

APF Meeting January 29th, 30th and 31st 2002 Byron Bay, Australia

This year the APF was blessed to gather in Australia to meet and discuss the issues that are constantly changing as we grow as a forum. As, we often do, we were able to hold our meeting at the same time as the Convention. The Australian Fellowship welcomed us and made us feel a part of their celebration. We made new friends and re-connected with old ones

This was the first time that we have held the forum in Australia and we were surprised and grateful to find how many members had been following our progress.

Not everyone was present but many of the countries that were in Jakarta, Indonesia were there.

Shuardi, our new vice chair, from Indonesia, reported that last's years meeting has really impacted on the fellowship there and that is continues to grow. As with many of our other communities, translations remain one of the big issues and a translation committee has been formed that includes Bali, Java and several other islands.

Jason, from Hong Kong, reported that the fellowship is still small in China but that several members are really committed to supporting it and that recently some new members from London and Shanghai has joined the translation committee. Members

from other Chinese communities have agreed to offer any help or experience that have.

With this cooperation and the help of the WSO we should be well on our way to new literature for the Asian communities.

Several communities brought up the issue of needing guidance to set up service structures and resolve conflict in their fellowship. The good news here is that the fellowships are beginning to go through the growing pains that come with an expanding fellowship. The WSO members that were present gave us feedback and we broke up into small groups to work through some of these issues. The APF is represented by many different cultures and it was exciting and challenging to hear the ideas exchanged to work through these important issues.

Some of the more mature fellowships like Japan, Australia and New Zealand shared their experience with us.

We held elections at the close of the forum and the new chair is someone known and appreciated for his contributions. Ramesh, from India, will be a great asset to the Forum. He worked with Eric, the outgoing chair (thanks for all your hard work, Eric) to make this last year a fantastic experience for many of us.

Shaurdi, from Indonesia, is our new vice chair and we know he will continue to work as hard in this position as he has as a delegate.

Our cherished secretary, Tali, from Hawaii, will move on to other service commitments this year. Tali has guided us through four years of new fellowship, planning forums in unknown countries and has been our treasurer as well. We will miss her but know that she will always be a big part of the APF. Tim. S, from Australia, will be our new secretary /treasurer and we know he will be a great addition. Tim has been a delegate from Australia and has attended several APF meetings

Simon T will continue to be our Webmaster and we will have lots of new information posted there. Please visit our site at www.apf.com.au.

World Service has continued to support us and we are ever grateful for the contribution they make.

This year we had lots of interested visitors at the Forum and we hope this means that more and more members will support us.

In the past year some really exciting things have begun to happen that makes us all realize that the Asian Pacific Region is doing what NA does all over the world. The addicts are getting clean. 12th Step work is happening in prisons in China, meetings in Pakistan, detoxes and rehabs in Indonesia and the magic of recovery will continue to happen.

In this time of trouble in so many places in the world, we are able to set aside religious and cultural differences. . Around the table at the APF meeting, many countries are represented that are a real example of our primary purpose.

Service structures are growing stronger and are able to contribute more.

We are ever grateful to the God of our understanding to be part of the fellowship.

Next year we will meet in Nepal and we invite addicts from anywhere to join us there to celebrate the miracle of recovery.

Several of our members have contributed their experiences to this newsletter. Please feel free to contact us with yours at kerryashbaugh@aol.com.

From Nepal

Nepal became an active member of the APF in 1999 and participated in the APF meeting in Jakarta.

As Nepal is small fellowship and the NA movement hasn't fully grown yet the process is slow but it is growing. Since the very beginning of our NA fellowship we have received positive help from the APF especially from Eric, Ramesh and Tali. We have received affirmation and guidance in all our activities. We have been able to gain knowledge from the guidelines sent to us from Bob W. PI from Peter T and lots of help for the web listing from Simon T, We have been receiving newsletters from Ivan.

So the APF has played a significant role in role in the growth in the growth of NA Nepal. Besides the executive board other members of the APF have constantly been sharing ideas with us and we are getting to know other regions as well.

WSO and the APF have constantly helped our region, with this help, we have been able to do various NA related activities in a short span of time and the growth of NA Nepal has been amazing.

The APF delegates and the Nepal region have decided to host the next APF meeting in Nepal. This is the greatest news for the Nepal fellowship in the history of NA.

The local community is certainly going to get a boost for their growth and hopefully they will resolve some of their conflicts.

The meeting in Australia was the most productive one yet. Several new agenda has

been introduced and it was very useful. Small groups of delegates to discuss over their problems and usefulness was effective. The sponsorship workshop was effective. The outgoing committee members did an excellent job especially Eric and Tali. The election of the APF proved there is unity among us and the new elected members have been with the APF before long and are quite efficient at their respective duties. The future of the APF looks bright.

After the APF meeting there was the Australian Convention which was so great that I can still remember each and every event I still wish that I had some recording of that event.

These were the most beautiful memories of my life.

Bijay P.
RD Nepal

From Hawaii

Aloha friends

It has been a couple of months since the APF meeting in Byron Bay, Australia. I am happy to say that I left feeling that we become more than the sum total of our work. As the outgoing APF chair, I experienced a lot of internal pressure to accomplish something. I struggled with myself over my leadership role in a Zonal; Forum Many NA members in the APF Zone so not understand the dynamics of a Zonal; Forum, how different it is to other service areas of NA. You have to experience it to know what I mean/ For me, it seems easier to lead a "normal subcommittee" area or regional service body because having a great vision of the future is generally not required to do the work Leading a Zonal means having a vision of the future. It is difficult to keep focused on the vision when we only meet once a year. I found the Administration committee had to work hard

to keep the delegates focused on what the Zone is and what had to be done.

However, I was quite surprised at how at this year's APF, the delegates took our suggestions and molded a few new items of actions out of them. Our discussions of our vision and mission statements, what the Zone is and what our committees can do for each other became the vehicle for the future actions of the APF.

As the meeting progressed I felt that I was only a servant in the process, that I was just a witness to the magic. I felt I did the minimum as the Chairperson to lead, that the delegates and the World Board Members are in the hands of a greater purpose. It really was a spiritual event for me. Yes, there were rough moments for me personally. But that is what normally happens when addicts come together. I am truly grateful to those whom I served with and have deep gratitude for the love I have received for the past four years.

Yours In Service

Eric R

From the editor

This may well be our most exciting year ever.

Translations are beginning developed in several countries.

Many countries are going to have conventions. When we meet in Nepal we hope to see the same changes in that fellowship that we have seen in other APF communities.

Please join us in celebrating the miracle of Recovery in the Asian Pacific Region.

Yours In Service

Kerry A