

“So at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question” – Reprinted from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 130 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Singapore Intergroup

The Singapore Intergroup is a service office that has been established to carry out certain functions common to many A.A. Groups in the Singapore community. Operating under the guidelines of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, the Singapore Intergroup is maintained, supervised, and supported by the local Singapore A.A. groups. The primary purpose of Singapore Intergroup is to aid the individual A.A. groups in their common purpose to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Some of the items Intergroup is working on are: coordinating twelfth step calls; maintaining the telephone answering system, website, and meeting list; providing public information; carrying the message in hospitals and institutions; cooperation with the professional community; organizing local AA events; providing information exchange among local groups via regular meetings and a newsletter; and ordering literature.

Volunteers are needed in several areas of service in Singapore AA Intergroup activities. Please contact your Intergroup rep and/or come to the monthly Intergroup meetings, second Saturday of each month at the same Damian Hall room where meetings are held, 12:30pm.

Events

Korea Roundup 2010: A Thankful Heart, July 10-11, Gyeongju, KyoYuk Mun Haw HoeKwan office@aakorea.co.kr

AA Mongolia 12th Anniversary Convention of AA 2010, August 13-15, Ulaanbaatar 210620A-77, Mongolia Anniversary_12th@yahoo.com
www.aa.org.mn

AA Hong Kong Convention: A NEW FREEDOM & A NEW HAPPINESS, 24th, 25 & 26th September hk41st2010@gmail.com +852-9488-7720

From the (outgoing) editor –

With the emergence in recent years of a Singapore Intergroup structure within the Singapore fellowship, the 'Daily Reprieve' offers an important vehicle for the fellowship here to report on goings on in the local and overseas AA scene. But in the same way that the Grapevine statement of purpose reads, "The awareness that every A.A. member has an individual way of working the program permeates the pages of the Grapevine", so too we hope that the 'Daily Reprieve', although primarily an information bulletin for Intergroup (as the first such from New York 1940, see front page), will also help develop a distinctly Singaporean style of sharing in print, reflecting and articulating the Singapore fellowship experience, strength and hope, and promoting Recovery, Unity and Service.

*Excerpt reprinted from *The A.A. Grapevine and La Vina: Our Meetings in Print* pamphlet, p. 3, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Daily Reprieve

Singapore AA Intergroup Newsletter: June 2010

Singapore AA Website:

<http://www.alcoholicsanonymoussingapore.org/>

Call 65 – 6475 0890 for further assistance or email us on

Aa_singapore@yahoo.com.sg

Intergroup news

Groups – new meeting at Damian Hall, Thursday 8pm. Sunday Mens now at 8am, held a Steps 6&7 workshop in June.

H&I – Singapore AA had a booth at the 1st Asia Pacific Behavioural and Addiction Medicine Conference in March, with a member passing on information about AA to several professionals attending the conference. The Straits Times ran a large feature article on alcoholism in its May 13th edition which included excerpts from a Singapore member's story. We have also conducted school visits in recent months; and a Service Workshop for the fellowship (see report inside).

Telephone – now rostered to groups on a monthly basis (including Serenity Sisters, Sun Mens), handover at Intergroup meetings

Website – work is continuing on the development of a new Singapore AA website.

An excerpt from AA's first bulletin – The Alcoholic Foundation Headquarters

"We wish to thank our many friends and correspondents all over the country for their cooperation in keeping the national headquarters informed of developments in the various groups. It is through such a central exchange that vital information and contact points can be brought to the attention of those who seek the solution to alcoholism which means so much to us.

This bulletin is an effort to develop a mutual idea exchange sheet to establish a closer feeling of friendship between A.A groups from the east coast to the west, and we hope it will prevent the secession from the A.A. ranks of our San Francisco group who threatened to call themselves 'Dipsomaniacs Incognito' unless they ear from us more frequently....

We all know that the A.A. solution really works if followed with patience, honesty and sincerity so we sympathise with the new prospect who said he certainly DID want to stop drinking but after listening a few minutes to our A.A. story said "Oh that! – I tried it for two weeks and it doesn't work."

We shall appreciate receiving ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc of general interest for the purpose of this bulletin is to relate the many A.A. groups in a friendly spirit". Excerpt from "A.A. Bulletin #1" dated 11/14/40 reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

I Participated in an AA Service Committee and Survived

I always thought myself a bit of a rebel. To be frank I still do – even after putting together quite a few days of sobriety and experiencing what it feels like to truly become a part of something: Part of our fellowship.

During the latter part of my drinking years, and among the multifarious resentments I accumulated; I thought I was justified in my anger towards virtually anything that I saw as bureaucratic. Organised religion was responsible for much of the trouble in the world, If only Government did so and so we would be in a much better situation in this country; and so forth.

The end of my drinking was also characterised by the prevailing feeling that I was desperately alone with my problems. I always felt 'apart' from those I judged as somehow 'normal'; whatever that might entail.

In AA I soon found refuge with people that understood how I felt and what I had been through. These folks appeared to have something that had eluded me for most of my life: They seemed happy and content with their lives and laughed a joyous laugh at the world, each other and – above all – at themselves.

When eventually I surrendered and asked someone in AA to help me, I was told: "Go to meetings", "Work the steps" and "Get involved with service". The first of these was challenge enough for me in the early days and to be frank I didn't really think much of the second two. Surely these were for the real 'bottom' cases in the rooms and not me. I'll skip the in-between story but suffice to say that eventually I learned that if I wanted to really feel a part of this fellowship I had joined; then I actually had to become a part of it.

At first this meant taking on service commitments in my home group. After a while I was encouraged to get more involved. Naturally I resisted. I pre-judged virtually everything I was asked to participate in. When I attended group conscience meetings or service committees, it was generally the case that I left each 'service' collective with more judgment and resentment than when I walked into those places to start with! "How can this be good for me" - I protested. When I talked to my sponsor and other AAs about this, I was met with hearty amusement followed by identification. To be frank this aggravated the hell out of me to start with but I had a sponsor who kept returning to the same mantra:

Go to meetings, Work the Steps, Get involved!

Getting involved in service has – without exception – given me gifts that I could never have imagined I would receive. Learning about our traditions and putting them into practice whilst doing so in the company of people who are just as sick as me, has taught me so much about unity, tolerance and our primary purpose; which is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Trust me folks; I no longer do this out of a sense of charity! My motives are selfish. I learn a lot more that serves my continued sobriety in service than I do by only attending meetings.

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."
PEACE!"

Singapore friends in AA:

My name is Mike and I am an alcoholic. This is my third time in Singapore since 2005, when I came on a merchant navy ship.

Last year I was fortunate enough to be in on the beginnings of the Singapore Intergroup's first meetings. For the first time in my 29 years in AA the opportunity arose to do service work in the area of actual assisting with standing up something new.

One of my passions in AA is the Loners International Meeting (LIM) of which I have been an active member since 1984. This part of GSO in New York has been involved since the 1940's in assisting AA's around the world. It is an amazing story how the loners came to being. A U.S. merchant marine officer, Bill W and especially Nell, AA's first secretary, started the LIM on the fly when that young man took AA literature to sea. Now around the world and on ships are people supported in staying in touch with sobriety.

Every week in meetings in Singapore I meet people who go to far flung places, places I can't pronounce much less have ever heard of. We of AA Singapore can assist these places by letting them know we are here and we care. Many in our area speak the languages of South East Asia. I think of Singapore as the capital of Asia and a natural fit for being the AA reach into Asia. Talk is cheap...we all know that.

We hope to expand the newsletter to include loners' stories without the full names. The loners in mail from GSO has complete names.

If you travel in Asia I recommend you join the Loners International by writing GSO in New York putting "attention international desk". State where you are and that you want to join. They will do the rest.

God bless you all, fair winds and following seas. Mike F.

AA Service Workshop

We held a service workshop on Saturday May 15th at Damien Hall. We went through some of the functions such as H&I and P&I. Highlights were the video of dealing with Young People in AA and the Service message from Bill. We had a great message from our key note speaker and the day was attended by over 30 people. The workshop was a great example of "love and service" and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The agenda included; newsletter update, experience of a visit to the local school, literature and history of the big book.

Thanks for the food, fellowship, and service that made the day such a success.
Intergroup Chairperson

"The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made – that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for the preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamour of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group".
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