

## A.A.'s 55th Birthday Party Offers Fellowship and Fun In Spirit of Self-Support

As more than 40,000 A.A.s and Al-Anons finalize plans to join A.A.'s Ninth International Convention in Seattle from July 5-8, the Convention desk at the General Service Office is being deluged with questions concerning everything from hotel accommodations to transportation and wheelchair access. (One venerable gentleman wrote early on that in all his years of A.A. conventioning, he has never once been housed close to the convention center. So this time, he said, he would appreciate being where the action is. He asked for a room in Tacoma—which happens to lie about 30 miles south of Seattle.)



*Muriel Elias (a long-time G.S.O. employee, called back from retirement to help out) and Lynda Ernst, staff assistant to G.S.O. Convention coordinator Lois F., handling phone calls and many details for A.A.'s 55th Birthday celebration.*

A frequently asked question is, "What does my \$55.00 registration fee pay for?" The answer, direct but mind-boggling, is provided in large part by professional meeting planner Gregg Talley, whose management group is helping A.A. coordinate this event.

"For starters," Gregg says, "the registration fees will offset the cost of renting all the convention facilities,

including those at the new Washington State Convention Center, the Kingdome, and the Seattle Center. The rent for these areas alone is expected to total about \$100,000."

Transportation is also a mammoth expense. Reserving buses and drivers to shuttle A.A. attendees back and forth between their housing facilities and the convention centers will cost approximately \$400,000.

Another expensive but essential service at each Kingdome session involves arrangements for simultaneous translation into four languages—English, French, German, Spanish—and, depending upon the need, Japanese. Two translators are needed for each session, since they spell each other every 15-20 minutes.

Then there are the interpreters for the hearing-impaired, six in all. Throughout Friday and Saturday, two selective workshops or meetings will have signers, thus giving hearing-impaired attendees a wider range of topics to choose from. The two big meetings in the Kingdome will also be signed, as well as the Big Show Saturday night.

Less obvious are the costs of printing; data processing; mailings; insurance; entertainment; and travel accommodations for the invited non-A.A. speakers.

Unanticipated production costs inevitably surface, no matter how thorough the initial planning. One such occurred when it was discovered that, while the existent sound-and-light system in the Kingdome is adequate for sporting events, it won't do for the A.A. Convention with all its speakers. Therefore, architects and engineers have had to rig special hooks in the dome to accommodate additional equipment.

Other expenses are incurred by Seattle's Host Committee, which carries a lion's share of responsibility for the smooth functioning of this massive gathering. Says Burke D., a member of the Seattle core committee, "By Convention time we expect to have more than 3,000 volunteer greeters and other workers, each working in some capacity to make A.A.'s 55th Birthday a marvelous experience for everyone here."

These volunteers, he points out, "require orientation in order to handle their jobs successfully—assigning dormitory housing and RV (recreational vehicle) sites; steering people to buses and meetings; providing information about restaurants and tourist attractions; assist-

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ing the physically challenged; and generally moving the flow of A.A.s and Al-Anons smoothly. The hidden costs involved in communications, mailings and other services are tremendous.”

At present, adds another core committee member, Denis F., “more than 120 A.A. volunteers are busily sewing outfits for the greeters. In their green vests, varicolored neckerchiefs and broad-brimmed white straw hats (which they are paying for themselves), they will be easily spotted in a crowd.”

Asks Eric B., chairperson of the Seattle Host Committee: “What do you get for your fifty-five dollars? You get the right to participate in a celebration of your sobriety in A.A. with members from 60 countries around the world. It’s a momentous time of sharing, gratitude and joy.”

The theme of the 1990 Convention is “Fifty-Five Years—One Day at a Time.” For the thousands of A.A.s present, there will be a wealth of activities to choose from, including no fewer than 76 topic meetings, 37 workshops and 9 panel discussions. Not to forget the A.A. marathons and eight regional alkathons.

In his column, “Countdown 1990,” which is appearing as a regular feature of the *Washington Area Newsletter* until the conclusion of the Convention, Burke writes: “Just imagine forty or fifty thousand A.A.s and Al-Anons wandering around the Seattle Center, drinking coffee from espresso wagons while sitting by the Inter-



Lynda and Muriel, in Lois's office, checking out the schedule for the 250 meetings.

national Fountain with old friends, or perhaps introducing themselves to the new Russian A.A.s while shopping in the Pike Place Market or dancing under the stars by the Flag Pavilion, or saying the Serenity Prayer while holding hands with everyone in the Kingdome.”

Meanwhile, he adds, “all Seattle hotels and restaurants have been informed that we A.A.s consume huge quantities of ice cream and coffee—but no booze.”

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## Highlights of Convention Program—July 5-8

Attendees may select sessions from a total of more than 250 scheduled workshops, panels and meetings, which will include almost 900 speakers and moderators.

**Thursday evening: Get-acquainted Dances** in five locations—Big Band, Country & Western; Top 40; music from the '50s and '60s.

**Friday evening: Big Meeting**—Flag Ceremony; three-speaker meeting with participants from U.S., Canada and Europe; presentation of 10 millionth copy of Big Book to Nell Wing, former G.S.O. archivist and Bill W.'s long-time secretary; honored guests include Dr. Bob's son and daughter, Bob S. and Sue W.

**Saturday evening: Big Show** at Kingdome, with professional entertainment, including “Up With People,” a group of young singers and dancers from around the world.

**Sunday morning: Closing Spiritual Meeting.**

Throughout the week Convention-goers may select from:

**Panels:** A.A. as a Community Resource; A.A. and the Media; A.A. and the Medical Profession; and more.

**Workshops:** Is A.A. Reaching Minorities?; Twelve Concepts; Identification—Are We Losing It?; The Home Group; Our Primary Purpose; The Group Conscience—How and When; Why Anonymity Today; Anonymity—Our Spiritual Foundation; and many more.

**Topic Meetings:** Tolerance and Trust; Action and Patience; Ego Deflation; Living Sober; These Principles in ALL Our Affairs, Keep it Simple; and a host of others.

**Special Meetings:** Birds of a Feather (for airline personnel); Lawyers in A.A.; Recovery—Gays in A.A.; A.A. in Asia; A.A. in Africa; A.A. Meetings on Computer; and 26 more.

**Foreign-language Meetings:** French, German and Spanish.

**PLUS—Regional Alkathons and Marathon Meetings** (around the clock, from midnight Thursday to 8:45 a.m. Sunday). Three-mile **Fun Run**, 7:00 a.m. Sunday.

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## Today's Newcomer Is Tomorrow's Oldtimer

"There's a fellow I know in A.A. called Tim. He is 85 years old, has 38 years of sobriety, and attends as many meetings as transportation help allows. Things are different for the newcomer now than when Tim came around. Groups are larger and more numerous; so the newcomer is not as conspicuous or easily recognized. And yet, these days of 'now' will soon be the good old days of tomorrow—when the newcomers, if they stay sober, will be oldtimers like Tim."

Sharing her thoughts at last summer's Northeast Regional Forum in Portland, Maine, New Hampshire delegate (Panel 38) Lou G. expanded on a familiar metaphor: "The newcomer has been called 'the life blood of A.A.' If this is true, then the oldtimer is the heart that leads the newcomer through that set of arteries we call our 'program'—the slogans, the Twelve Steps of recovery, the Twelve Traditions, the Big Book, meetings, sponsorship, service, and so much more."

Even if newcomers are not spotted as such initially, she says, "they soon are recognized, and invariably some oldtimers thrust out their hands in welcome. The familiar words ring out—"We need you, we want you, we love you"—and the person who entered the meeting room almost furtively suddenly feels a spark of hope."

And how does the welcoming oldtimer feel? What thoughts flood his mind? "Perhaps," suggests Lou, "he (or she) had quietly observed the newcomer before proffering a friendly hand. Perhaps he saw in the new person a mirror image of himself as he had been when he first came to the Fellowship—and experienced anew the old anxieties, the hopelessness and helplessness he'd felt when he, too, thought a life without alcohol would be intolerable, if not impossible."

Thus, Lou pointed out, "the newcomer becomes the teacher, constantly reminding us of where we came

from—never letting us forget that we're alcoholics just one drink away from a drunk, no matter how many 24 hours we've been sober in A.A.

"This member has learned that if I want to keep my sobriety, I'd better keep giving it away. As my old friend Tim likes to say, 'I want to die sober—and, in order to die sober, I have to live sober.'"

## 1990 Conference Spotlights Importance of the Home Group

"The Home Group—Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future" is the theme and major focus of the fortieth annual meeting of the General Service Conference, which will convene April 22-28 at the Omni Park Central Hotel, New York City.

Says Jan W., director of A.A. World Services, "We expect this to be a very upbeat Conference, occurring as it does just before the Fellowship's 55th Anniversary celebration in Seattle this coming July. Everyone I've spoken to is in an enthusiastic frame of mind."

"Everyone" includes the 135 voting members—delegates, trustees, A.A. World Service and Grapevine directors, and members of the General Service Office and Grapevine staffs—who will go about the business of working toward substantial unanimity on matters vital to A.A.

The 91 delegates, who constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference, will discuss many topics of interest to the Fellowship. Much of the Conference work is done through the 11 standing committees that cover the broad range of A.A. services.

Right now, the delegates to the Conference have their hands full preparing for the week filled with presenta-

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tions, committee meetings, a workshop, and the election of two new regional trustees.

Says Iowa delegate (Panel 39) Jan P., a member of the Conference Public Information Committee: "There's a tremendous amount of mail from G.S.O. to wade through, but I have been prioritizing what to read and do first. The most important thing is to be as informed as I can be, so that I can participate in the Conference as fully as possible. From recent meetings of our area assembly, and from the West Central Regional Conference held in early March, I have obtained a real sense of the 'group conscience' in my own state of Iowa and six others: Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. I'll go off to the Conference armed with *The A.A. Service Manual* and *A.A. Comes of Age* and, hopefully, be adequately prepared for the privilege and responsibility of taking part in the Conference."

Northeast Quebec delegate Serge F., a member of the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee, feels much the same. He says that his "very large area—about 1,000 by 500 miles—will hold four 'Delegate's Day' service meetings late in March to share their views on the home group." These meetings are being chaired by past delegates, who will give Serge summaries of the discussions afterward. "Thanks to so much input and support," he observes, "I'll have a clear sense of our area conscience at the Conference."

The week-long proceedings in New York will culminate with a number of recommendations from the standing Conference committees. Some of these will become Conference Advisory Actions, which reflect the collective conscience of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada, and serve as guidelines for A.A. groups and members.

Advisory Actions are reached through substantial unanimity, rather than by setting any rules. For, as Warranty Six from the Articles of our Conference Charter states, "Though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."

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## A Dream Some A.A.s 'Shouted About' In New Hampshire Is Coming True

Two years ago, New Hampshire's District 12, which includes the greater Manchester area, was mired in problems on every front. Today, thanks to the efforts of a few A.A.s who had a dream and shouted about it to anyone who would listen, the district is realizing its

full potential and bursting with a new vitality about A.A. and its message.

"You name the problem and we experienced it," says Karl L.-K., alternate district committee member and chairman of the Reorganizational Committee. "We were plagued by low meeting attendance, scarce donations, apathy, resentments, and maverick groups acting outside the best interests of the Fellowship. We had three parties a year and an answering service to refer Twelfth Step calls; that was the sum total of our services. Our G.S.R. meetings rarely drew 20 people, including the officers—hardly sufficient to represent 1,500 A.A. members in the largest metropolitan area of the state."

Realizing that something had to be done—that getting people excited and involved in service was their only hope—Karl and D.C.M. Ted K. sought help from the General Service Office and from oldtimers. They talked to the area delegate and the assembly people, and read any archival history they could find in their search for answers.

"My thought," explains Karl, "was to split our districts in two, starting new smaller and more manageable-sized districts. Ted's research, on the other hand, soon suggested that splitting the district would not work. Tried in the late 1970s, the experiment failed dismally."

Separately, the two A.A.s poured over *The A.A. Service Manual* and arrived almost simultaneously at the same conclusion: Reorganize!

As they began to develop their ideas verbally, and word spread, area A.A.s became interested. "When you threaten to upset the apple cart," Karl observes, "people stand up and take notice. Just by talking about change, we began to see our attendance climb at district meetings."

Then Ted distributed a letter to every G.S.R. and active contact person or secretary he could find. In it, he recommended that members of District 12 form a committee to study ways of restructuring the district to better serve the A.A. community and the alcoholic who still suffers. "By this time," Karl acknowledges, "Ted and I already had diagrams and text outlining a possible solution; but, in line with the Traditions, we knew it was vital to let the committee conscience validate our research or, for that matter, toss it out altogether and come up with something more workable."

The district voted unanimously in favor of the committee, which came together almost overnight. Its philosophy, says Karl, was: "If the oldtimer can show the way to the newcomer, then the district can show the way to the groups."

However, he adds, "the way was far from clear-cut. Many people still couldn't see that we were planning only to add to the existing service structure, not rebuild it. We were not tearing down in order to reconstruct; we were fortifying our existing network."

At its first meeting the new committee, which num-



bered 14 A.A.s, decided to send out a district-wide letter explaining what was going on, and what it was entrusted to do. "Incredible rumors had been flying thick and fast," Karl recalls, "but the fact was that we were only investigating changes; we were not empowered to make them." The response to the letter was "amazing," he says. "At our next regular district meeting, attendance was up to 30-odd people—more than we had seen in a year."

The plan as outlined by the committee was to subdivide the district into small clusters of groups of eight. Each cluster would be represented at the district meeting by a nonvoting committee person, elected by the cluster's G.S.R.s. This person's task would be to help educate the groups to the need for more active service people in the community, and to help individuals become involved.

Members of the Reorganizational Committee mailed dozens of letters, started a District 12 newsletter, and personally attended many group business meetings to let everyone know what was needed: help, and more help.

"Then a wonderful thing happened," says Karl. "While we were sure our ideas were on target, we nonetheless were concerned that perhaps we had missed or forgotten something important. About that time, G.S.O. sent out the revised 1988-89 A.A. *Service Manual*—and there, on page S-46 was our plan, neatly cited as the way in which another district had solved its 'over-size problems.' All the time we had thought our plan was original, that our situation was unique and uncharted. Much relieved, we felt that if the plan had succeeded in other communities, surely it could work for us."

It has worked beautifully. District 12 now has a full range of interlocking committees—Public Information, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Treatment Facilities, Correctional Facilities, Grapevine, Archives and Finance. All these committees were initially headed by G.S.R.s, many who had never before attended a district business meeting. "Some who had been the biggest critics of the old district now became champions of the reorganization," Karl reports.

Two years after the effort began, he notes, "we have become accustomed to 80 percent representation at our G.S.R. meetings. All our service committees are very active, and most of them are presently coordinated by non-G.S.R.s. In January 1988, we had 48 groups; today, we have close to 60, and attendance at meetings has increased dramatically. Our newsletter and our Special Service Committee's activity in and out of the Fellowship has made A.A. and service more accessible to our members as well as the community at large.

"Importantly, money need not be the boogey man it once was. Used appropriately and responsibly, our assets can be channeled into an ever-increasing service effort. Most district-wide Twelfth Step services require cash,

which is not always easy to come up with. But our concern should not be, 'How much money do we have?' It should be, 'Where should we spend it next in order to carry the A.A. message of sobriety farther and farther?' "

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## Available from G.S.O.

### **New items:**

- *Alcoholics Anonymous* is now available in a large-print edition. The 7" × 10¼", soft-cover book is printed in 18 pt. type, the size suggested for the visually handicapped. (B-16) \$12.00.
- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in Russian (SR-2) \$2.75.
- *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Spanish translation of the Big Book, in a new edition containing personal stories. (SS-1) \$3.50.

### **Adjusted prices:**

- "Your A.A. General Service Office" (F-6) Free of charge.
- "Circles of Love and Service," revised (P-45) .08 each.
- A.A. Guidelines. Set of 15 (MG-20) free of charge; one set per order. Individual Guidelines (MG-1 to MG-15) .15 each.

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## Tradition Four: Is Group 'Autonomy' an Invitation to Anarchy?

"The Fourth Tradition states that, 'Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.' But what does 'autonomy' mean? Does it mean that we can restrict group membership as we please? Is it autonomy or misinformation when a group posts notices about non-A.A. events—'sober softball,' 'sober ski trips' or 'sober clubs'? Are we forgetting the rest of the Tradition, which reminds us to evaluate the impact of our actions on A.A. as a whole?"

Annemarie M., Eastern Massachusetts delegate (Panel 39), had more thoughts on the Fourth Tradition to share at the Northeast Regional Forum in Portland, Maine last June. "I'm not a member of the 'Henny Penny-Chicken Little-Sky is Falling' school of gloom and doom," she said. "Nonetheless, I am genuinely concerned about whether we as groups—from home groups to meetings of general service representatives to groups of district committee members forming area committees—are exercising responsibility to each other

through our actions and, just as importantly, our frequent lack of action.”

“It is high time,” Annemarie told the listening A.A.s, “for us to measure our expressions of group ‘autonomy’ against the yardstick of our primary purpose: ‘to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.’”

“Let us ask ourselves some basic questions,” she suggested. “What message are we really sending out to the newcomer, to the professional community that refers so many alcoholics to our Fellowship, and to the oldtimer? If you have spent any time lately with A.A.s sober 25 years or more, you will know that they are voicing similar concerns.”

Annemarie stressed that group autonomy and group responsibility go hand in hand. In order to fulfill our responsibility, she explained, “we need to understand that the financial support of each group is essential to work at the district, area, national and international levels of A.A. Unfortunately, however, too many groups have forgotten or misplaced their original commitment to have the hand of A.A. always there, anywhere, any time help is needed. ‘Each group is autonomous’ more and more sounds like ‘That’s not my job.’”

Fifty-four years ago, she concluded, “we lit the candle of hope for alcoholics everywhere. Let us not become so autonomous that the long-cherished flame flickers and dies.”

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## ‘Pass It On’ Applies to Service As Well as Sobriety

Just as we “give away” our experience in sobriety in order to keep it, suggests Maynard Y., of Columbus, Georgia, “so ought we pass on what we’ve learned in a service position to the next person who may rotate in.”

A district committee member, Maynard believes that the same kind of sharing applies to those serving as alternates in A.A. offices. For example, he points out, alternate D.C.M.s can play an active role in their districts if they have access not only to the experience of the D.C.M.s but to the literature and service packets available from the General Service Office.

Stressing the importance of providing for an informed alternate in each key service post, Maynard says, “When I was selected to be my group’s general service representative, I was unprepared. I depended entirely on G.S.O. service material and G.S.R. workshops at our state assembly for information.” Maynard learned from his experience. “When I assumed the duties of state Hospitals and Institutions Committee chairperson, I immediately found an alternate and saw to it that he knew everything about what was going on. Consequently,

when the time came for me to rotate out, he was prepared to step in and carry on.

“Most A.A.s in service believe in the principle of rotation,” Maynard adds. “But believing is usually not enough. It’s necessary to prepare those who come after us, to share with them what we have learned in service. That’s as much a part of ‘letting go’ as the process of rotation itself.”

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## A Member Reflects on The Seventh Tradition

For each individual member, the full scope of A.A.’s Seventh Tradition often hits home as the consequence of seemingly unrelated happenings. Writing to the General Service Office, Arthur G., manager of the Emerald Valley Intergroup in Eugene, Oregon, relates how he came to fully appreciate A.A. co-founder Bill W.’s oft-repeated observation that “there is a place in the Fellowship where spirituality and money can mix . . . in the hat!”

Several years ago, Arthur flew to Chicago. He had been there only once before—on January 23, 1953, when he had what he hopes was his last drink—and his emotions were in high drive. “The first thing I did,” he says, “was to visit the hotel lobby where I had caused such a ruckus. I stood there a moment, remembering, whispered a quiet ‘Thank you, God,’ and left.”

Still keyed up, Arthur went on to the Museum of Art. Approaching the ticket booth, he saw a sign that read, “Adults, \$4.50,” and realized that, in his excitement, he had left his wallet in the rental car he was driving.

Explaining his situation to the admissions person, he asked, “May I send a check?” She smiled, asking, “How much money do you have?” He carefully placed a nickel, a dime and two pennies on the counter. “The woman briskly picked up a penny and pushed the remaining 16 cents back to me,” Arthur recounts, “and I’ll never forget what she said: ‘You see, you don’t have to pay \$4.50, but we want everyone to know that we are worth *something*.’ Then she handed me a ticket.”

This experience took on added meaning recently, in an unexpected way, at the adolescent lock-up care unit where Arthur leads some of the closed weekly meetings, and where he has sponsored four young clients aged 11 to 16.

One evening he was with them at a meeting, rejoicing in their year-long sobriety in A.A., when it came time to pass the basket. “My four miracles were sitting by themselves in the back row,” he relates, “I turned to give them the basket and, almost in rhythm, they all



waved it off. I was crushed.

"After the meeting, I gathered them around me. 'Don't you like A.A.?' I asked. 'We love it,' they chorused. 'Then why didn't you put something in the basket?' I persisted. 'We don't have a dollar,' they replied. I pointed to the sodas they were sipping and said gently, 'You don't have to put in a dollar, but don't you think you might put in something?'"

"Nothing more was said and a week went by. Eager to make my point, I arrived at the next meeting with four quarters—but before I could hand over the change, my little sponsees smilingly thrust out hands full of dimes, nickels and pennies. They've been 'putting in something' ever since."

Looking back, Arthur says, "My lessons are many and well-learned. It seems to me that self-support means putting something, anything, in the basket. It sets a pattern for the newcomers, who often don't know that self-support is a vital part of our A.A. heritage; that just as every recovering alcoholic needs emotional support and love, A.A. itself needs to be financially self-supporting through its own contributions."

"Of course," he adds, "the person who can't give anything is always welcomed and helped at A.A. meetings. But, as the admissions person at the art museum said, we want everyone to know that we *are* worth something. As past experience has shown, this attitude results in added respect for the Fellowship—and that, in turn, can attract more suffering alcoholics to our program of recovery."

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## The Spirit of Christmas Can Last All Year Long

Gratitude in the Fellowship may find special expression at Christmas and other holidays, such as our A.A. anniversaries; but as the following letter from a member in Pennsylvania shows, its spirit lingers on:

"For the fourth Christmas in a row, every gift under our tree was bought, not stolen.

"Neither my husband nor myself has any upcoming court dates or outstanding warrants. He'll be laid off from his job next month and I'm pregnant—difficult timing, since I'm 37 years old and have two growing girls. Still, we have so much to be grateful for, and none of it would be possible except for A.A. I have learned in the program that life is worth living each day to the best of my ability.

"Enclosed is \$13.69, our way to say thank you, A.A."

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## Grapevine Price Increase

The price of the A.A. Grapevine magazine will be increased, effective with the June 1990 issue (orders for the June issue are processed in mid-April). In keeping with its long-standing desire to keep the magazine price low, the Grapevine Corporate Board delayed their action as long as possible. But when the time came to prepare the 1990 budget, it became clear that an increase was necessary for the financial well-being of the Grapevine.

At the same time, in response to a number of requests, the board established a new option for Canadian subscribers—a set price in Canadian funds. (Payment in U.S. funds remains an option also.)

Schedule of new prices—United States: One year, \$12.00; Two years, \$23.00; Single copy price: \$1.25. Canada: One year, \$14.00 (U.S. funds), \$16.00 (Canadian funds); Two years, \$27.00 (U.S. funds), \$31.00 (Canadian funds). Foreign: One year, \$14.00 (U.S. funds or equivalent); Two years, \$27.00 (U.S. funds or equivalent).

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## Correctional Facilities

### 'Inside' Meetings in Wisconsin Facility Function Autonomously

"At our federal correctional facility, the A.A. group functions in most respects as autonomously as groups do on the outside. The members, many of them serving lengthy prison terms, are there because it's where they want to be. Consequently, they tend to participate fully in the meetings and, almost to a man, have found new hope, strength and dignity through the A.A. program of recovery. But it wasn't always this way."

Bob T., of Wisconsin, an A.A. member who also serves as a corrections officer, explains further. "For some time, the group functioned as just another arm of the administration. Predictably, it became a 'social clique,' abused by the inmate population for gains unconnected with sobriety—to score 'points' with officials or to obtain letters of recommendation to parole boards. The situation became so counterproductive that, for several years, the group was summarily beached by the warden."

When Bob joined the facility's staff in 1981, the group was again functioning, but its requirements and parameters were unclear. A year later, he was asked to serve as a staff sponsor. "Generally, the staff member sponsoring an A.A. prison group is not an A.A. member," he notes, "but I had the advantage then of six years' sobriety gained at meetings on the outside as well as service with a district correctional facilities committee. I was determined to observe our Traditions—especially the Third and Eleventh—which had been hammered out on the anvil of A.A. experience."

Today, Bob reports, "the meetings of our New Hope Group reflect those of many outside A.A. groups. The only requirement for membership or attendance is a desire to stop drinking. There are no membership rules, no chairperson, no attendance records, no perks for coming other than the rewards of sobriety. No staff member or judge can require attendance, and an inmate hierarchy simply doesn't exist."

The group holds two meetings a week: a Step meeting on Wednesday evenings and a Big Book meeting on Saturday afternoons. While the facility's sponsor or another staff member must be in the general area, their presence in the meeting room is not required.

Overall the inmates have responded with enthusiasm, Bob says. "I remember one especially grandiose newcomer who read the Big Book with his usual critical eye. 'They wrote it in such a simple way,' he told me afterward, his eyes big with wonder. 'They took away my ability to attack it!'"

Another inmate, who was released about four years ago, recently asked Bob to speak at an open meeting of his local group. "The fellow is employed, married, and the father of a baby," Bob says. "It was a privilege to see him outside, living the A.A. way of life."

Despite a high rate of inmate recidivism, he adds, "our A.A. meetings can have far-reaching effect. Even when a member of our group goes back to the streets, drinks again and gets into trouble with the law, he usually comes back different—more receptive than he was the first time around. Once planted, that A.A. seed can take hold and grow, though not always according to a preconceived timetable."

At the orientation sessions he holds for new arrivals at his facility, Bob says he talks about "what A.A. is not rather than what it is. This approach seems to get through more powerfully to these men, particularly those who previously were required to attend A.A. or a variety of counseling services and come in with a 'know-it-all' attitude. Certainly, this method seems to work better than trying to promote or require attendance within the correctional environment. I thank God for whoever it was in the Fellowship—probably co-founder Dr. Bob—that first said, 'Keep it simple.'"

## Treatment Facilities

### Literature Plays Key Role in Carrying The Message

A.A.s carrying the message into treatment facilities know a great deal of literature and audiovisual material exists to help struggling alcoholics become familiar with the A.A. program, but some may not know a body of literature is available to help the A.A. member carrying the message. The Treatment Facilities Workbook, the A.A. Guidelines for Treatment Facilities Committees, the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Facilities," and the upcoming video all serve as valuable resources for treatment facilities committees and other concerned A.A.s.

The pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Facilities" shares A.A.'s collective experience on how to contact and work with treatment facilities; what kinds of meetings to hold and how to start them; and a list of do's and don'ts, derived from hard won experience, that suggest:

"(1) DO abide carefully by all the rules of the facility—all; (2) DON'T try to claim special exemptions or privileges or try to manipulate the facility into making concessions; (3) DO limit yourself to carrying your own honest message of alcoholism recovery, but DON'T talk about medication, psychiatry, or scientific theories of alcoholism. This is the territory for professionals. Our personal spiritual life does not make us experts on religion, either; (4) DO listen at least as much as you talk, but DON'T argue about anything with patients or staff; (5) DO live by the spirit of A.A.'s Traditions, but DON'T expect any professional agency to govern itself by our Traditions; (6) DO remember that you *are* A.A. to people in that facility and that your language, appearance, manners and mood all affect other people's opinion of our Fellowship. . . . You may be the only copy of the Big Book many people will ever see; (7) DON'T brag about A.A.—let results speak for us; and (8) DO remember that you 'are responsible' and should insure that sponsorship is available to patients."

Another tool that has proved helpful is the Treatment Facilities Workbook, a maroon, plastic-coated loose-leaf notebook that is divided into 11 sections. In its pages, A.A.s share their experience in Twelfth-Stepping treatment facility patients. Also included is specific information on approaching treatment facilities personnel, starting meetings, working effectively with local committees on Public Information and Cooperation With the Professional Community, and arranging temporary contact sponsorship for patients about to be discharged from treatment.



A well-used section of the Workbook offers step-by-step suggestions for working within the A.A. Traditions. Under "Tradition Twelve," it reads, "The concept of 'principles before personalities' enables A.A.s who carry the message into treatment facilities to keep their primary purpose first. Let us always remember that anonymity—not taking credit for our own or others' recovery—is humility at work."

Accompanying the Workbook are the A.A. Guidelines for Treatment Facilities Committees, containing the shared experience of A.A.s who have been active in this form of service work.

Many T.F. committee members look forward to using the proposed new Treatment Facilities film, which is being created as the result of a 1988 A.A. General Service Conference Advisory Action. Slated for release by G.S.O. in 1990, pending approval of the 1990 Conference, the film is targeted to patients and personnel in treatment facilities.

For additional focus, and to further aid in their Twelfth Step work, treatment facilities committee members might find the following general pamphlets useful: "A.A. Tradition—How It Developed," "Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends," and "How A.A. Members Cooperate."

Have you found the literature helpful? Do you have needs or concerns not presently being addressed in the literature? G.S.O. welcomes the shared experience of T.F. committee members and others who carry the A.A. message into treatment facilities. Write to: Treatment Facilities Desk, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

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## P.I.

### How Does A.A. Respond to Anonymity Breaks?

A famous film star speaks glowingly on TV of "the new life I've found in A.A." . . . A local politician caught with his hand in the town till tells his metropolitan newspaper that "alcohol and drugs did it to me, but now I'm going to A.A. meetings" . . . Or a flamboyant writer publishes the details of his "cure in A.A." and says he's coming out with his story "to help others like me." Six months later, the tale of his "relapse" is duly noted in the media.

What does the Fellowship do about such anonymity breaks and the hundreds of others that occur yearly? As mail sent to the General Service Office reveals, A.A. members have expressed continuing concern about such violations of the Anonymity Tradition, which co-founder Bill W. called "the key to our spiritual survival."

Each year, the trustees' Public Information Committee mails out a letter explaining A.A.'s tradition of anonymity at the public level to national radio and TV stations, and to newspapers with a circulation of more than 50,000. In many areas, local P.I. committees reprint the message on their own stationery and send it to their local media as well.

Headed "Anonymity," the memo defines "Anonymous" as "a word so important that it's 50% of our name."

"We ask your help," it continues, "in maintaining our tradition of personal anonymity by not identifying members by name or by recognizable photos as 'members of Alcoholics Anonymous.' We have learned from experience that alcoholics or potential newcomers to A.A. may avoid any help that might reveal their identity."

The memo further explains that "A.A. members are always happy to see articles about our Fellowship, but not in terms of A.A. personalities. Cooperation by the press over the years has been outstanding, and the publicity given to the A.A. program in all phases of the media has played a major role in encouraging many thousands of alcoholics to seek help."

When a specific anonymity break occurs, A.A. members frequently ask G.S.O. to send a letter to the publication or broadcast station involved. But it has long been the consensus of the A.A. General Service Board and the A.A. General Service Conference that responsibility for protecting our Traditions at the public level, and for responding to anonymity breaks in the media, rests with the individuals, groups and service committees within the Fellowship. And many of them do act on their own after arriving at a personal or group conscience.

When a specific anonymity break occurs at the public level, the P.I. desk at G.S.O. does not remain idle. It writes to the member reporting the anonymity break, usually confirming that it did occur, and explains the process employed in such matters.

The P.I. desk also writes to the delegate of the area in which the anonymity breaker lives. In the case of a press break, for instance, the delegate receives a copy of the article in question, along with the suggestion that he or she send the person a gentle reminder of our Anonymity Tradition.

Should this prove impractical, a letter is sent to the delegate in the area covered by the publication airing the break. Again, the delegate is asked to make contact directly, or else through the local P.I. committee. Only

if the delegate so requests does G.S.O. write the letter.

For the past two years, the P.I. Committee's standing subcommittee on anonymity has been searching out ways to elevate the consciousness of the Fellowship to the importance of anonymity. Any recommendations it makes will be passed on to the trustees' P.I. Committee.

Because A.A. has given so many suffering alcoholics their very lives back, a few members question our adherence to anonymity. In an era when the print and electronic media can be used to reach and educate so many people up close and with great impact, they wonder if perhaps our Anonymity Tradition puts us out of touch with reality and thus keeps us from connecting with the alcoholic in pain.

However, many others, who accept the wisdom of our Traditions, point out that individual recovery in A.A. comes first; and that the Anonymity Tradition is designed to keep our egos deflated, to give us a way of bridling our drive for power and prestige—in short, to keep us sober. They further note that, despite our anonymity—and, more because of it—nearly 2,000,000 alcoholics have found their way to the Fellowship, with many more to come.

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## C.P.C.

### Dedicated C.P.C.s in North Florida Go to 'Any Lengths'

"There isn't a professional left in Brevard County who has not been contacted, presented to, or both, through the efforts of our members, and the response has been tremendous."

Dan S., chairperson of the North Florida Area Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, explains further: "Many professionals daily encounter the suffering alcoholic, and in spite of increasing public awareness about A.A., there are many of them who simply don't know what to do with a drunk. That's where an active C.P.C. committee like Brevard County's (District 12) can contribute. Through diligent 'cooperation but not affiliation' with the professional people, we can and do reach alcoholics who might otherwise never find the A.A. program, or else we reach them years earlier."

Just six years old, the Brevard Committee now has no fewer than 11 subcommittees: Legal, Medical, Judicial/Corrections, Clergy, Industry, Rehabs, the Military,

Police/Firemen, Senior Citizens, Organizations, and Educational Institutions. Volunteers are drawn from the approximately 70 groups in the district.

In the past few years, Dan says, "early footwork—hundreds of personal contacts, follow-ups, mailings, panel discussions and presentations—have paid off. The 'geometric progression' took effect early—the more presentations the members made, the more they were invited to do on both a new and recurring basis."

Joe S., chairperson of the Brevard County C.P.C. Committee, notes that there is close cooperation among A.A., Al-Anon and Alateen. "Alcoholism is a family disease," he comments, "and when we give a joint presentation for school counselors or hospital personnel, say, the reaction is heartwarming to see."

The committee's unceasing efforts have helped to dispel a number of misconceptions about the A.A. program, Joe says. "One doctor, for example, thought that we 'went after drunks'; several others had heard that we 'talk alcoholics out of taking physician-prescribed medication.' In the latter instances, we immediately shared the pamphlet 'The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs,' which clearly states that 'some A.A. members must take prescribed medication in order to treat certain medical problems.' We find this pamphlet and 'Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.' especially helpful in our contacts with physicians; but there are others that help as well. In fact, I don't know where we'd be without our literature packets. We don't go anywhere without them.

Both Dan and Joe speak often and affectionately of the late Duane ("Mitch") M., founder of the Brevard C.P.C. Committee. "Mitch was a district committee member," Joe says, "and my sponsor. He took me on when I could barely hang on to a cup of coffee and my speech was, as Dan will tell you, a 'stuttering babble.' He taught me the importance of service and I've been an A.A. roadrunner ever since."

To say that the C.P.C. committee members get around is an understatement. In any given month, they may make as many as 25 presentations at facilities ranging from the Florida State Probation and Parole Office to the Police Department and the South Brevard Ministerial Association—with maybe a national convention of psychologists thrown in for good measure.

"It's true that our members work hard," Joe says, "but we get a lot of cooperation and help from the area C.P.C. committee and from the surrounding Public Information, Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities committees. It's not too surprising, is it? We're all into service for the same reason: to stay sober and reach some of those alcoholics who are still out there." The Brevard County C.P.C. Committee would be happy to share its experience with other C.P.C. committees. For more information, contact the General Service Office.



## Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

### April

- 1-8 — *Palm Springs, California*. Third Annual Greater Palm Springs Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3003, Palm Desert, CA 92261-3003
- 6-8 — *Fort Wayne, Indiana*. Northeast Ind. Conv. Write: Ch., 4026 Willshire Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46815
- 6-8 — *Tarrytown, New York*. 27th SENY Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1688, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159
- 6-8 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302-0825
- 6-8 — *Superior, Wisconsin*. 45th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 996, Superior, WI 54880
- 6-8 — *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*. Southern Alberta Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 212, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Y5
- 6-8 — *Toronto, Ontario*. 40th Annual Reg. Conf. Write: Ch., 234 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5
- 6-8 — *Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada*. Dist. #44 Rally. Write: Ch., 2174 Central Ave., Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1V5
- 6-8 — *Lake Charles, Louisiana*. 37th Conv. Write: Ch., 1313 Covey Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70605
- 6-8 — *Grand Forks, North Dakota*. Northern Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1262, Grand Forks, ND 58206
- 6-8 — *San Antonio, Texas*. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 790582, San Antonio, TX 78279
- 6-8 — *Provo, Utah*. Seventh UCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 269, Provo, UT 84606
- 7-8 — *Naicam, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Fourth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 423, Naicam, SK S0K 2Z0
- 7-8 — *St. Augustine, Florida*. Area Assembly. Write: Sec., 1906 Skyland Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32303
- 12-14 — *Belem, Para, Brasil*. 11th National Conv. Write: CENSAA/PA, Av. Pte. Vargas, 560/s/9, 10 e 11, Caixa Postal 1272, CEP 66.020, Belem, Para, Brasil
- 12-15 — *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*. 33rd ICTPAA. Write: Ch., Box 367, Beaubien Station, Montreal, PQ H2G 2P5
- 13-15 — *Galveston, Texas*. Spirit of the Pines. Write: Ch., 320 Market #5, Galveston, TX 77550
- 13-15 — *Braamfontein, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa*. South Africa National Conv. Write: Ch., Box 62147, Marshalltown, Johannesburg 2000, Republic

- of South Africa
- Maui, Kihei, Hawaii*. First Roundup. Write: Ch., 777 So. Kihei Rd., #213, Kihei, HI 96753
- 13-15 — *Cape May, New Jersey*. InterGroup Roundup. Write: Ch., 311 S. Juniper St., Rm. 309, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- 14-15 — *Sydney, Australia*. 45th Anniversary. Write: Sec., Box 56, Croydon, NSW 2132 Australia
- 20-22 — *Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. 17th Annual Banff Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 6744, Station "D", Calgary, AB T2P 2E6
- 20-22 — *Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada*. 16th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1742, Lloydminster, SK/AB S9V 1E9
- 20-22 — *Eureka Springs, Arkansas*. 14th Annual Springtime in the Ozarks. Write: Ch., 211 Spring St., Eureka Springs, AR 72632
- 20-22 — *Sacramento, California*. 10th Annual "Woman To Woman." Write: Ch., 5237 Manzanita #3, Carmichael, CA 95608
- 20-22 — *Wichita, Kansas*. 15th Annual Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1814, Wichita, KS 67201
- 20-22 — *Ridgecrest, California*. Third Annual Indian Wells Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6154, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
- 20-22 — *Grand Centre, Alberta, Canada*. Dist. #3 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1447, Medley, AB T0A 2M0
- 20-22 — *Kailua-Kona, Hawaii*. Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., 75-5909 Alii Drive, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
- 20-22 — *Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 453, Dauphin, MB R7N 2V3
- 20-22 — *Billings, Montana*. 12x12 Step Study. Write: Ch., Box 21407, Billings, MT 59104
- 21-22 — *Sarasota, Florida*. Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., 4820 Sawyer Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

April (page 16): Trusted servants; A.A.—the road ahead; beginner's topics

May (page 15): Tradition Three; pennies for sobriety; working the Steps; is A.A. changing?

- 27-29 — *Santa Ana, California*. Third Annual Conv. (hosted by gay & lesbian members) Write: Ch., Box 10314, Santa Ana, CA 92111-9998
- 27-29 — *Santa Rosa, California*. H&I Conf. Write: Ch., 1450 Sierra Ave., Cotati, CA 94928
- 27-29 — *Olean, New York*. Western New York Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Box 91, Olean, NY 14760
- 27-29 — *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. Round-up. Write: Ch., 31 Iroquois Bay, Winnipeg, MB R2J 2E1
- 27-29 — *Gatlinburg, Tennessee*. State Assembly. Write: Ch., Blount County Court House, Maryville, TN 37801
- 27-29 — *Killarney, Ireland*. 33rd All Ireland Conv. Write: Ch., c/o Cork-Kerry Tourism, Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland
- 27-28 — *Atikokan, Ontario, Canada*. Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 391, Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0
- 27-29 — *Casa Grande, Arizona*. Sixth Casa Grande Campout. Write: Ch., Box 828, Casa Grande, AZ 85222
- 27-29 — *Colorado Springs, Colorado*.

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on July, August or September events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by April 10, the calendar deadline for the July/August issue of Box 4-5-9.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (city, state or prov.): \_\_\_\_\_

For information, write: (exact mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # (for office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Flip up this end of page — more events listed on reverse side

## April (cont.)

- CCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 67, Colorado Springs, CO 80901
- 27-29 — *Scottsbluff, Nebraska*. 35th Panhandle Jamboree. Write: Ch., 2606 Ave. D., Scottsbluff, NE 69361
- 27-29 — *Canandaigua, New York*. Fifth Conf. of the Lakes. Write: Ch., Box 890, Geneva, NY 14456
- 27-29 — *Stillwater, New Jersey*. Garden State Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 8205, Piscataway, NJ 08855
- 28-29 — *Manhattan, Kansas*. 13th Anniversary. Write: Ch., Box 1433, Manhattan, KS 66502

## May

- 4-6 — *British Columbia, Canada*. Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1405, Golden, BC V0A 1H0
- 4-6 — *Buena Park, California*. H&PI Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1606, Studio City, CA 91614-0606
- 4-6 — *Pocatello, Idaho*. Area Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 53, Rinie, Idaho 83443
- 4-6 — *Tulsa, Oklahoma*. State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1122, Okmulgee, OK 74447
- 4-6 — *Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*. 39th Annual Spring Conf. Write: Ch., 2701 E. Main, Reedsburg, WI 53959
- 4-6 — *Nassau, Bahamas*. Spirituality Weekend. Write: Ch., Box SS6089, Nassau, Bahamas
- 4-6 — *Sarasota, Florida*. Saramana Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., 3951 Sawyer Rd., Ste. 112, Sarasota, FL 34233
- 4-6 — *Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada*. Blossom Time Conv. Write: Ch., Box 851, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6V6
- 4-6 — *Watertown, South Dakota*. Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1022, Watertown, SD 57201
- 4-6 — *Fairlee, Vermont*. 23rd Conv. Write: Ch., Box 276, Townshend, VT 05353
- 4-6 — *Wirtz, Virginia*. Men's Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 7122, Roanoke, VA 24019
- 5-6 — *Turtleford, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Turtle River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 383, Turtleford, SK S0M 2Y0
- 10-13 — *Pompano Beach, Florida*. 12th Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 333, Pompano Beach, FL 33061
- 11-12 — *Whiterock, British Columbia, Canada*. Fraser Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 314, Sorrey, BC V3T 5B6
- 11-13 — *Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada*. 39th Comox Valley Rally. Write: Ch., 535 Upland Ave., Courtenay, BC V9N 6V9

- 11-13 — *Omaha, Nebraska*. Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 55, Bellevue, NB 68005
- 11-13 — *Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*. 24th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 73, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4V5
- 11-13 — *Laughlin, Nevada*. Sixth Annual Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1005, Needles, CA 92363
- 11-13 — *Rochester, New York*. 39th Central NY Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23267, Rochester, NY 14692
- 11-13 — *Phoenicia, New York*. Women's Spring 11th Step Workshop. Write: Ch., 86 Bradford Ave., Little Falls, NJ 07424
- 17-19 — *Marystown, Newfoundland, Canada*. Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 119, Colliers, NFLD, A0A 1Y0
- 18-20 — *Marquette, Michigan*. Area #74 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 715, Marquette, MI 49855
- 18-20 — *Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*. 30th Annual State Conv. Write: Sec., 39 Duchess Circle, Dover, DE 19901
- 18-20 — *Chicopee, Massachusetts*. 21st Western Massachusetts Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 193, Springfield, MA 01101
- 18-20 — *St. John, New Brunswick, Canada*. Area Assembly and Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 70, Lepreau, NB E06 2H0
- 18-20 — *Great Falls, Montana*. Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 908, Great Falls, MT 59403
- 18-20 — *Big Prairie, Ohio*. Fifth Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 284, Wooster, OH 44691
- 18-20 — *Dayton, Ohio*. 14th Women's Workshop. Write: Ch., 314 Delaware Ave., Dayton, OH 45405
- 18-20 — *Little Current, Ontario, Canada*. 19th Rainbow Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 820, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
- 18-20 — *Kirkland Lake, Ontario, Canada*. 31st Conf. Write: Ch., Box 812, Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3K4
- 19-20 — *Bloomington-Normal, Illinois*. 27th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 483, Normal, IL 61761
- 25-27 — *San Jose, California*. Second Annual Memorial Day Weekend Conv. Write: Ch., Box 816, Campbell, CA 95009
- 25-27 — *Cullen, Louisiana*. 11th Annual Lake Bistineau Lake Party. Write: Ch., Box 385, Cullen, LA 71021
- 25-28 — *Kauai, Hawaii*. 10th Annual Round-up. Write: Ch., 5164 Kome St., Kapaa, HI 96746
- 25-28 — *Dallas, Texas*. Big "D" Roundup (hosted by gay & lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 191174, Dallas, TX 75219
- 25-27 — *Houston, Texas*. YPCAA Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37, Spring, TX 77388
- 25-27 — *Melwood Park, Ontario, Canada*. Fifth Early Bird Campout. Write: Ch., Box 203, Strathroy, ON N7G 3J2
- 25-27 — *Bloomington, Minnesota*. 18th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165

- 25-27 — *Melwood Park Kerwood, Ontario, Canada*. Strathroy Watford Area Campout. Write: Ch., Box 203, Strathroy, ON N7G 3J2
- 25-27 — *Portland, Oregon*. Fourth Rose City Soberfaire (presented by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 6322, Portland, OR 97228
- 25-27 — *LaGrange, Texas*. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 161132, Austin, TX 78716
- 25-28 — *Boca Raton, Florida*. Sponsorship Weekend. Write: Ch., 3909 Redman Pkwy., Lantana, FL 33462
- 25-28 — *Jacksonville, Florida*. 10th FCYPAA/SERCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 14728, Jacksonville, FL 32338

## June

- 1-3 — *Redding, California*. 43rd Annual Summer Conf. Write: Tr., 1046 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-2290
- 1-3 — *Flagstaff, Arizona*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 22148, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 1-3 — *Bronx, New York*. Sixth YPCAA. Write: Ch., Box 243, Bronx, NY 10461-0243
- 7-10 — *Baltimore, Maryland*. 20th Maryland State Conv. Box 11405, Baltimore, MD 21239
- 7-10 — *Odessa, Texas*. 45th Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3347, Odessa, TX 79760
- 8-10 — *Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada*. MSA Abbotsford Rally. Write: Ch., Box 2311, Clearbook, BC V2T 4X2
- 8-10 — *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*. 1990 Iowa Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 9011, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52409
- 8-10 — *Santa Fe, New Mexico*. State Conv. Write: Ch., 369 Montezuma, Ste. 205, Santa Fe, NM 87501
- 8-10 — *Smithtown, New York*. Roundup (sponsored by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 539, Smithtown, NY 11787
- 8-10 — *Akron, Ohio*. 55th Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309-5802
- 15-17 — *Akron, Ohio*. Eighth LIM Conf. Write: Ch., Box 360446, Columbus, OH 43236
- 15-17 — *Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada*. Sixth Annual Maritime Native Roundup. Write: Ch., 440 Maliseet Dr., Fredericton, NB E3A 2V9
- 15-17 — *Glenheim, Ontario, Canada*. Mid-season Campout. Write: Ch., Box 5, Chatham, ON N7M 5K1
- 15-18 — *Parkersburg, West Virginia*. 38th State Conv. Box 4471, Parkersburg, WV 26104
- 22-24 — *Sept-Iles, Quebec, Canada*. Le Congres de Sept-Iles. Write: Ch., C.P. 1289, Sept-iles, PQ G4R 4X7
- 22-24 — *Pomona Lake, Kansas*. Lakeside Camp-vention. Write: Ch., Box 213, Topeka, KS 66603