

December 2016
Volume 7, Issue 5

D-Liberation

Note from the editor

Welcome to the December edition of the Area D Newsletter. At the last Area Assembly the positions of Chairperson, Secretary and Registrar were filled. Congratulations to Leanne, Rita and Sue, who were elected to these positions. The D-Liberation Newsletter Editor position and the PI&CPC Co-Ordinator will again be up for election at the March Area Assembly. Please consider taking on one of these positions. It is a great way to give back to AA and to strengthen your sobriety!

Christmas and the holiday period is nearly upon us. It can be an emotional time and is especially difficult period for the newcomer so why not make an extra effort to take someone new in sobriety to a meeting over the next few weeks?

The deadline for any articles/ reports for the next edition is 15th March. Subscribe or get in touch with the editor at areadnewsletter@gmail.com.

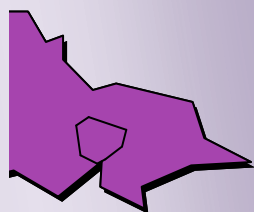
AREA D POSITIONS ON THE AREA COMMITTEE

Chair	Barry H (Steps in Seddon)
Secretary	Leanne (Steps in Seddon)
Treasurer	Michael P (Heidelberg Working With Others)
Registrar	Sue K
Area Webmaster	Jenny H (Williamstown)
Temp.Editor, Area Newsletter	Chris H (Moonee Ponds Road To Recovery)
Area Delegate	Peter O'D (Carlton Tuesday)
Alternate Area Delegate	Anil (Moonee Ponds Book Study)
Area PI Coordinator	Vacant

Area Position	Email Address
Chairperson	areadchair@gmail.com
Secretary	theareadsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	areadtreasurer@gmail.com
Delegate	areaddelegate@gmail.com
Literature	areadliterature@gmail.com
Registrar	areadregistrar@gmail.com
Public Information	piaread@gmail.com
Area Newsletter	areadnewsletter@gmail.com

"Our Twelfth Step- carrying the message- is the basic service that AA's Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main aim of our existence."

"The Language of the Heart", p160



We're on the web!

See us at
www.aread.org.au

Contents:

Area Positions p.1
12 Tips For Holidays p2

Area Job Descriptions p3
Area Delegate Report p.4&5

Chairperson's Report p.5
PI &CPC Report p.6&7

Registrar p.7

Treasurer's report p.8

Registrar Reports p.8

District Reports p.9&10

Intergroup Reports p.10 &11

Southern Regional Trustee Report p11

New groups p.12

Member's Eye View
Service Stories p.12

Area Events p.13-15

Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new AA's. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking.

Here are some tips for having an all-around ball without a drop of alcohol:



1 *Line up extra AA activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.*



5 *Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.*



9 *Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.*



2 *Be host to AA friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.*



6 *If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an AA with you, keep some candy handy.*



10 *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember — "one day at a time."*



3 *Keep your AA telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes — postpone everything else until you've called an AA.*



7 *Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.*



11 *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.*



4 *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.*



8 *Worship in your own way.*



12 *"Having had a..." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.*

From the Grapevine December 2016



Job Descriptions of Vacant Area Committee Positions

These two positions will be up for election at the Area D Assembly on March 4th 2017. If you would like to know exactly what each position entails do not hesitate to email the address above and Chris H and Rhonda R will contact you immediately and talk you through it. As with all positions in AA you will get plenty of help in the beginning to get you started before you develop the confidence to bring your unique qualities to the job. The wonderful thing about the Area D Committee is that there is so much sobriety and experience to help on your service journey.

AREA D - D-LIBERATION EDITOR Description (Two Year Term)

The Area D-Liberation Editor:

- has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;
- has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;
- has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings;
- has access to a computer with basic publishing software, Internet and email facilities (preferably not an employer's) and a working printer
- is responsible for the publication in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Area Assembly;
- gets sign-off on the final copy of the D-Liberation newsletter by the Delegate and the Alternate Editor;
- may co-opt AA member volunteers to assist with the publication;
- produces an Annual Report for the Area Assembly.

AREA D - PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR Job Description (Two year Term)

The PI & CPC Coordinator:

- has a reasonable period of continuous sobriety;
- has an understanding of the AA program and of AA Traditions;
- has the willingness and availability to regularly attend Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings;
- has access to a computer with the Internet and email facilities (preferably not an employer's) and a working printer;
- is available to encourage, assist & facilitate carrying the AA message both within & outside the AA community, ensuring that we always abide by the Traditions & Concepts of AA;
- liaises & cooperates with Districts within Area D;
- checks service website to ascertain what National PI incentives are occurring;
- is aware of Conference Topics pertaining to PI;
- writes reports for Area D & D-Liberation.

"Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die. Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.

Vital to A.A.'s Growth

These services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas, or A.A. as a whole, are utterly vital to our existence and growth. Nor can we make A.A. more simple by abolishing such services. We would only be asking for complication and confusion. Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek AA."

"AA's Legacy of Service" By Bill W.

Delegate Report to the Area Assembly

Since the last Area Assembly on 13th September I have been engaged in the following:

CARRYING THE AA MESSAGE

- Active involvement with my Home Group
- Active involvement with and roster co-ordination for the meetings program at Port Phillip Prison
- Attendance at GPCE Conference as an Exhibition Stand volunteer

AREA LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- Attendance at Ballarat District Black Tie Dinner on 17th September
- Attendance at Western Suburbs and Calder Districts meetings on 8th and 10th November respectively
- Participation in the Area Committee Meeting at Bacchus Marsh on 13th November
- Communication with individual members who have sought my input on issues concerning them or their groups

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

During the period from our last Assembly up until the end of October I received a number of feedback responses from groups and individual members regarding the allocated Conference Topics. This was in addition to feedback I received at our Workshop on the last Assembly day. I am very grateful to those members and groups who took the opportunity to provide these responses.

The General Service Conference itself was held in Sydney from 3rd to 6th November. This was a very busy and intense four days as one might expect, but also a wonderful experience of fellowship and the opportunity to appreciate and understand that membership extends far beyond the individual group level. I will provide specific feedback on Conference outcomes in the workshop to be held 11.00am on our next Assembly Day on December 4th.

Amongst the many topics that Conference considered was the possibility of undertaking an inventory of the Australian General Service Structure. Members will be aware that a sub-committee was established at last year's Conference tasked with bringing to the 2016 Conference a Draft plan on how this may be undertaken. I will provide more detail on the outcome of this to our 4th December Assembly, particularly in relation to how Area D may respond to the 2016 Conference decision which was:

Advisory Action #058/2016

Conference resolved that the Plan (for the Australian Service Structure) submitted by the Structure Review Committee and circulated as a 2017 Conference Topic by the Conference Agenda Committee as soon as possible following Conference to give the members and groups adequate time to discuss and provide feedback to their delegates.

The documentation will be substantial encompassing the Proposed Plan (for an Inventory of the Australian General Service Structure) and Supporting Information on the General Service Structure in other countries.

The document is to be circulated to Members as soon as possible rather than wait until the other 2017 Conference Topics are finalised in August 2017. Conference has also resolved that it will devote a half-day discussion workshop for Conference Members to realistically consider the Proposal – probably on the Thursday morning of Conference 2017.

The documents, when available, will be able to be accessed and downloaded from the AA Service Website (www.aaservice.org.au).

HOW CONFERENCE WORKS

The organisational structure of the General Service Conference is such that it operates in two basic ways:

1. Through individual Conference Committees, which make recommendations to the full conference; and
2. Through full Conference Sessions

In relation to Conference Committees, my membership of these for the next 12 months are as follows:

- (a) Member and Chairperson of the Conference Policies and Admissions Committee
- (b) Member and Alternate Chair of the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee
- (c) Member of the Conference Trustees Committee

I also continue to be a member of the Structure Review Sub-Committee.

Some dates for 2017

The 2017 General Service Conference will be held in Sydney from 2nd to 5th November.

The deadline date for submission of topics is 4.00pm Friday 30th June.

The Conference Agenda Committee will meet via teleconference on Saturday 17th June and again on Saturday 12th August, this second meeting to allocate topics to Conference. As a result I would anticipate the allocated topics will be provided to Conference Delegates in the week commencing Monday 14th August for subsequent distribution to members.

I look forward to catching up with everyone at our Workshop and Assembly on 4th December.

Yours in Service and Fellowship,

Peter O'D

Area D delegate

Chairperson's Report to Assembly

My thanks to the Area Committee

The Assembly in December will be my last in the role of Chairperson. I would like to thank the other members of the committee, both those leaving after this Assembly and those staying on, for the support and enthusiasm they have provided over the past two years. They are a wonderfully dedicated, talented and creative body of AA Members.

Area Workshop on the role of Districts

My most significant AA activity since last Assembly was workshop on the role of AA Districts which was held in Yarraville on 15th October. My thanks to Sue K (a/g Area Secretary) and Glenn B (Flemington Group) for their contributions to planning, organising and running of that workshop.

Very significant contributions were made by workshop component leaders Anne O'C (Peninsula District), David M (Ballarat District), Sanjay P (Inner City District) and Ian G (Peninsula District). The information they shared on the historical and spiritual significance of AA Districts was enlightening to me. The great variety of types of District activity described was also very informative.

It was disappointing that only a small number of our Area D groups had representatives at the workshop. There seems to be very little awareness by some GSR's of why Districts exist and that a major component of the GSR's role is their attendance and participation in the meetings and work of the District to which their Group belongs. I encourage all our Area D members to make themselves aware of the role of our Districts.

Districts and the Area PI&CPC Co-ordinator

On 23rd October I attended the Area PI Sub Committee meeting. I raised the issue of the low level of activity in some Area D Districts and suggested to the Committee that some of their effort in 2017 be that of assisting those Districts in raising their level of District activity wherever they could. That, of course, will need to be a decision of the new Area Committee and its new PI&CPC Co-ordinator but Districts asking for such assistance would be a good way to ensure that it happens.

My best wishes to all for Christmas and New year.

Yours in service,

Barry H

Chairperson, Area D, Southern Region

Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community – PI & CPC

A Member from Torquay and myself attended the Australian Association of Practice Managers in Melbourne 19th and 20th October. We had a table there laden with AA Literature. We made 22 new contacts. These are all Practice Managers or Medical Consultants who all said they are in regular contact with people who display signs of having issues with alcohol. We had many discussions and were able to tell our stories of how we had to come to accept that we were Alcoholics and about AA. All these contacts went away with enough literature to take back to their respective surgeries and with the knowledge their details would be passed on to groups in their local area. I followed up with an email to all these contacts and received 4 emails back saying how much they enjoyed meeting us and they were looking forward to speaking to local members soon.

Many of these contacts were willing and enthusiastic to have AA members come and speak at their Practice Meetings. This is a huge step forward. Not all the contacts were in this state but many were. 1 contact was from WA 3 from SA 1 from Tasmania 2 from NSW and the rest were from VIC. All the ones out of Area D have been passed to Leigh F and GSO for contact to be made with local AA members in the relevant areas. I know the SA contacts have already been spoken to. It could turn out that a new AA meeting will open in 1 of the towns where AA members went and followed up with 1 of the contacts.

Many many thanks to the Groups and members in Area D who have contributed financially to the PI Sub Committee so we can attend these conventions and also buy the Literature so the Professionals can go away with enough literature to go on with until they are contacted. The contact from Tasmania was so excited. She knew nothing about AA. We were able to tell our stories and she went away with literature and is so looking forward to a continued relationship with AA. Another contact was working on Norfolk Island in the Hospital. Even though there is a meeting in Norfolk Island he did not know this and he said the Hospital and Medical Practices he was helping to set up really needed the Literature. He went away with the phone number of the local AA contact. I rang this contact and advised him someone from the Hospital system was going to ring him. Also hopefully some more people would be coming to the meeting there on the island.

Geelong members attended the Geelong Show held over 4 days in October. Many thanks to the members who volunteered. Even though it was slow we were there and visible. Centrelink and 2 Medical facilities took literature and have asked if AA members can come and speak in the future. I have emailed them and am awaiting a response as to when this will happen. They all have literature packs for their work place for both staff and patients. Local Geelong AA will be following up on a regular basis ensuring literature goes in.

AA has received an invitation to attend Generation Next in June 2017 in Melbourne again. This usually only costs \$200.00 and is so beneficial. I see from their programme there is a talk on alcoholism in younger people. It will be good to have the Postcards and Literature aimed at younger people. The practice Managers Association has given feedback from the speaking engagements from AA in Perth, Newcastle and Bundaberg. The practice managers present contacted the Association and thanked them for AA being present and sharing their stories. They said it gave them a better understanding of AA and alcoholism. The Association is keen for AA to continue in 2017 to be present as some of their practice training days. This is huge as we get to speak to the practice managers and counsellors in their environment. We are invited to attend.

I have also received an invitation for two young members to speak at William Anglis College again in May 2017. This will be the 4th year we have been asked. Again all we do is tell our story. This year people who attended last year still remembered the AA member who had spoken previously. We have developed a really good relationship with the College. This was as a result of the Teenage expo 3 years ago. I spoke to a couple of counsellors from La Trobe university at the GPCE and they said it would be more practical for AA to put the printed postcards and 1300 cards in the showbags the new students get rather than have a stand.

We have just finished 3 days at the GPCE (General Practitioners Conference and Exhibition) Not as many delegates attended as other years but we had a good turnout none the less. We had a booth right beside the entrance and a coffee station so that is a plus. We took down 15 contacts Australia wide. These were all Doctors who took Literature packs for their patients now and want to have Ongoing contact with AA. We had quite a few Melbourne ones this time so that was good. 1 from Glenhuntly, Moonee Ponds, Coburg, and Balwyn. Also Darwin and Tasmania. Again the feedback from Tasmania was they really needed information about AA. Will pass this onto our Trustee for him to pass onto Tasmania. There was a huge emphasis on younger people and binge drinking. The doctors really

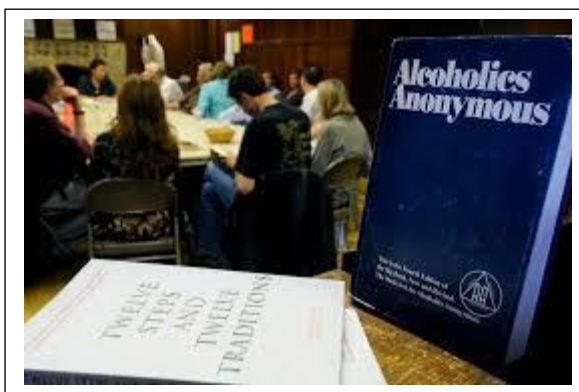
liked the cards and the postcards. It is amazing how well they are well received. We nearly exhausted our supply of Professional Packs only 3 left. It really works giving them Literature to go away with. That way if they are not contacted immediately by someone from their area they have literature for their patients. We had 2 new AA volunteers and both said they enjoyed the experience and were now comfortable with talking to the professionals. It is fabulous to see their faces when they are speaking about their experience. All we have is our story. I will email all the contact with my details or ring them and the Area email address if they ever need to contact us. I will then pass the professional details onto the relevant Areas and groups to action. Many thanks to the AA members who came and assisted over the 3 days. It is very tiring but so worthwhile. We never know who we are going to help. It also gives us the opportunity to get to know each other better. The PI Sub Committee needs support. We are hoping to have another successful Fun Run in March 2017 to raise the funds for this much needed work.

On a personal note. Many many thanks to our National Co-ordinator Leigh F for her unfailing support of not only Area D but the whole of AA in her PI role. I have learnt so much from her and I wish her well as she rotates off her National position.

Lastly thankyou to the Area D committee for their support over the last 3.5 yrs I have been in the Area D PI & CPC Co-ordinator role. My position is now up for rotation so if anyone wants to ask me any questions if they are thinking of putting their name forward for the role please do not hesitate to contact me on 0439668212. Or areadpi@gmail.com. I am only too willing to be there to assist if required. One more Lastly all you wonderful members. Without your financial contributions we could not have participated in any of these forums. Who knows how many people we have helped. But certainly we have really raised the visibility of AA in many communities. Many thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

Rhonda R

PI&CPC Co-ordinator



Area D Registrar Report

Welcome to the new and current GSR's, your participation ensures your home group has information about AA events, within Area D, around Australia and AA World Services. Our Area consists of 114 groups with 142 meetings held weekly; of these only 43 have a registered representative. All information supplied by the GSR is confidential – names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. When you sign in for each Area Assembly can you check your details are up to date? The Area D registration form is available on the Area D website for download.

It is with a grateful heart that I finish my term as Area D Registrar, just like sharing at an AA meeting, it is important to pass on my experience, strength and hope about service within our fellowship. At times when fear has crippled me for no apparent reason the familiar handshake, smile or phone call of support given by the Area D committee members made a world of difference. The growing has included learning new computer programmes that will make it easier for the next Registrar to maintain information. My hope is that anyone wanting to give back to this fellowship through service to their Area can, the love and understanding that one alcoholic gives to another enabled me to stay sober and grow.

Finally, service has brought the AA Twelve Traditions to life personally, particularly Tradition Five which states that each AA group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose- that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Yours in service,

Angela T Area D Registrar

Treasurer's Report

This is the report for the period 27.08.2016 to 19.11.2016.

The Area received donations from the groups of \$953.86. There were only 4 group literature orders for the quarter and the Area made a small profit of just under \$100. There are no outstanding invoices and the only expected expense is the next Conference levy payment of \$700 which will be due in February 2017.

Allowing for the prudent reserve of \$1300, the Area has available funds of \$2814.53. As requested at the last Area Assembly, I confirmed that the anonymous donation of \$960 was from an AA member and after talking to that member the funds were allocated to the PISC. This is reflected in my report as a donation in the PISC and an expense in the Area D funds as the donation had previously been allocated to Area D general funds.

The Area is also holding \$2525.46 for the PISC. The Annual Conference Levy has been raised to \$2800 and I believe that the Area's Prudent Reserve should be raised to \$1400 to cover this increase. The Area Delegate has raised at committee the need to set aside funds for projects arising from conference and he will speak to that topic at assembly.

I am always available to answer any questions you have regarding the Area D finances.

Yours in service

Michael P

Webmasters Report

The Area D website is up to date and now lists the Area Assemblies and Area Committee meetings for 2017.

If your group or District has an event planned - send me the details on areadwebmaster@gmail.com and I will add it to the Announcements tab. If you have a flyer I can also add a link to that so people can either view it or print it off.

Links for the 2016 Conference Topic Outcomes, Advisory Actions and Voted on but Not Advisory Actions will be added under the General Service Conference tab as soon as they become available.

I have also created an Archive for all past Area Assembly & Committee Minutes, Reports etc., on Google Drive within an Area Committee gmail account. All Area D Committee members will have access to this archive through a password.

Yours in Service

Jenny H

Area D Webmaster



DISTRICT NEWS

An AA District is a geographical region within an Area containing a number of AA Groups, the number being dependant on the ability of the General Service Representatives (GSRs) to communicate between each other and to meet regularly together with comparative ease. A metropolitan District may cover a small area but contain hundreds of groups, while a rural district may cover many square kilometres but include a few as 3 or 4 groups. As the number of groups in an Area increases more Districts are formed, each one electing another District Committee Member (DCM). Each District has a DCM on the Area Committee.

Ballarat District

Hello All.

Our last district meeting was held on November 3rd. It was well attended as per usual. Not much to report this time. Elections were held and the new incoming secretary will be Bernie from As Bill Sees It on a Sunday morning. The DCM role is still vacant.

The district has approximately \$1300 in the bank, which will pay for the up and coming anniversary in the second weekend of February.

Nearly every group in Ballarat provided a report to district through their respective GSRs, which is fantastic.

It was voted that the steps weekend not be a part of the districts core activities.

Speaking of the steps weekend, once again this year, it was wonderful to attend. 32 members in total which is a great turnout. We thank all the members who travelled from far and wide. I would also like to thank the few newcomers who helped the committee over the weekend.

Personally I would like to thank David M for his service as the PI Co-coordinator.

David has decided to resign due to personal reasons and we wish him all the very best.

I would like to thank the Ballarat district for the opportunity as the DCM. What a wonderful experience I have had. I thank my sponsor Dave A for his love and support over the last 2 years.

The Ballarat district would also like to recognize Rhonda. Rhonda has shown tireless sustained action at area level. We thank her for her service and we love you.

Mitch R

Ballarat DCM.

Calder District

The Calder District represents groups in the north-western metropolitan Melbourne. It is part of Area D, southern region – AA General Service Structure, Australia. Historically, the district has been bordered by Sydney Road/Hume Highway and the Maribyrnong River/ Calder Freeway.

At the last district meeting (on Nov 10th), it was decided to organise a brain storming session to discuss ideas to expand our public information work and to seek more group participation in this regard. The meeting aimed at receiving ideas on how to better engage with the local community in carrying the message to suffering alcoholics. It was an open meeting. Everyone and anyone who identified as member of AA was welcome. The district was keen to hear suggestions, ideas and any other advice members could bring to the table. Potential road maps, participation at upcoming events were also discussed.

Yours in Service

Anil

Secretary - Calder District

Geelong District

We currently have no DCM but the District is happy for communication between the Geelong District and Area D to occur via Anny S.

Anny reported that the Geelong District is active and operating efficiently. A telephone service ensures that communication to newcomers is readily available ensuring information about AA meetings in the district is passed on to those who need it.

A PI Dinner is being planned for professionals to learn more about AA in the Geelong district.

The Geelong Convention was on Sunday November 27th at Christ Church Corner Moorabool & McKillop Streets Geelong. The day was very successful with members having the opportunity to participate in a variety. A lovely morning tea, BBQ lunch and afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Western Suburbs District

Christian T reported that an effort is being made to look at new structures and strategies to get the Western Suburbs up and running. Members from Seddon and Williamstown groups are presently looking at the possibility of merging with other districts to strengthen and support their District.

INTERGROUP NEWS

NORTHWEST INTERGROUP

Northwest Intergroup Report – December 2016

**How can I and my A.A. group be of service?**

The North West Intergroup (NWIG) offers exceptional service opportunities both at the coalface, 12th Step level and for a relaxed entry into third legacy service - only 4 meetings a year, and a very focused primary purpose (therefore short meetings!) A workshop is held once a year for all new participants to provide guidelines for both answering the phone and 12th Step work.

For those who don't know, the NWIG is an A.A. telephone answering service supported by participating local A.A. groups and has been established to help carry the A.A. message. The intergroup relies on volunteer A.A. members to perform the service work of answering 12th Step calls. There is no physical location of the answering service but the region of 12th Step calls roughly cover from Kyneton in the north to North Fitzroy in the east, Werribee in the west and Williamstown in the south. This A.A. telephone answering service is connected to the national AA 1300 number and is supported by local participating A.A. groups in northwest Melbourne. There are several ways that you or your group can help:

- **By contributing financially on a regular basis.** Operating costs are low but small, regular contributions from interested groups would be appreciated. No matter how small, every contribution helps. (Individuals can also contribute). Bank account details are now also included on the website for groups (or individuals) who would like to contribute funds to support the service. See <http://aanorthwestmelb.org.au/contributions>
- **Be a volunteer on a roster basis to answer Help Line calls.** Calls are diverted to your phone number at a time period you nominate. You can learn all about this frontline service at our annual workshop.
- **Be available to undertake 12th step calls referred to you by the phone volunteers.** You can nominate times you are available and the area that you can cover.
- **See that your group has a voice at the quarterly IGRs meeting:** Any AA local **Group** that is interested in participating beyond donations can have an Intergroup Representative (IGR) to attend the quarterly NWIG meetings. The next meeting is in February. The IGR informs their home group about the Intergroup Service and the local NWIG service opportunities available, much the same as a GSR does for the Area.
- At the moment we are also looking for some **new Committee members** – the current **Chair** and **Treasurer** positions are both becoming vacant in February.

The Intergroup website (<http://aanorthwestmelb.org.au/volunteering>) includes forms for registering either as a phone volunteer or as a 12th stepper.

The next committee meeting of the NWIG is on Saturday 25th February 2017 at the Newport meeting venue at 10.00am after the 8.30 - 9.30 am meeting,

VICTORIAN PRISONS INTERGROUP

We convened our Bi-Monthly meeting yesterday the 27th November 2016 at our usual venue Sacred Heart Church, 9 Newcastle St, Newport. The Victorian Prisons Intergroup is now ready to carry the message for the next two years with confirmation of service positions being filled as required. Some of these were elected at a previous informal meeting in October, convened especially for this purpose.

Also it is noteworthy that a roster has also been drawn up for Port Phillip Prison, consisting of a new contingent of members who have gained clearance in recent weeks.

Present were members who regularly attend, and carry the message to, some of the regional prisons as well as the Women's prisons. They report that things are going well, most notably attendance to the meetings is strong and the rapport with Staff at the prisons is healthy.

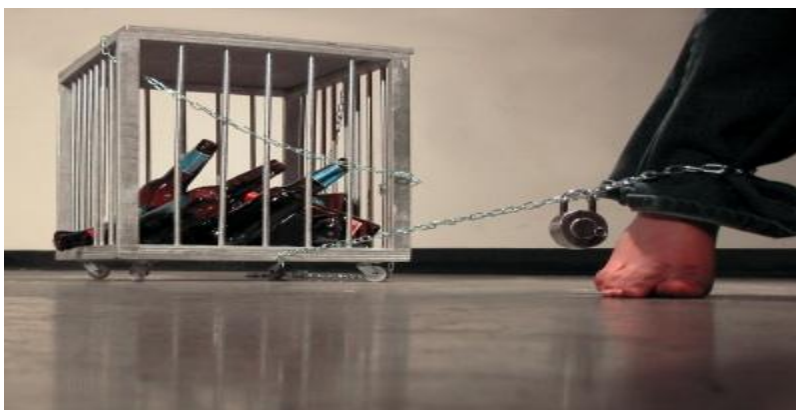
As always, the Area D contributions make up a large part of our income for buying literature and printing out leaflets and it is very much appreciated. We hope Area can continue this much needed support over the coming months.

Since I have very recently taken over the position of Public Information, I have been unable to produce a proper report to forward to you. I apologize for this and will endeavour to produce a much more detailed document in future. Should the Area have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me on this email address. email: covega73@gmail.com

Yours in Service,

Carlos V

Public Information Representative Victorian Prisons Intergroup



Southern Regional Trustee Report

I feel that the AA Conference held in November was very successful. The proposed national magazine was given a unanimous "yes" vote to go ahead with its production. The First edition is expected in March 2017. This magazine will give AA members from all round Australia the opportunity to express their experiences on personal recovery and service.

The Inventory plan will soon go out to AA members as a topic and then be dealt with at the 2017 Conference. It would be great if all the groups in Australia had a copy of The Inventory Plan. The American Newsletter Box 459 gave Australia glowing praise for the great work they did in holding the Convention in Fiji. This Newsletter has a mailing list of 60,000. The Australian National Convention in 2017 will be held at Cairns on July 7th-10th 2017. Early Bird registration is available. The web address for this information is: <http://www.aanatcon2017.com.au/>

The World Service Meeting Report is available on the AA National Service web site.

Yours in service,

Michael C.

Southern Regional Trustee

New Groups

Yarraville Step Eleven Meditation Group
New Meeting - starts 7th Feb 2017
Yarraville Tuesday 7:30pm
1st Floor, Yarraville Community Centre
59 Francis St

Williamstown Big Book Lunch Group
Williamstown Tuesday 12:30pm
Big Book Lunch
St Andrew's Hall
91 Cecil Street
(near cnr Thompson Street)
Meeting duration: 45 Minutes

Northside Womens Group
Brunswick Thursday 7:30pm
12&12 Book Study
The Bardin Centre, Christ Church
8 Glenlyon Road
Meeting duration: 60 Minutes

Northern Lights Group
Northcote Monday 8:00pm
Meditation Meeting
Oldis Gardens Community Room
2 East Street

Werribee Women in Sobriety
Werribee Wednesday 6:00pm
Women's meeting
Werribee Uniting Church, Crossroads
Cnr Synnot St & Duncan's Rd
(At the back of main building up small flight of stairs)

Member's Eye View – Service STORIES

The story of a GSR

My experience, strength and hope of service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have been involved in service right from the beginning of my sobriety. It started with putting out the chairs and tables at my home group and then progressed to making toast on Saturday mornings for most of first year.

Recently I have rotated off as group secretary and have begun a new

journey as a G.S.R. I am also involved in helping to create interest in the Western Suburbs district and do a 6 hour shift for NWIG once a fortnight.

It has been a steep learning curve, which has helped me face various fears.

Service in AA has been responsible for a lot of my personal as well as spiritual growth and not only official service; it's talking to a newcomer, helping setup and pack up a meeting, sharing

when being asked and just being willing to help another alcoholic in need.

I had really low self-esteem when I came into the rooms and being able to give back to people that I took so much from (society in general) has given me a sense of worth and belonging that no amount of alcohol could ever have provided. Get involved!

Christian T

Area Events

Saturday December 24th 10.00pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Meeting Gahan Centre Corner Greville & Grattan Sts, Prahran Supper provided
Sunday December 25th 7.00am	Preston Sunrise Meeting Open As Usual Christmas Day Neighbourhood House 220 High Street, Preston
Sunday December 25th Meeting 11:00am Lunch 12:30pm Meeting 2:30pm	AA Christmas At The Gahan - Meetings and Lunch Traditional Christmas Lunch Gahan Centre Corner Greville & Grattan Sts, Prahran No need to be alone on Christmas Lunch is free but volunteers welcome!
Sunday December 25th 6.00pm	Laverton Primary Purpose Group Open As Usual Christmas Day Community & Education Centre 12 Crown St, Laverton Danny R 0432 353 449
Sunday December 25th 7.00pm	Spotswood Group Meeting Open As Usual Christmas Day St Margaret Mary's School 181 Hudsons Road, Spotswood
Monday December 26th 7.30pm	Monday Night Living One Day at a Time Group Meeting Open As Usual Boxing Day Wayaperri House - Werribee Community & Education Centre 106 Duncans Road, Werribee Contact: Eddie 0409918443
Monday December 26th 7.30pm	Kyneton Group Boxing Day Christmas Supper Meeting Open As Usual Boxing Day - with a supper Kyneton Catholic Church Hall 53 Ebdon Street, Kyneton Group members to bring a plate. Tony 0400673346
Wednesday December 28th 10.00am	Diamond Reflections Meeting - Topic: Suit Up and Show Up Diamond Creek Force Netball Association Clubrooms Diamond Street, Diamond Creek (The Shell service station is on the corner of Diamond St) Chris L on 0414 948 345
Friday December 30th 7:30pm	Beginners Steps Discussion Meeting Topic: 'Why do we need a 'new manager'?' St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St, Heidelberg (Near cnr Rosanna Road) Group Contact Number: (03) 9028 2212
Friday December 30th 10:00pm	The Late Meeting St Johns Anglican Church 1 Burgundy St, Heidelberg (Near cnr Rosanna Road) Contact (03) 9028 2212
Saturday December 31st 7.00pm till late	Totally Awesome 80s New Years Eve Party Powerhouse Building (Southern End) Lakeside Drive Albert Park Great firework views Kid friendly BBQ & Drinks \$2 \$20 entry (\$15 concession) Call Dave to book 0430382853

Sunday January 1st 7.00pm	Preston Sunrise Meeting Open As Usual New Years Day Neighbourhood House 220 High Street, Preston Preston Sunrise
Sunday January 1st 7.00pm	Spotswood Group Meeting Open As Usual New Years Day St Margaret Mary's School 181 Hudsons Road, Spotswood Spotswood Group
Wednesday January 11th 7.00pm	Williamstown 57th Anniversary With Al-Anon participation St Andrew's Hall 91 Cecil Street, Williamstown (near cnr Thompson Street) (map) Supper after meeting 0423167097
Monday January 16th 7:00pm Pizza 7:30pm Presentation	Geelong Beginners Monday Night 4th Anniversary Celebration and Presentations Illustrated Steps Chris & David Presentation: Step 1 Wesley Centre 100 Yarra Street, Geelong (Behind McDonalds) (map) 7pm - Pizza, Cordial & Hot Drinks 7:30pm - 9pm Meeting and Presentation
Tuesday January 17th 7.30pm	Moonee Ponds Big Book Group - Illustrated Steps 10,11&12 Presentation With Chris and David Behind Essendon Community Baptist Church 138 Buckley Street, Essendon
Sunday January 22nd Cricket 4:00pm Meeting 7:00pm	Spotswood Group 2017 Cricket Match and BBQ St Margaret Mary's School 181 Hudsons Road, Spotswood Spotswood Sunday Night Wants You! In participation with Galiamble join us for this yearly event.
Tuesday January 24th 7.30pm	Moonee Ponds Big Book Group – New Series of Big Book Commences Behind Essendon Community Baptist Church 138 Buckley Street, Essendon
Monday January 30th 7:00pm Pizza 7:30pm Presentation	Geelong Beginners Monday Night Presentation Illustrated Steps Chris & David Presentation: Steps 2 & 3 Wesley Centre 100 Yarra Street, Geelong (Behind McDonalds) 7pm - Pizza, Cordial & Hot Drinks 7:30pm - 9pm Meeting and Presentations
Saturday February 4th 8:00pm	Essendon AA Old Timers Uniting Church Hall 132 Keilor Road, Essendon North Supper provided
Monday February 6th 7.30am	Illustrated Steps Presentation - The Doctors Opinion Wayaperri House - Werribee Community & Education Centre 106 Duncans Road, Werribee Followed by supper Contact: Eddie 0409918443
Saturday and Sunday February 11th and 12th	Ballarat AA 66th Anniversary Weekend 2017 Eureka Hall Stawell Street South, Ballarat VIC The weekend has Al-Anon participation and food provided Meetings start at 10.30am Saturday and 9.30am Sunday. Theme is "Keep Coming Back!" No registration- by individual donation Contact: Chris 0409 178 390 or Bernie 0413 221 140
Friday to Sunday February 17th to 19th	VicYPAA Annual Convention 2017 Victorian Young People in AA With Al-Anon & Alateen Participation Ridges on Swanston 701 Swanston St, Carlton 'The best is yet to come' Email for more information vicypaa@gmail.com

Saturday to Sunday February 18th to 19th	Seaside Sobriety Weekend - Barwon Heads An illustrated journey through the 12 Steps presented by Chris and David Barwon Heads Community Hall 79 Hitchcock Ave, Barwon Heads (map) Saturday 10:00am to 5:45pm - Steps 1 to 9 Sunday 8:00am Spiritual Concept Meeting on the beach. Sunday 10:30am to 2:30pm - Steps 10 - 12 With participation from local Geelong AA Groups \$30 for whole weekend including lunches, morning/afternoon tea Email: seasesobrietyweekend@gmail.com For more details contact Rhonda R 0439 668 212
Saturday February 25th 10.00am (After the 8.30-9.30 meeting)	NWIG Committee Meeting Newport Venue Sacred Heart Catholic Church 9 Newcastle Street (Beside presbytery)
March 4th 2017	Area D Assembly TBA

Area D Daylesford Spiritual Concept Weekend with Al-Anon participation

21-23 April 2017 (ANZAC WEEKEND)

Boomerang Ranch

Daylesford, Victoria

Book your accommodation directly with the venue

Boomerang Ranch

Ranch Rd (Off Tipperary Rd)

Daylesford VIC 3460

03 5348 2525

www.boomerangranch.com.au

Bed & Breakfast \$50 per adult per night \$35 per child per night

Accommodation only (no meals) \$35 p/p p/night

Meals Lunch \$10 p/p Dinner \$15p/p available onsite but must be booked in advance with venue.

Horse riding, bush walking, huge permanent markets, spas,

charming township just minutes away

This is an annual Area D event, bring your friends, stay the weekend, visit country Victoria, share your spiritual concepts and enjoy some fresh air and fellowship.

Meeting Schedule

AA – at the Ranch

8pm Friday 21st April

AA – outdoor Tipperary Springs

2pm Saturday 22nd April (BYO seating)

Al-Anon – at the Ranch

2pm Saturday 22nd April

AA with Al-Anon participation – Ranch

7pm Saturday 22nd April

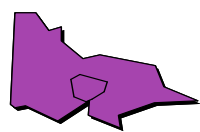
AA – Outdoor

10am Sunday 23rd April

Contact: Rita 0405 310 096 Sue 0413 576 541



About Area D



Area D Southern Region is a part of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Structure of Australia.

As such we fully participate in the Australian General Service Conference. We also support the AA National Office in any way we are able.

Bordered by the Yarra river, the Area includes the Western and Northern suburbs of Melbourne and extends to include other major cities such as Geelong and Ballarat, and regional centres such as Daylesford. (As of December 2012, Kyneton has elected to join Area B.)

Disclaimer: Except for material identified as being taken directly from AA Conference Approved Literature, articles published in this Newsletter are the experience and opinion of the author, and are not necessarily the opinion of AA.