

Report from SA in Iran Dec 2013

By the grace of God, SA was started in Iran by two sexaholics from Shiraz on 31st March 2003. The standard meeting readings had already been translated into Persian by an expatriate Iranian and these helped the new fellowship in Iran to adopt and apply the principles established by SA internationally. Although SA in Iran has not been accepted by the authorities, it nevertheless made steady progress, by carrying its message from person to person throughout the country. The following statistics were gathered in 2013, when SA in Iran was 10 years old.

Provinces	Cities	IGs in Iran	National Meetings per year	Meetings per week	Skype meeting per week	Members
20	37	7	4	99	7	1572

So far, seven provincial Intergroups (IGs) have been formed and have created service committees. Each IG has appointed three Intergroup Representatives (IGRs) to represent it at a quarterly National Meeting (NM). In each IG, the key service positions and committees are as follows:

	Service position	Service responsibilities
1	IG Chairman	Leading the IG meeting according to the SA Service Manual. Supervising preparation of the meeting report. Keeping the IG on topic. Being unbiased and impartial.
2	IG Treasurer	Presenting a clear written report of all money contributed by the groups, all payments made by the IG and the current state of IG finances. Receiving financial report from subcommittees. Sending and receiving all payments. Maintaining written records.
3	IG Secretary	Writing, copying and distributing the minutes of each IG meeting within 10 days. Coordinating the dates of meetings and other events including emergency meetings. Notifying IG members. Keeping records including an address and phone list. Filing reports. Preparing reports for subcommittees and for the IG.

4	IG Representative (IGR)	Maintaining effective communications with members of the NM. Presenting reports at the NM and voting the IGs preferences. Reading the reports of NM members and committees. Informing the IG about the concerns and decisions of the NM.
5	IG Literature Committee	Receiving literature from the National Literature Committee and selling it on to the Groups. Budgeting for and managing all literature sales to meet Group needs. Obtaining Chips from the Chip Committee
6	IG Web and Email Management Committee	Checking all emails at least once per week. Communicating "Change Reports" to the SA Iran webmaster. Promptly distributing information from the NM.
7	IG Information and Communication Committee	Finding venues for SA meetings. Responding to enquiries from the public. Informing counsellors, psychologists and officials about the program.
8	IG Workshop Committee	Choosing speakers for conventions and open meetings. Preparing meeting statistics based on the needs of different areas. Holding educational workshops for Groups throughout the province

The current national service positions and committees are as follows:

Service responsibilities	Service position	
Attending and managing NMs, communicating with NM members, supervising the NM report, keeping the NM on topic, trying to be unbiased and impartial.	National Meeting (NM) Chairman	1
Attending in all NMs, presenting a clear written report of all money contributed by the IGs, paid out by the NM and the current financial account.	NM Treasurer	2
Coordinating NMs and notifying members of meeting dates, emergency meetings or any other specific matters. Preparing accurate reports about the NM for publication on the SA Iran website. Keeping a list of NM members and recording their attendance at meetings. Holding, saving and archiving all NM documents, including those needed for meetings.	NM Secretary	3
Attending all NMs and reporting literature committee activities, holding literature stock, planning for the	National Literature	4

future, arranging to publish new translated literature. Obtaining literature at low cost. Receiving IG money for literature purchases. Editing literature when requested by the NM.	Committee	
Attending in all NMs and reporting activities. Presenting a list of payments made in the last 3 months. Liaising with IG Information and Communication Committees. Supporting new lone Groups for at least 3 months. Organizing speakers for open meetings. Manning the national phone line.	National Information Committee	5
Attending in all NMs and reporting activities. Providing high quality chips at low cost. Sending chips to IG Chip Committees which buy them.	National Chip Committee	6
Managing the national website. Receiving and responding to emails. Publishing the NM report on the website. Paying all expenses for updating the national website. Presenting the website changes report.	National Website and Email Committee	7
Trying to obtaining national registration for SA in Iran in the shortest possible time. Making use of the registration experience of other fellowships. Reporting progress every 3 months. Providing a cell phone and number for contact purposes.	National Registration Committee	8
Running workshops to strengthening the experience, strength and hope of Groups and IGs. Travelling as required to provide these workshops. Providing speaker panels, 12 Step or 12 Tradition workshops.	National Workshop Committee	9
Providing accurate and timely translations of all SA literature. Prioritizing the translation of the SA books. Liaising with the Literature committee to publish other literature. Presenting quarterly reports to the NM and planning for the future.	National Translation Committee	10
Trying to provide monthly and yearly essay	National Local Literature Committee	11

Full rotation of all the above service positions will take place on 31 January 2014.

PROBLEMS

1. Not having venues for our meetings in various cities.
2. The government's refusal to register SA in Iran.
3. Not yet having translations of the White Book and the SA Service Manual.
4. Not having a book on the 12 Traditions of SA. This means that other fellowships' literature (AA & NA) is being used at SA conscience meetings.
5. Not having yet obtained an official invitation for long-sober SA members to come to Iran to lead workshops and share at conventions.
6. Having a low income whilst facing high expenses.
7. The absence of credit card facilities makes payment to SAICO almost impossible.
8. Dollars are very expensive in Iran.

ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Our Registration Committee has been trying to register SA in Iran for the last 8 years but has met with official rejection. Recently we visited a central treatment center which might help us to obtain registration.
2. We have attempted to obtain meeting venues in mosques and are still trying to help ourselves as best we can, as government help is not forthcoming anywhere in the country.
3. We held a 10th Anniversary Open Meeting and invited officials in order to introduce our fellowship and tell them how the SA program works.
4. We have maintained contact with long-sober members outside Iran in order to bring the original SA message to our members.
5. We have launched and maintained a successful national website and supported the developments of 7 Skype meetings per week and a WECHAT meeting.
7. Statistics of our growing membership in Iran are provided annually.

NEEDS

1. An SA 12 Traditions Book, to replace the AA or NA books currently in use.
2. Workshops for members who are doing service at IG and National level, like the one in Istanbul.