651.05		
Insurance Civile Convention		-155.04	-161.04		
Assurance Juridique IG		-179.57			-201.36
CER Delegate Expenses	-338.80	-1,183.18		-452.90	-768.30
Literature orders	-567.00	-3,309.46	-65.91		-646.53
PI		-3,585.00	-1,000.00	-1,850.00	
PI Radio Spots	-700.00	-4,150.00	-700.00	-700.00	-700.00
IG expenses	-77.16	-117.16	-68.60	-30.00	-30.00
Literature Expenses		-183.00			
CER Contribution	-400.00	-1,400.00		-815.00	-1,000.00
Total Expenditure	-2,118.84	-14,877.67	-2,509.48	-3,895.74	-3,382.07
Cleared Transfers/Cheques					
Bank charges	-35.88	-143.52	-23.92	-47.84	-35.88
Insurance Civile IG/Conv		-781.82	-812.09	161.04	
Assurance Juridique IG		-179.57			-201.36
CER Delegate Expenses		-844.38	-338.80	-452.90	-768.30
Literature orders		-3,027.64	-632.91		-646.53
PI		-3,585.00	-1,000.00		-1,850.00
PI Radio Spots	-700.00	-4,150.00	-700.00		-700.00
IG expenses	-77.16	-117.16	-68.60	-30.00	-3.80
CER Contributions + chgs	-1,003.75	-1,003.75	-403.80	-818.80	-1,003.80
			-3,980.12	-1,188.50	-5,209.67
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	5,864.17		4,494.65	5,667.25	4,849.98
Transfer to Prudent Reserve	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance Prudent Reserve	8,091.21		8,259.80	8,259.80	8,259.80
Prudent Reserve Livret A			8,259.80	8,259.80	8,259.80
BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS	13,955.38		12,754.45	13,927.05	13,109.78
Rev 21 Sept 2012					

IG Treasurer's Notes 06 Sept 2012 (period 15 June – 21 Sept 2012)
 What we were like, what happened, and what we are like now, financially.

<p><u>Balance as at 15 June 2012:</u> <u>13927.05</u></p> <p>8259.80 Prudent Reserve 5667.25 Operating Funds</p> <p><u>What went out:</u> <u>5209.67</u></p> <p>412.30 CER Delegate exp June 356.00 CER Delegate exp Sept 201.36 Assurance Juridique 646.53 Literature Order 1850.00 PI 700.00 Radio spots 35.88 Bank charges 1003.80 CER contribution + chgs ⁵ 3.80 Bank chgs Gratitude cont.</p> <p><u>What came in:</u> <u>4392.40</u></p> <p>4,296.20 Group 7th tradition 96.20 Literature donations</p> <p><u>New Balance 21 Sept 2012:</u> <u>11138.84</u></p> <p>8259.80 Prudent Reserve 4849.98 Operating Funds</p>	<p>Looking ahead:</p> <p>Budgeted items to end Sept:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">788.00</td> <td>Literature provision</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">118.80</td> <td>IG expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">906.80</td> <td>per budget approved Dec IG ¹</td> </tr> </table> <p>Next quarter Oct - Dec:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2636.00</td> <td>see IG Budget 2012 ^{2,3,4}</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">700.00</td> <td>Radio Spots</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Total Monies Budgeted:</u> <u>4242.80</u> including Radio</p> <p>With €4850 in operating funds, and €4242 planned spending from now until end December, we have an operating surplus of some €607 IN ADDITION TO THE PRUDENT RESERVE.</p>		788.00	Literature provision		118.80	IG expenses		906.80	per budget approved Dec IG ¹		2636.00	see IG Budget 2012 ^{2,3,4}		700.00	Radio Spots
	788.00	Literature provision														
	118.80	IG expenses														
	906.80	per budget approved Dec IG ¹														
	2636.00	see IG Budget 2012 ^{2,3,4}														
	700.00	Radio Spots														

Notes

1. Figures include unspent budgeted funds from previous quarters.
2. CER delegate travel has been more of the order of €350 - €450 this year
3. HNLO provision (€250) moved into Oct - Dec quarter.
4. Includes €700 allowance for CER contribution
5. IG approved to send €1000.00 down the line to CER.
6. Gratitude Week contributions (June 10-17) to date: €263.12

Literature Report

IG

Monaco, 9 September 2012

Apologies for absence from Andy, who is currently travelling.

We did a stock-take of the Literature placed in Buffa by Antonia and found that it would be necessary to order new stock of some of the literature. The e-mail sent out via Events did not bring many orders in and even less response from groups as to their existing stocks of literature. However, after filling these book orders we got, and looking at restocking the Buffa meeting room with books for sale (three of each book other than Big Books where 5 will be provided) we will need to order again by the end of the year.

We were asked to provide two groups with books for group use (neither of these meetings are new meetings). Both orders were relatively large, particularly as there seemed to be books already available (albeit apparently fairly well used). We used our initiative and cut these orders down by half.

We would like to suggest that where a group has say a Big Book meeting, local members think to bring their own Big Books along to the meeting, thereby leaving sufficient books for use by newcomers and/or visitors. Also, just because a book is used, and with a few loose pages, it does not make it illegible; it can still carry on being used.

In the past it has been the practice for pamphlets to be given without charge (this was mainly due to an earlier Literature secretary feeling that it was too onerous to price each individual leaflet). We would like to suggest, and IG to agree, that in future leaflets which are not destined for newcomers are paid for. So few leaflets are ordered by the groups that it could no longer be considered too time consuming to price them and the cost can be as much as € 1.

CHIPS

We seem to have a shortage of 1 year chips in Nice and rather than have to order new chips already, we would like to hear from any group who could send back some. Please let me know if you can do so; andymacirish@gmail.com

Yours in service

Andy and Maria

Continental European Region

Minutes from our Region Meeting on the 2nd & 3rd of June 2012 Düsseldorf

Saturday June 2nd 2012
11:00

1. Opened our meeting with the Serenity Prayer and a reading of the 12 Traditions
2. Introductions

Dave A / Chair 12/2012	Nicola K / Vice Chair and Delegate Committee 1 03/2014/ /06/2012	Tim S / Secretary 03/2014	Kate Mc / Treasurer 03/2014 First 164 Group Rep
Dan F / PIO 12/2012	Will C / Franconia Region Rep.	Erik A / Delegate Committee 5 06/2012	Monica C / ECLO&Alt Delegate 03/2013//12/2015
Marketa K / Delegate Committee 6 09/2014	Rosalind S-G / South of Spain IG Rep and Alt Delegate 09/2014	Joe F / Alt Delegate 09/2014	Dena A / Tri-Borders Region Rep
Jay G / YP Contact	Patrick L / Triborders IG Representative	Jeroen S / Netherlands IG Rep	Brian K / Berlin IG Representative
Lyla / Nordic IG Region Representative	Tim W-M / Trustee	Steffi M / Franconia IG Representative	Peter M / South of France IG Representative
Nigel P / Alt-Delegate	Evyann D/ Delegate to Conference Committee 3	Mary Kay F / Delegate to Conference Committee 4	Darrell L / Rheinland- Pfalz Representative
John Visitor	Karen M / Alt-Treasurer	John Visitor	Sophie Visitor
Jerry C / Visitor	Jan / Visitor	Michael / Visitor Brno CZ	

Twenty-Three Voting Members in Attendance

Thirteen Voting Members represented Intergroups or other AA Meetings.

3. Approval of the minutes from our March 2012 meeting in Düsseldorf
4. Chair's Report
 - a. Group Conscience Decision that each individual attendee will be responsible for paying for their internet access for the weekend.
5. Secretary's Report
 - a. Group Conscience Decision that the Region Secretary will continue to not distribute flyers for the various Round-Ups and Conventions.
6. IG Reports (attached)
7. PI Officer's Report (attached)

Continental European Region

Minutes from our Region Meeting on the 2nd & 3rd of June 2012 Düsseldorf

8. Treasurer's Report (attached)
9. Trustee Report (attached)
10. Sister City Report- (attached)
11. Young Person's Contact Report (attached)
12. Archivist's Report.NA
13. ECC Report
 - a. RECLO Monica C announced that she will be stepping down from her position and a new RECLO will be elected at the September 2012 CER Meeting in Düsseldorf.
14. Old Business

Discussion: Franconia IG new proposal for "Stars & Stripes" advertisement
Motion that CER will take over the payments of the advertisement in Stars & Stripes to be reviewed yearly in December
Passed by a substantial majority.
15. New Business
 - a. Discussion: Alt-Treasurer Position and possible election of a new Alt-Treasurer.
Motion to keep the Alt-Treasurer position passed by a substantial majority.
Laura W elected to this non-reimbursable position.
 - b. Discussion: Appoint an ad hoc committee of 3 Conference or ex-Conference Delegates to discuss these three issues listed below.
 - i. *Communication between CER and CERES**
 - ii. *Contracting arrangements, authorization and responsibilities*
 - iii. *Transitioning contracts/expenses from CER to CERES**Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Chair Dave A
Volunteers are Mary K, Erik A, and Evyan D. and Dena A to represent CERES*
 - c. Elect: Three new Delegates to Conference.
Jeroen S
Patrick L
Dan F
Were elected for three year as Conference Delegates from CER.
 - d. Vote: Approval of changes to "Welcome to Region".
Passed by a substantial majority.
16. Conference Question Reports for 2012
17. Selection of our Meeting Location for the December 2012 CER Meeting.
By a substantial majority the invitation from Gothenburg Sweden was accepted.

Sunday June 3rd 2012

09:00

NORDIC ENGLISH-SPEAKING A.A. INTERGROUP REPORT

CER Business Meeting,
June 2012, Düsseldorf, Germany



The Nordic Intergroup has participants from:

Joensuu, Finland / Bush League Pinch Hitters Group
Tampere, Finland / Rainbow Group
Reykjavík, Iceland / International Group
Reykjavík, Iceland / Midnight Sun Group
Fredrickstad, Norway / English-speaking Group – **Closed by contact available**
Oslo, Norway / Experience, Strength & Hope Big Book Group
Oslo, Norway / Norwegian-American Group
Gothenburg, Sweden / Early Risers Group – **Coming Soon!**
Gothenburg, Sweden / English-speaking Big Book Group
Gothenburg, Sweden / International Women's Group
Gothenburg, Sweden / Swenglish YPAA Group
Halmstad, Sweden / tbd – **Status uncertain**
Stavanger, Norway / Alpha Group
Lund, Sweden / Saturday Night Step Study Group – **Status uncertain**
Malmö, Sweden / Completely Sober Group
Stockholm, Sweden / International Group
Stockholm, Sweden / SwEnglish Group
Umeå, Sweden / Tegs International Group
Upplands-Väsby, Sweden / Happy Landings Group
Uppsala, Sweden / English-speaking Group – **NEW! (summer status uncertain)**

Business meetings are held via Skype the first Monday each month at 20:00 Iceland / 21:00 Norway & Sweden / 22:00 Finland times. Skype profile: nordic_intergroup

A **googlemap of meetings in the Nordic Intergroup area** is online at <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=104028634710830965666.00048df922be9788635d6&ll=59.130863,3.867188&spn=30.350446,64.335938&z=4>

The Nordic Intergroup has a general email (**neig_aa@ymail.com**) answered by our P.I. contact, Dennis G.

GROUP REPORTS:

The Gothenburg English-speaking groups are inviting to **host the December 2012 CER Meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden**. That invitation has been submitted separately.

One new group has started in Uppsala, Sweden. The Uppsala English Speaking Group meetings Wednesday nights at 20:00 in the Fyrisgruppen meeting locale. The group was started by a student from Uppsala University; its ongoing status during the summer is uncertain as students will have gone home.

The **Fredrikstad, Norway meeting has closed** from being a regularly scheduled meeting due to small attendance, often only one person. Instead an AA contact will be listed should visitors be passing through and be looking for the hand of AA.

The International Group in Stockholm will be hosting a **Pancake Brunch & two-speaker meeting** on Saturday 2 June, which will hopefully mimic the outstanding success of last fall's Thanksgiving meeting. If so, the group will consider make both events annual.

The fairly new **24-Hr contact number** for English-speaking meetings in Finland has been a success. The number, **+358-45-863-0090**, is answered by the Bush League Pinch Hitters group, and an email **aapinchhitters@gmail.com** also answers inquiries for Finland.

At the Bush League Pinch Hitters group **attendance has soared to five!**

The founder of the Lund, Sweden Saturday Night Step Study Group has moved and it is **uncertain if the meeting will continue**. The dilemma in cities with small English-speaking fellowships is that one group member can be integral to a meeting's survival.

The SwEnglish Group of Stockholm held their **3rd Anniversary International AA Convention and Valborg Party** to great success. The group saved up funds to pay for the convention and passed the hat for 7th tradition (vs. having a registration or ticket fee). One group traveled to Uppsala to tour in fellowship during the famous Valborg festivities and to hold a special English-speaking meeting together with the Uppsalal YPAA and Fyris groups; another sober event was held as a home party in Stockholm.

The SwEnglish Group has a **new website** www.swenglish.org. It was started to provide information on the convention, and will now have meeting listings (including perhaps other groups in Stockholm and/or Nordic area) and audio files from the convention.

Changing the way they handle the service position, members of the International Group in Stockholm now **sign-up for the coffee commitment** on a weekly basis. A calendar is passed around the group for people to sign up for the next, or future, meeting instead of having one person hold a weekly position for six months. This has very successfully enabled the group to get more people into service and to keep the coffee flowing. They have also been testing out having group business meetings in brief before the regular Friday night meeting and it seems to be working out alright.

The SwEnglish Group is just about finished with the first 164 pages of the Big Book and Dr. Bob's story, as well as the appendixes, during their Kick-Ass Big Book Ninjas meeting. This meeting reads the Big Book in both the English and Swedish editions, side-by-side. A number of potential translation alternatives have been discussed by the group and the **Literature Committee** of Sweden GSO has been contacted about sharing information for any future Swedish edition.

The Rainbow Group in Tampere, Finland is having a challenge with **another group that has begun using the same name**, causing confusing and that the original Rainbow Group has been delisted from the Finland meeting list. The group is trying

to get this straightened out.

Gothenburg, Sweden is developing a **Saturday morning Early Risers Group** with an early meeting time followed by fellowship. More information to come.

Alpha Group created a wallet card of Stavanger meetings (see P.I. Sample at end of this report) that has been distributed around the city during English speaking activities. The group also has put together Newcomer Packs for, well, newcomers.

INTERGROUP BUSINESS:

Gothenburg, Sweden has invited to host the December 2012 CER meeting.

At our intergroup meeting it was brought up again that **holding the CER Meeting the 2nd weekend in December** would be more advantageous for there is a better chance the Conference Topics & Questions will be out by then (vs. the first weekend). A motion was passed to ask that this scheduling question be brought up at the June CER meeting. However, we have since learned that the dates for 2012 are locked by earlier decision of a CER meeting and so this request will be raised when CER next discusses the 2013 meeting schedule.

Again, striving to always have a representative from a group that has not had first-hand experience with CER take part in a CER business meeting, **Lila L. from Malmö will Rep. the Nordic Intergroup at the June meeting** in Düsseldorf, along with Jay G. who also attends as the CER Young People's Contact.

The Nordic Intergroup treasury is just below our prudent reserve, though anticipated contributions will put it over the top very shortly.

On a number of occasions AAs attempting to attend a Friday night English-speaking meeting in **Copenhagen** have discovered that the listed meeting is not active. This has been reported, but the meeting continues to be listed. Those aware of the situation in Copenhagen know that this meeting is not active, but the individual responsible for the meeting listing is not willing to have the meeting be delisted. This prompts the dilemma of CER listing a meeting that is disputably active/inactive. Can the RECLO and Electronic Communications Committee develop guidelines on verifying the accuracy of listed meetings and otherwise note alongside the meeting listed that there is concern the meeting may not be active? When autonomy conflicts with accuracy, which prevails under AA's responsibility that the hand of AA will always be there?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

EURYPAA will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark 27-29 July. www.eurypaa.org

Sweden's national AA convention (landsmöte) will be held 10-12 August in Leksand. www.aa.se

SCANCYPAA will be held 4-6 January 2013 in Reykjavík, Iceland. www.scancypaa.org

P.I. SAMPLE:

Here is the Stavanger, Norway AA meeting wallet card. It is printed double-sided on A4 paper and can get three per page. It lists the meetings in the city, website references, and there is room for newcomers to get names of AA contacts when they meet at a meeting.

SIDE A

<i>Last updated: 28 April 2012</i>	Mo	Tu	Wed	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
Alpha (Løkkeveien 1, Stavanger) English	1900E				1900E		
Bryne (Meierigata 8, Bryne)		1900L					1900
Dalane (Bøckmansgate 14, Egersund)		1900			1900L		
Polish (St Svithunsgate 6, Stavanger 2 nd floor)						1900P	
Sandnes (Storgata 64 IOGT huset)	1900S					1900	
Sentrum AA (Bergelandsgata 40B, Stavanger)				1900F			1900F
Sola AA (Soltunvegen 4, Sola)		1900		1900*			
Stavanger AA (Møllegata 37, Stavanger)	1900F		1800**		1800	1500**	
Strand AA (Dir Poulsonsgate 1, Jørpeland)	1900L			1900			

E=English; P=Polish

Open Meeting: Once per month in (F=First; S=Second; L=Last) week of the month

*Sola = Open meeting first Thursday in March, June, September and December

**Stavanger AA – Last Wednesday in the month is a business meeting. Saturdays are open to all 12 step groups

SIDE B

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees.

Nordic Intergroup and Alpha Group e-mail: neig_aa@ymail.com (note: ymail not gmail)	Google map of all the groups within Nordic Intergroup http://g.co/maps/2mmw
	Alcoholics Anonymous Norway http://www.anonymealkoholikere.no/
	Continental European Region http://www.aa-europe.net
	Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/
	Alcoholics Anonymous World Services http://www.aa.org

God,
Grant me the serenity to accept
The things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

I am Responsible.
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there,
And for that: I am responsible.

Public Information Report to Intergroup 8 September 2012

Our last PI meeting took place on 18 August in Nice and despite of holidays etc., 7 members were able to attend.

Areas currently of interest to the PI committee that were discussed are:

- **Meeting List**
- **Magazine Advertising** – We are currently advertising in:
Riviera Reporter
AngloInfo
Rivieranytt
Connexion
will be renewing or extending our advertising in
Riviera Times
Blablabla
Anglo America Group of Provence
- **Riviera Radio**
- **Big Books** – The PI Committee holds a stock of Big Books for distribution to schools, libraries, prisons, hospitals etc. We bought a further 6 books to replenish our stock. Please let us know if you can suggest anywhere we can donate a book.
- **Telephone Service** – TLO will make separate report.
Doctors & Dentists – It was decided that we would write to doctors & dentists in our area that we know speak English. We thought the best way to start was to ask our members the names and addresses of their doctors etc., please give all details to Jean-Luke afterwards or by email that is coordinating this.
- **Hospitals & Institutions** – Members carry the message to suffering alcoholics in Annex St. Christophe in Nice every 4 weeks on Wednesdays from 17:30 – 18:30 & CHPG Monaco once every 4 weeks on Monday from 15H00 - 16h00. The schedule for the rest of the year is:

27/08/2012

24/09/2012

22/10/2012

19/11/2012

17/12/2012

Please talk to Laura after the meeting about specifics as the Nice details may change.

- **Schools** – We are anxious to reestablish our visits to the International Schools in the area. We will be holding a training session in the near future.
- **Carrying the PI Message** – Members of the committee will visit meetings in our area to show by example what we do in the hope of attracting new members to our committee.

There was a tremendous feeling of enthusiasm towards this important work and a real excitement that someone had bothered to travel 180km to join us in this important work.

We once again appeal for members to come and join us to keep our fellowship healthy and allow us to rotate commitments.

GROUP	GSR or REP.	7th €	COMMENTS
SUNDAY			
11:00 Nice	Mike	227.50	No GSR but Mike goes to this meeting - very health meeting often over 20 members
11:30 Lorgues	Anthony	192.00	Anthony standing in for Rosalind, the meeting averages between 2 to 10 depending on visitors there are 6 to 7 main members
17:00 Vence	Mike	0.00	Mike goes to this meeting, small meeting but still going with 4 or 5 attendees
18:00 Goult		0.00	This meeting no longer exists
19:00 Antibes	Mike	0.00	This meeting could do with some support - 17 euros rent per meeting and only 2 members! They need help, this is a good meeting
MONDAY			
11.30 Montpellier	No Show	150.00	
17:30 Cannes	Laura	300.00	goes from time to time seems to still be going (tom says he stil owes 100) 200 from beore so 400 from now and 200 from last time
18:00 Nice	Mike	300.00	goes to that meeting it does well
19:00 Cannes	Cannes	50.00	Laura was seretary over the summer -big book study meeting going well
19:00 Monaco	Paul	700.00	average 15-25 treasurer not sorted money yet wil forward
20:00 St. Tropez	Anthony	324.90	Here to collect something for sue revd cheque from Bela
TUESDAY			
12:30 Monaco	Maria	150.00	good meeting going quite 30 for gratitue 150 7th
17:30 Nice	No show	0.00	Tim is treasurer to this meeting but no news this time
18:00 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela (GSR)	17.00	This meeting has an average of 6 members, over the summer there were from 2 to 10 attendees, there were less visitors this summer and 2 to 3 regular members have moved away
19:00 Nice	Laura	100.00	This is a big book study, great meeting where they listen to workshops, they have just started the Original jo and Charley. Numbers are pretty strong with an average of 10 members
WEDNESDAY			
12:00 Nice	Jean luke (Secretary)	300.00	The meeting has an average of 8 members, money is tough but they are sending 300 to intergroup
18.30 Ganges		0.00	

19:00 Nice	Mike (Secretary)	220.50	This is a newcomers meeting with quite a few new members - doing very well, there can be anywhere
19:00 Valbonne	Helen (GSR & Treasurer)	50.00	This group is the same as the Friday evening group - the Wednesday group does better than Friday 4-5 up to 17-18 in summer, Friday group has fewer attendees they share resources

THURSDAY			
17:30 Cannes		300.00	
18:00 Nice	Mike (GSR)	100.00	Very popular meeting, people come to get a laugh - doing quite well - They read the Big Book
19.30 Nice	Laura	220.50	Nobody from the meeting was at IG but 100€ sent
19:00 Monaco	paul	80.00	This is a closed meeting with numbers varying between 3 - 15 with an average of 11
FRIDAY			
18:30 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela	See Tuesday	This meeting has an average of 6 members, over the summer there were from 2 to 10 attendees, there were less visitors this summer and 2 to 3 regular members have moved away
18.30 Montpellier			
19:00 Nice	Francis GSR	250.00	Dong very well - after much pushing from 2nd oldest group in nice strong group, closed as bil sees it meeting
19:00 Valbonne	Helen	See Wednesday	This group is the same as the Friday evening group - the Wednesday group does better than Friday 4-5 up to 17-18 in summer, Friday group has fewer attendees they share resources
SATURDAY			
11:00 Nice	Jean Luke (Secretary)	50.00	This is an acceptance meeting - Mirta the treasurer passed away 1 week before the IG meeting - JL has taken over as treasurer in interim - There are around 9 members with a great fluctuation between summer and winter attendance
19:00 Nice	Maria (Treasurer)	180.00	This is a speaker meeting, very strong meeting but sometimes for a couple of weeks there can be only 5 attendees, but this could be because they are sometimes told they can't do meeting in church.
19:30 Antibes	Laura (Regular	130.00	Solid meeting with 6 to 7 members
		4,392.40	

AA SOUTH OF France HELPLINE - 0820 200 257
SUMMARY AND EVOLUTION OF CALLS
from 1st March 2007 to 1st September 2012

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total for
	Newcomer	Existing Members	AlAnon	PI	Other	French	Quarter
2007							
1 March - 28 June	3	26	7	5	10	32	83
29 Jun - 14 Sept	3	42	6	5	4	49	109
15 Sept to 5 Dec	8	24	5	0	9	58	104
2008							
5 Dec to 26th March	8	30	5	1	7	45	96
27 March to 18 June	17	42	2	0	2	6	69
19 June to 19 Sept	10	41	9	2	6	21	89
20th Sept to 11 Dec	5	31	5	2	3	20	66
2009							
12 Dec 08 to 7 Mar	5	9	5	2	12	11	44
8th March to 7th June	4	21	8	2	3	11	49
8th June to 8th Sept	4	44	1	1	11	15	76
9th Sept to 8th Dec	10	19	2	1	7	20	59
2010							
9th Dec to 8th March	6	15	2	1	0	9	33
9th Mar to 30 May	9	21	5	0	4	9	48
1st June to 29 Aug	17	34	8	0	7	16	82
29 Aug to 27 Nov	4	23	3	0	12	2	44
2011							
28 Nov to 8th March	13	16	2	1	1	16	49
9th March to 4th June	10	15	5	0	6	8	44
5th June to 10th Sept	24	51	8	0	5	10	98
11th Sept to 26th Nov	9	10	10	0	12	15	56
2012							
27th Nov to 18th Feb	6	11	1	0	8	4	30
19th Feb to 26th May							?
27th May to 1st Sept	4	24	3	1	6	11	49

Nikki

MINUTES OF THE INTERGROUP MEETING
Held on 24th November 2012 AT 14:00
At: Salle Dojo, Parking Raoul Limbron, Lorgues,

A. OPENING:

The Chair opened the meeting with the serenity prayer and the reading of the twelve traditions and twelve concepts.

1. Introduction from those present and Group Roll Call

Simon (IG Chair)	Mike (PI/GSR Nice)	Jane (Travelling)
Anthony (Vice-Chair/Lorgues)	Nikki (TLO)	Anna (Lorgues Member)
Gillian (Secretary/ GSR Monaco)	Rosalind (Lorgues)	Helen (Valbonne)
Laura (Treasurer/GSR Nice)	Andy (Literature Secretary)	
Pamela (GSR Aix en Provence)	Gabriella (Monaco/Nice)	

Tess (Lorgues Group) prepared and closed the meeting room
Apologies were received from the following members who were unable to attend:
David (Montpellier) – Maria (Nice/Monaco) – Peter (CER Representative)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Monaco on 8th September 2012 were tabled and were unanimously approved and adopted once individual names were removed.

Report from the Chair

The Chair had nothing to report this time.

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

SERVICE POSITIONS – urgent - GSR's are asked to take these back to Groups

Treasurer

Position is still available

Vice-Treasurer

Position of Vice-Treasurer available (position can be considered as in-training for (future) Treasurer position but not an obligation to become Treasurer).

Telephone Liaison Officer (has had to stand down therefore position temporarily taken over by a previous TLO)

- TLO outlined details of this position (in particular the necessity to have a computer) and advised willingness to discuss these details with anyone interested.
- Position enables Officer to make contact with others all along South Coast. Helpline runs 24/7 and pretty well runs itself. The telephones are on automatic programming and Responders handle telephone shifts varying from 8h to 24h .

French Liaison Officer:

- Requires someone who attends French meetings
- ****Job Descriptions can be taken from Group Guidelines**
- ****PI Chair) will put a list of IG officers and their contact telephone numbers on AA-Events**
- ****GSR's can contact IG Secretary regarding positions.**

C. REPORTS

1. Public Information – PI Committee

APPLAUSE to THEO showing our appreciation for his hard work preparing the Meeting Lists.

The PI Secretary gave a brief rundown on what has been happening in PI in the last quarter:

- New meeting lists issued following at least 40 changes and a great deal of work (Note: the Goult meeting address has been removed; the telephone contact remains the same).
- Website continually updated – visitors advise that they do use it.
- PI gives out Big Books to hospitals, doctors, libraries (etc), always on the lookout for new ideas or necessary drop offs.
- A new advertisement has been put in the (Aix) AAGP (Newsletter/Magazine).

Request: Could GSR's/Groups ask non AA members to search us out on the internet and feedback as to ease (or not) in locating us. Any and all input gives valuable insight and information to direct PI's targeting on the net.

• Telephone Helpline:

Telephone Liaison report distributed (reflects individual Responders reports).

- Less calls this quarter – why?:
 - o Summer quarter is more hectic than the Autumn one.
 - o Radio advertising had been cut by a half and an entire quarter went by with no advertising.
 - o Modern technology, perhaps new members may find out about AA through internet and may prefer the totally “anonymous” nature of the computer.

Question: Why were number of Riviera slots reduced?

Answer: - 7th Tradition and other donations from our Annual Convention used to subsidise this expenditure (in part). Having had no Convention for some time, a decision had been made to halve the costs. Following discussion it was agreed that things will stay as they are, if in 6 months the trend of calls is still down, we can then reconsider the amount we spend here.

• H&I

No report from H&I however we were advised that hospital visits were going on a usual.

2. Literature Report

- Thanks to Groups for their “stock taking”, still awaiting further inventories.
- A budget of 3000€ has been allocated for 2013 literature, i.e., an average of €750 per quarter.
- Stock: some stock is in the Buffa room for immediate sale; the remainder has been moved and stocked in Monaco. Literature is priced on receipt and sold “at cost”.
- Groups wishing to recycle chips or literature are asked to contact the Literature Secretary.

3. French/English Liaison Report

No report this time (no Liaison officer at the moment). A number of people advised they would be in touch with possible candidates from within their Groups and/or area. Everyone, please take back these positions to your individual Groups and liaise with IG Secretary.

4. CER Report

No CER report since CER to take place the following week.

5. Intergroup Accounts and Treasury Report

The Treasury Report, Notes from the Treasurer and the Budget for 2013 handed out. Treasury Reports post-IG and Budget for 2013 are attached.

- **Prudent Reserve:** Treasurer reminds us that AA is an Association and as such, all officers are personally liable for monies that we may owe for any reason (e.g., insurance etc...) Those figures although largely predictable are subject to change and one never knows what may “crop up”. Personal Liability of Officers is the reason we leave a “healthy” prudent reserve at all times.
- The 7th tradition at the time of the IG Annual meeting was 2206€.

BUDGET FOR 2013

Literature has been “boosted” this year even though there was an excess of 500€ from last year, this amount might be used for Chip order in the near future once final Group inventories are in. A budget of 3000€ has been allocated for 2013 Literature, an average spend of €750 per quarter.

It was agreed that PI should be funded twice a year in 2013.

Question: “Convention” line expense

Answer: For insurance purposes we are associated with the Convention Committee itself an Association, which still requires insurance coverage even when no convention has taken place. The figures in both Insurance and IG Expenses (columns) are estimations – the Insurance invoice only arrives at the end of the year; IG is hypothetical and merely a “provision”.

Question: The Host Liaison Officer allowance

Answer: Was intended to help French AA to buy Big books to be given away to prisons etc... (we can only access prisons ourselves through French AA). This purchase is made by cheque and as PI has a cheque book, they made the settlement. In light of the above it may be reasonable to give the Host Liaison allowance to PI directly for them to use as and when necessary (avoids double accounting).

The Budget was unanimously accepted.

D. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The use or not of names in our minutes: It was agreed that names could be mentioned (use common sense/logic).
- Application for the PI Credit Card is underway.
- PI still considering buying some extra “domains” and appointed to our “global site”. This makes it easier for people looking for the AA website in South of France. This is ongoing.

- Convention Committee exists, however, organising a convention without a great deal of help is impossible. The forming of a new Convention Committee should be taken back to individual groups by their GSR's and Secretaries to see if we can drum up some enthusiasm.

SECRETARIES AND GSR's SHOULD REPORT BACK TO EITHER PI OR THE IG SECRETARY SHOULD THEY HAVE ANY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE (Above) OR FOR THE ORGANISING OF A POSSIBLE CER MEETING IN THE PACA REGION (Below)

CER Meeting in PACA Region: IG Secretary to contact CER Rep requesting he coordinate/liaise with (volunteers) Elisabeth and Richard - another matter to be taken back to groups by GSR's and Secretaries to find volunteers to help.

Workshops : Expected for 2013; the PI secretary has agreed to liaise with CER Rep.

Low Attendance at IG meetings In the past a fun picnic on Ile de Lérins near Cannes helped bring together members of AA. Perhaps something on this line could be organised for this spring. **Please let us ALL take this idea back to our groups and let's just get some ideas moving and see what we can come up with!**

E. CLOSING

The next meeting will be held in the Buffa Rooms in Nice and if not available, in Durante (also in Nice) on 23rd February 2013 – Meeting to start at 14:00 with pot luck lunch before from 12:30 onwards.

After the 7th Tradition, the meeting was closed at 17:20 with the Serenity Prayer.

MINUTES OF THE INTERGROUP MEETING
Held on 8th September 2012 AT 14:00
At St. Paul's Church, Avenue de Grande Bretagne, Monaco

A. OPENING:

The Chair opened the meeting with the serenity prayer and the reading of the twelve traditions and twelve concepts.

1. Introduction from those present and Group Roll Call

Simon (IG Chair)	Mike (PI/GSR Nice)	Jean-Luke (Nice)
Anthony (Vice-Chair/Lorgues)	David (Lorgues)	Richard (Monaco)
Gillian (Secretary/ GSR Monaco)	Pamela (GSR Aix en Provence)	Paul (Monaco)
Laura (Treasurer/GSR Nice)	Maria (Monaco)	Elisabeth (Visiting Nice)
Helen (Valbonne)	Gabriella (Monaco/Nice)	
Francis (GSR/Nice)		

Apologies were received from the following members who were unable to attend:
David (Montpellier) – Nikki (Nice) – Peter (CER Representative)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Antibes on 2nd June 2012 were tabled and were unanimously approved and adopted with slight modifications.

Secretary will redo minutes from June IG meeting omitting personal names in order that they may be published on the AA website.

Report from the Chair

Chair will ensure quick turn around of minutes and agendas.

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

UPCOMING SERVICE POSITIONS IN 2012 – All quite urgent really

In General

Everyone that has any suggestions can get in touch with the IG Secretary who will make sure that the suggestions get to the correct person to be dealt with.

Members can also just liaise with the Secretary of their meetings or the GSR who can then forward all info to the IG secretary in order that she may either act immediately upon information or where appropriate put into the Agenda for the next IG meeting.

However if for example you know whom the correct person to contact is, telephone responders and 12 steppers for example; currently the ex-telephone liaison officer would be the person to get in touch

with. In this case you could go directly to the ex-telephone liaison officer and do not have to go through the IG Secretary.

Treasurer

Treasurer is due to rotate out of the Treasurer position now, however she has kindly said that she would stay on until a suitable candidate is found.

IG Secretary will re-issue a "Vacant Positions" message to be put out on Events and the AA website to say that the Treasurer position is now really vacant and that we need a treasurer now.

Vice-Treasurer

The position of Vice-Treasurer is also currently available and although the ex-vice Treasurer did say that she would stand in until a replacement was found it would be preferable to find a suitable candidate as soon as possible

A question was raised as to whether or not it was still the case that the Vice Treasurer was considered to be "in training" so that they can take over the actual position of Treasurer after they rotate out of vice-treasurer. It was agreed that this can be the case however that if we say that this is a training position to become treasurer it may put some people off, as both Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer positions are for 3 year rotation and it could be "off-putting" to be having to think so far ahead! One never knows and should not be thinking so far ahead.

It may be a solution to say that "Vice Positions" can indeed lead up to following in to the actual position, however it does not HAVE to be the case if the person occupying a "Vice Position" does not want to take on another responsibility straight away

Telephone Liaison Officer

The ex-Telephone Liaison Officer rotated out of this position quite some time ago and it was filled for a short space of time by a new person however he is unable, due to personal commitments to continue for the time being and therefore this Position is still Vacant.

Our ex-Telephone Liaison Officer is covering again for this position in the interim period and our ex-Treasurer has expressed a possible desire to take over as Telephone Liaison Officer, however she will need to rotate permanently out of the Treasurer Position first.

French Liaison Officer:

One of our members sent an E-mail to the IG Secretary prior to the meeting and would like to put himself forward for this position; however he wants to know what IG thinks about this possibility due to the fact that he is actually out of the country for a number of months during the winter period. This member would like to be at an IG meeting in order to properly "present" himself in person.

This candidature was discussed at quite some length. The general consensus was that Intergroup do know this member and that he was liaison at an AA conference, he also used to be liaison officer, however since he is away a lot the group feels that it may be a big drawback. The candidate works more on an international level and is not a regular local attendee and therefore may not be the best solution, since "long distance" help although still greatly appreciated, is always very difficult to keep running smoothly. It is much easier to be "implicated" when you are "at hand" as it were to speak.

It would obviously be better if the Liaison officer went to both English and French AA meetings in the PACA region and also lived in the area on a permanent basis.

Question brought up: What actually do we want from a Liaison officer?

We need someone to continue all the good work that has been going on in the PACA region.

There has been a lot of good will on-going ever since the English speaking meetings have started down in south of France, and there has always been "someone" from French AA in contact with certain members. There has been a lot of spontaneous assistance from the French speaking AA

community in general, however it would be better to have a “resident” French Liaison Officer who attends both English and French AA meetings and has the time and desire to co-ordinate between the two.

This is a significant position and does need to be filled to avoid losing all the good will that has been so willingly provided in the past.

This position could also help to avoid “misunderstandings between the French and English speaking AA groups in general, we can take for example the situation that arose when the decision was made to “split” from French AA for insurance reasons.

Paris AA were under the mistaken impression that we had become a “free agent” and requested a meeting with the IG chair at the time who explained our set-up and the fact that we were still attached to CER, and that the “split” was merely to help things run smoother and avoid complications.

Question : Has anyone asked the French groups if they would have anyone that would be willing to do this?

It would be very beneficial for us to know what French groups are doing and how they work, the last Officer we had was a French AA member who kept us very well informed of what was happening and allowed us to get involved for example in hospital visits etc....

One member present at the IG meeting said that they thought they may know of a possible candidate and were willing to mention to them.

Question also brought up: How best to advise Alcoholics about French meetings?

The resulting discussion brought to light the fact that, if you call the helpline, they will always orientate you to the correct person in order to get information across.

We are not just an intergroup we act as a Regional Group even though we are in fact an Intergroup and this because of our geographical expanse. It may be an idea to think of a way of having IG meetings for “smaller” regions as well – Food for thought, this could lead to a constructive discussion at the next IG meeting.

Dominique is the “regional” Liaison officer and we do get news from him on wide spread matters.

C. REPORTS

1. Public Information – PI Committee

The PI report was read out:

A copy of this report is attached with the minutes.

Meeting lists down to 200 and there are some changes to be made, however we are going to “hold off” on re-print until Christmas since this is an expensive affair and 200 copies should “tide us over” till the close of the year, then we can start with nice new fully updated lists in January of 2013.

Quick rundown of report:

If anyone knows of anywhere or any publications, magazines, newsletters etc. that we could maybe publish AA articles – please let PI know so that they can get in touch with these publications, they are always looking for new places to spread the “good news” that help is at hand.

20 Big Books have already been placed so far this year and PI are happy for anyone to say if there is anywhere they think it would be good to give a book, so please just let them know.

PI are looking to find numbers of English speaking Psychologists so if anyone knows of any, could they get in touch with Website. It was suggested checking up the Riviera Reporter to see if any English Psychologists are listed there.

PI Chairperson

PI is still on the lookout for a Chairperson. This would need to be someone who is already within PI and knows the general workings and due to the small number of current PI members it is difficult to find volunteers. Again here it may be useful to keep bringing up from time to time during our regular

meetings the fact that PI are always on the lookout for new members and would be delighted to have you come and join them!

• **Telephone Helpline:**

Telephone Liaison report was distributed.

Telephone Responders & 12 Steppers

Telephone responders and 12 Steppers are always needed and it may be good to bring this up during individual meetings from time to time just to “spur” some interest.

Although our ex-Telephone Liaison Officer was not actually at this IG meeting it was brought up that she has always been keen and willing to do training sessions and has even been known to do so for just one person!

It is very important to try and recruit “new blood” for these positions because it is important not to lose all the knowledge that has been accumulated over the years by the Telephone Liaison Officer and the only way for her to pass on the knowledge is by having helpers to pass it on to!

• **H&I**

Regarding St. Christophe Hospital in Nice, there may be some changes to the days and time for visits and PI will keep us informed.

Training sessions to help volunteers to know what happens during visits to schools, hospitals etc. are being arranged for the near future. When dates, times and places are known, it would be good to let people know via website and Events well in advance to give them time to organise themselves in order to be available.

2. **Literature Report**

The new Literature Secretary was travelling, the Literature assistant read out the report.

There has not been much response following the request for stock-taking in individual rooms, or for orders. Only 6 groups came back with orders.

It was suggested we should perhaps start pricing leaflets and request that they are paid for (except for starter packs that are given out to newcomers). It should not be too difficult a job to price them now the Literature Secretary can do this upon receipt of Leaflets before sending round to the groups that have ordered them.

The Literature Secretary will make up price list for the most “used / useful” leaflets and send to the IG secretary, for further distribution to the Steering committee (this was done following the meeting). IG can then give out this info to all groups. Pricing of leaflets will be decided at group level. In this manner we would only have a small variety of leaflets to display/sell. Then any other particular pamphlet that a group might require would become the object of that Group’s own literature order. This could be a good solution for all future order of new leaflets especially since certain leaflets such as the 12 traditions and concepts illustrated are slightly more pricey but very useful. For the old and tattered leaflets pricing does not seem appropriate.

Also we really need groups to look into making a stocktake of what exactly they have in their rooms because in some places there are loads of unused leaflets, again we should take these suggestions back to our individual groups and see if we can get some volunteers organised to “stock take”.

All Birthday chips are quite expensive and the smallest “time frame” ones are the most needed and used, however this can vary greatly from one meeting room to another and therefore it would be very helpful to try and rally chips from one group to another, it would be good to get an exchange system going whereby all groups make up a simple spread sheet of chips in their possession and numbers and this info could be made available to everyone in order that when one group is lacking in certain chips and another may have too many of that one, then they can arrange to swap. This may take a bit

of discipline to start with but once we get the “hang” of it groups could bring along “chips” for swapping at the same time as they bring in their 7th Tradition contributions.

We can also ask again for members that no longer need their “chips” to bring them back to the rooms for “recycling”; this however is very personal because for some of us these chips can have great sentimental value.

Regarding books for sale some groups have extortionate prices compared to others, this could be due to the fluctuating Euro and also for some of the big books that have very high prices the reason is that they were originally convention Big Books that had special covers, however after the convention, the covers were taken off but hey forgot to bring the price down. This will be corrected.

We have to accept however that prices will vary from one order to another, either up or down so the price marked on the books at the time of delivery to the group, should be the price they are sold

3. French/English Liaison Report

No report this time since we have no Liaison officer at the moment.

3. CER Report

Chair read out the CER report as the CER Rep was unable to attend due to “clashing” of dates with CER meeting again this time around.

A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

A round of applause was given here for our ex-Treasurer who has been voted in as CER Alt-Treasurer.

5. Intergroup Accounts and Treasury Report

The Retiring Treasurer read out the Treasury Report.

After reflection and discussion it has been decided that it is best that everyone read the Treasury Report and Treasurer’s notes attached to these minutes, rather than try to summarize them in the minutes. This is mainly due to the fact that the figures read out during the IG meeting always change following the meeting and therefore we end up with conflicting amounts in the minutes and Treasury Report which is confusing for those that were not present at the time of the IG meeting itself.

A Vote was taken to send 1000 € to CER this time and this was unanimously accepted.

It was suggested that IG could reduce their prudent reserve because it is really very large, especially as we have “over” budgeted for Riviera Radio - since we only spend ½ as much now for Riviera Radio allocated “slots” it may be a good time to change the amount of the Prudent reserve.

This was discussed at some length and although the general consensus was that the Prudent reserve is very high, you never know what could happen, at the moment our income through 7th Traditions is quite healthy but you cannot guarantee that this will always be the case.

Another point that was brought up was the fact that the telephone company that we have our contract with has changed their rules and we may have to pay extra for telephone responders phones since the new telephone rules stipulates that they will only allow ½ as many responders from now on, we will only be allowed 10 responders on the same contract and if we wish more we may have to pay extra.

The above situation will be looked into before the next IG meeting and we will bring up the subject of prudent reserve again at that point in time and make a decision for how to go forward in 2013.

D. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The AA Website has always to be paid by Credit Card and so far this has been done by an individual member who is then reimbursed, however it is now suggested that IG take out a Credit Card on their account in order to pay this fee directly, since the PI visa card expired.

We cannot afford to lose the Website therefore the motion to apply for Credit Card with the IG account was unanimously agreed and voted in.

PI may buy some extra “domains” and get them appointed to our “global site” to make it easier for people looking for the AA website in South of France.

2. This point was discussed earlier at the end of the Treasury report.

**Other items discussed at this point of the meeting:
Possibility of holding a CER meeting in the PACA region**

It was brought up that CER would like to hold a meeting here in South of France. This has been requested in the past but due to the fact that CER could never give a firm date, it has never been feasible to sort this out.

One of the other problems has also been that you need to give a budget in advance for CER and it is difficult to do this around this in the south of France because you cannot get bookings without having to pay upfront so it is a vicious circle.

A few members present at IG expressed a desire to help out with this organisation and therefore it was voted to try and “rustle together” a Subcommittee who have the time and energy to look into the possibilities of arranging a CER meeting in the South of France.

The room we held the June IG meeting in, the Antibes – “La maison des associations” is free and it may be a possibility – Another possibility of a School that may be able to host us was mentioned.

Again this will be discussed between individual members and the results will be brought up at the next IG meeting, so good luck to all involved in this new endeavour!

Meetings that exist in our region for “Associations”

There is a meeting in Nice for “Associations” and it was brought to the attention of IG that since this exists it would be a good idea to try and get involved, if not for this year then for next year, this again can be brought to the attention of individual groups by GSR’s to see if we can get some volunteers to go along.

Can IG say how much it costs them for each individual group? Insurance etc.

The simple answer is the Annual Budget divided by the number of groups.

The Treasurer (ex Treasurer now standing in) came to a round sum of 9€20 taking into account the above, however the vice-chair did say that this could be split down into more detailed figures such as % for Literature, radio, helpline etc. Again this would be based simply on the figures available in the annual budget and divided by the number of groups.

Literature Orders – Missing books in some meeting rooms

One member brought to the attention of the IG meeting that the Monaco rooms were “missing” an order of literature. This was explained during the meeting, the problem had been that due to the very rapid departure of our last Literature Secretary, this particular order had been left in the Nice Buffa rooms and that some of the books ordered had ended up being given away by accident. However this is no problem and the Monaco Literature person just needs to get in touch with the new Literature Secretary to say which books they are missing and this little “contretemps” will be duly sorted.

From now on all requests for new literature are to be sent straight to the new literature Secretary

E. CLOSING

The next meeting will be held in Lorgues on 24th November – Meeting to start at 14:00 with pot lunch before from 12:30 onwards.

The room at lorgues does not have any facilities for heating up and washing so we will need to anticipate by bringing plastic cutlery and plates, cups etc... IG Secretary will find out what is necessary and sort this out before the next IG meeting.

After the 7th Tradition the meeting was closed at 16:20 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

IG Income Expenditure Report
24 November 2012

INCOME REPORT	09 Dec '11	2011 Year	26 Feb '12	04 June '12	21 SEPT '12	24 Nov '12
Total Group Contributions	2,601.93	11,592.60	2,610.60	2,311.10	4,392.40	2,373.80
Literature Sales	117.50	431.30	41.50	121.00	96.20	142.80
Meeting Lists	22.00	89.50		50.00		33.00
Interest on Prudent Reserve		91.21	168.59			
Total Income	2,623.93	11,773.31	2,779.19	2,361.10	4,392.40	2,406.80
Convention Repayments			161.04			
EXPENDITURE REPORT						
Bank charges	-35.88	-143.52	-23.92	-47.84	-35.88	-23.92
Insurance Civile IG		-626.78	-651.05			
Insurance Civile Convention		-155.04	-161.04			
Assurance Juridique IG		-179.57			-201.36	
CER Delegate Expenses	-338.80	-1,183.18		-452.90	-768.30	
Literature orders	-567.00	-3,309.46	-65.91		-646.53	-734.25
PI		-3,585.00	-1,000.00	-1,850.00		
PI Radio Spots	-700.00	-4,150.00	-700.00	-700.00	-700.00	
IG expenses	-77.16	-117.16	-68.60	-30.00	-3.80	
Literature Expenses		-183.00				
CER Contribution	-400.00	-1,400.00		-815.00	-1,000.00	
Total Expenditure	-2,118.84	-14,877.67	-2,509.48	-3,895.74	-3,355.87	-758.17
Cleared Transfers/Cheques						
Bank charges	-35.88	-143.52	-23.92	-47.84	-35.88	-23.92
Insurance Civile IG/Conv		-781.82	-812.09	161.04		
Assurance Juridique IG		-179.57			-201.36	
CER Delegate Expenses		-844.38	-338.80	-452.90	-768.30	
Literature orders		-3,027.64	-632.91		-646.53	-734.25
PI		-3,585.00	-1,000.00		-1,850.00	
PI Radio Spots	-700.00	-4,150.00	-700.00		-700.00	-700.00
IG expenses	-77.16	-117.16	-68.60	-30.00	-3.80	
CER Contributions + chgs	-1,003.75	-1,003.75	-403.80	-818.80	-1,003.80	
			-3,980.12	-1,188.50	-5,209.67	-1,458.17
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	5,864.17		4,494.65	5,667.25	4,849.98	5,798.61
Transfer to Prudent Reserve	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance Prudent Reserve	8,091.21		8,259.80	8,259.80	8,259.80	8,259.80
Prudent Reserve Livret A			8,259.80	8,259.80	8,259.80	8,259.80
BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS	13,955.38		12,754.45	13,927.05	13,109.78	14,058.41
Rev 24 Nov 2012						

PROPOSED
IG Budget/Spending Plan 2013
AA South of France
for IG 24/11/2012

Item	2012 budget	2012 actual	2013 budget	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sept-Nov	Notes
IG COMMITTEE REQUESTS								
Literature	2000	1447	3000	750	750	750	750	assumes lit orders as required thru year
Public Information	4690	2850	5230	1815		2615		assumes €800 PI surplus at year end 2012
OTHER FUNDING NEEDS								
Insurance (Responsabilité Civile)	775	651	684				684	
Insurance (Convention advance only)	190	161	169				169	reimbursed by Convention Committee
Insurance (Assurance Juridique)	198	201	211			211		Allowing 5% p.a. increase from 2012 all ins.
Bank charges (InetBanking 12€ x12)	144		144	36	36	36	36	
IG Expenses (mtgs & other misc.)	300		300	75	75	75	75	
CER Delegate	1200	1221	1400	350	350	350	350	2012 actual spend for 3 CER meetings
Host Nation Liaison	250	0	250		250			
Proposed Regular CER Contribution *	1400	1815	1400		700		700	
Subtotal:	10957	8185	12619	3026	2161	4037	2595	
Riviera Radio	2800	2100	2800	700	700	700	700	assumes retaining current spending
TOTALS	13757	10285	15419	3726	2861	4737	3295	
Rev 24/11/2012								
*1 Intergroups should bear in mind that regularity and evenness in the flow of cash to the General Service Office, ideally via their Region, is essential for GSO to meet its day-to-day obligations and operate in an efficient and economical manner.								

IG Treasurer's Notes 25 Nov 2012 (period 21 Sept – 25 Nov 2012)
 What we were like, what happened, and what we are like now, financially.

<table> <tr> <td><u>Balance as at 21 Sept 2012:</u></td> <td><u>13109.78</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8259.80</td> <td>Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4849.98</td> <td>Operating Funds</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>What went out:</u></td> <td><u>1458.17</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>734.25</td> <td>Literature Order</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>700.00</td> <td>Radio spots</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>23.92</td> <td>Bank charges</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>What came in:</u></td> <td><u>2406.80</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2231.80</td> <td>7th tradition</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>142.80</td> <td>Literature donations</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>33.00</td> <td>Meeting list donations</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>New Balance 25 Nov 2012:</u></td> <td><u>14058.41</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8259.80</td> <td>Prudent Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5798.61</td> <td>Operating Funds</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Balance as at 21 Sept 2012:</u>	<u>13109.78</u>			8259.80	Prudent Reserve		4849.98	Operating Funds	<u>What went out:</u>	<u>1458.17</u>			734.25	Literature Order		700.00	Radio spots		23.92	Bank charges	<u>What came in:</u>	<u>2406.80</u>			2231.80	7 th tradition		142.80	Literature donations		33.00	Meeting list donations	<u>New Balance 25 Nov 2012:</u>	<u>14058.41</u>			8259.80	Prudent Reserve		5798.61	Operating Funds	<p>Looking ahead:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Budgeted items Dec - Feb:</td> <td>684.00</td> <td>Insurance ¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>169.00</td> <td>Insurance advance Convention ¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>750.00</td> <td>Literature provision ²</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>350.00</td> <td>CER delegate travel ²</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1815.00</td> <td>PI ²</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>700.00</td> <td>Radio spots</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>75.00</td> <td>IG expenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>35.88</td> <td>Bank charges</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Total Monies Budgeted:</u></td> <td><u>4409.88</u></td> <td>including Radio @ €700/qtr</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Operating Surplus</u></td> <td>1388.73</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>With €5798 in operating funds, and €4410 planned spending from now until end February, we should have an operating surplus of some €1388.</p>	Budgeted items Dec - Feb:	684.00	Insurance ¹		169.00	Insurance advance Convention ¹		750.00	Literature provision ²		350.00	CER delegate travel ²		1815.00	PI ²		700.00	Radio spots		75.00	IG expenses		35.88	Bank charges	<u>Total Monies Budgeted:</u>	<u>4409.88</u>	including Radio @ €700/qtr	<u>Operating Surplus</u>	1388.73	
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Notes

1. Assumes 5% increase from actual premium paid for 2012, of which 169€ to be reimbursed by Convention Committee
2. Figures based on 2013 budget approved at IG.

GROUP	GSR or REP.	7th	Lit.	COMMENTS
		€	€	
SUNDAY				
11:00 Nice	Nikki	235.00		Living Sober meeting with anything between 10 and 30 members
11:30 Lorgues	Rosalind - IG Rep			This is a lovely meeting and although small with a core of 4 to 5 members, numbers can go up to as many as 10
17:00 Vence	No Show			
19:00 Antibes	No Show			
MONDAY				
11.30 Montpellier	Mail read out for David who could not attend - GSR			The GSR sent apologies for not attending due to unexpected illness and substitute GSR not available on this day either.
17:30 Cannes	Laura	120.00		Meeting still going and they even have a couple of newcomers
18.00 Nice	Mike	200.00		Meeting going well with anything from 10 to 20 people. They have no GSR currently
19:00 Cannes	Simon			Big Book study meeting going well - Meeting has no GSR currently and was unable to bring anything to IG this time - They have a couple of newcomers
19:00 Monaco	Gabriela GSR	250.00		This is a speaker meeting with a strong attendance anywhere up to 30 members during the summer months - 1 newcomer
20:00 St. Tropez	No Show			
TUESDAY				
12:30 Monaco	Gillian Secretary	100.00		Good meeting with a core of around 6 members there are often several more but average of 8 to 10 - Daily reflections meeting
17:30 Nice	No Show			
18:00 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela (GSR)	32.60		The meeting has an average of 6 however due to some members having left the country they are on the lookout for new alcoholics - The group has quite high expenses
19:00 Nice	Laura GSR	50.00		This is a big book study, great meeting where they listen to workshops - currently listening to John and Charley - Strong meeting with an average of 11 members
WEDNESDAY				

12:00 Nice	No show			
18.30 Ganges	No Show			
19:00 Nice	Mike Secretary	172.50		Newcomers meeting - Between 8 to 12 members, sometimes more. The meeting does very well and there are some newcomers at the moment
19:00 Valbonne	Helen GSR			Steps and Traditions meeting -
THURSDAY				
17:30 Cannes	No representation today but sent 7th	50.00		
18:00 Nice	Nikki brought 7th	100.00		Very popular people come to get a laugh - Read the Big Book - very steady meeting with a 10 minute meditation in the middle
19.30 Nice	Mike	184.50		Big book study - No snivelling meeting but not entirely hearless - Those that come are very focussed they are interested in solutions not problems - members sometimes have to be "pulled" back into line
19:00 Monaco	Gabriella			Closed Step meeting between with an attendance of 8 to 12 - 7th tradition will be sent to Treasurer
20.05 Monaco				
FRIDAY				
12:00 Nice Buffa - New Meeting				3rd Step meeting - Just started but has already managed 7 to 10 members. Elisabeth is Treasurer and Haley is Secretary
12:30 Monaco	Gillian (occasional attendee)			Going very well for a new meeting with a lot of enthusiasm - getting started very rapidly with first group concience due for 1st week in December to decide on Format of meeting already an average of 6 to 7 members
18:30 Aix-en-Pnce	Pamela	9.00		Big book Study with one meeting a month being a Topic meeting - numbers declining due to members moving out of the area
18.30 Montpellier	Same as Montpellier Monday			
19:00 Nice	Andy standing in for Francis who is poorly	250.00		2nd oldest group in nice - closed as bill sees it closed meeting - big meeting of around 20 members, they pick a passage to read and then share on it - Ruby has been voted in as new secretary

19:00 Valbonne	Helen			Friday is big book study - small meeting but full of love and Tolerance - More members on the Wednesday than in the Friday meeting - regular attendance of between 4 to 5 with anything up to 20 in the summer and down to 2 in the winter
SATURDAY				
11:00 Nice	Nikki	100.00		Acceptance meeting in Nice Durante - Solid meeting with between 5 to 12 members and sometimes even more
19:00 Nice	Nikki	170.00		Speaker meeting - Recent change in Secretary - Still no treasurer or GSR - variable in numbers but with an average of around 10
19:30 Antibes	Peter sent message could not attend - message read out at meeting			GSR unable to attend due to voyage prior to upcoming CER meeting

AA SOUTH OF France HELPLINE - 0820 200 257
SUMMARY AND EVOLUTION OF CALLS
from 1st March 2007 to 1st September 2012

	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total for
	<u>Newcomer</u>	<u>Existing</u> <u>Members</u>	<u>AlAnon</u>	<u>PI</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>French</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
2007							
1 March - 28 June	3	26	7	5	10	32	83
29 Jun - 14 Sept	3	42	6	5	4	49	109
15 Sept to 5 Dec	8	24	5	0	9	58	104
2008							
5 Dec to 26th March	8	30	5	1	7	45	96
27 March to 18 June	17	42	2	0	2	6	69
19 June to 19 Sept	10	41	9	2	6	21	89
20th Sept to 11 Dec	5	31	5	2	3	20	66
2009							
12 Dec 08 to 7 Mar	5	9	5	2	12	11	44
8th March to 7th June	4	21	8	2	3	11	49
8th June to 8th Sept	4	44	1	1	11	15	76
9th Sept to 8th Dec	10	19	2	1	7	20	59
2010							
9th Dec to 8th March	6	15	2	1	0	9	33
9th Mar to 30 May	9	21	5	0	4	9	48
1st June to 29 Aug	17	34	8	0	7	16	82
29 Aug to 27 Nov	4	23	3	0	12	2	44
2011							
28 Nov to 8th March	13	16	2	1	1	16	49
9th March to 4th June	10	15	5	0	6	8	44
5th June to 10th Sept	24	51	8	0	5	10	98
11th Sept to 26th Nov	9	10	10	0	12	15	56
2012							
27th Nov to 18th Feb	6	11	1	0	8	4	30
19th Feb to 26th May							
27th May to 1st Sept	4	24	3	1	6	11	49
2nd Sept to 17 Nov	3	13	2	1	1	9	29

Nikki 23/11/2012