

## The Role of A.A. Literature: When the Chips Are Down, Reinvent the Basics

What would have happened if A.A. and its groups had no literature? As co-founder Bill W. observed (Grapevine, 1964), "our message would have been hopelessly garbled....[and] A.A. would certainly have bogged down in a welter of controversy and disunity."

"Today," says Canadian delegate Larry S., from the British Columbia/Yukon Area, "when the integrity of our message is being challenged and diluted in so many directions, we need more than ever to appreciate and read our literature, and to pass it on to other alcoholics." Here he offers some thoughts on the subject that are laced with his personal experience and investigation on "where we've come from and where we are going."

In 1993, he explains, after examining from every possible angle the pros and cons of using sobriety tokens and souvenirs, the Ad Hoc Committee on Chips and Medallions of the General Service Conference, in agreement with the consensus of the 1958 Conference, reported its finding that the use of such mementos "is a matter for local (group) autonomy and not one on which the Conference should record a definite position...." Additionally, the committee said, "it is not appropriate for A.A. World Services, Inc., or the Grapevine, Inc., to produce or license the production of sobriety chips and medallions."

The recommendations were clear and the Conference has abided by them, but confusion still abounds, says Larry, who has experienced it firsthand. Prior to the 1993 Conference, he elaborates, "I had the privilege of serving on the Ad Hoc Committee on Chips and Medallions. Reading all the background material on various ways of carrying the A.A. message, I asked myself what had happened to the importance of our literature. And I recalled, like it was yesterday, the first responsibilities my sponsor gave me. He told me to be at the meetings a good hour ahead to set things up. Invariably he would arrive early too, hand me a piece of A.A. literature to read, and quiz me about its contents on the way home. That was a big way in which he communicated the A.A. message of sobriety. It worked for me then as it does today."



In Larry's home area, it turned out, others were equally concerned about the role of A.A. literature. Accordingly, he relates, "a few of us conducted an informal phone survey of 60 A.A. members from four groups, all with less than two years' sobriety." The question asked was: "How many possess and/or have read the pamphlets 'The A.A. Group,' 'Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,' 'The Twelve Traditions Illustrated'; and the books *Came to Believe*, *Living Sober*, *As Bill Sees It*, *A.A. Comes of Age* and *Alcoholics Anonymous*?"

The results were jolting. None of the 60 A.A. members polled either had or had even read either the pamphlets or *Came to Believe*, *Living Sober* or even *A.A. Comes of Age*. However, six members said they owned or had read *As Bill Sees It*; and 37, the *Big Book*.

"With the hope of effecting change," Larry reports, "we began to discuss this state of affairs at our group, district and area meetings. The upshot is that some groups accustomed to awarding sobriety chips and medallions now substitute A.A. literature instead. For example: for 30 days' sobriety, they give 'The A.A. Group' pamphlet; 60 days, 'Questions and Answers on Sponsorship'; 90 days, 'The Twelve Traditions Illustrated'; 6 months, either *Living Sober* or *Came to Believe*; and 1 year, a *Grapevine* subscription or *A.A. Comes of Age*."

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“Some groups liked the idea of the literature,” Larry says, “but also wanted to stay with the chips. So they compromised: They now buy ordinary poker chips and present them together with literature to newcomers with 30, 60 and 90 days of sobriety.

“It’s just a beginning. Yet maybe we can turn from being a ‘wanting’ society back to a ‘giving’ society when newcomers learn what the Fellowship is about and grow healthy and live the joy of sponsorship and carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. It’s called getting back to basics.”

**NOTE:** The 1994 General Service Conference Literature Committee reviewed issues regarding A.A. literature logos and recommended that:

1. “The words ‘This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature’ be displayed on the front cover of all A.A. Conference-approved literature wherever possible.”

2. “The logo be discontinued on all Conference-approved literature.”

All of the marks employing the circle and triangle are being phased out, but A.A.W.S. will continue to protect other registered marks such as “Alcoholics Anonymous,” “A.A.,” “Big Book,” etc.

Lastly, it should be borne in mind that, except for the fact that A.A.W.S. no longer uses the circle and triangle marks in an “official” sense to designate A.A. literature, the circle and triangle marks are available for use by the Fellowship at large as they have always been.

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## Coming Soon: Literature Price Decreases

At its August 1 meeting, the General Service Board approved the recommendation of the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee to reduce literature prices this fall. See the enclosed memo for details.

## 9th Annual Intergroup Seminar

The Vancouver and Lower Mainland Intergroup will host the ninth annual Intergroup Seminar, November 11-13, at the Westin Bayshore Hotel by Stanley Park in the heart of Vancouver, British Columbia. Intergroup/central office managers and employees from across the U.S. and Canada will meet for a weekend of sharing and learning through workshops, panel presentations, and fellowship, according to Viki E., the office manager.

Together, with a handful of general service delegates, trustees of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. directors, and G.S.O. and Grapevine employees, they will focus on the spirit and substance of service as embodied in Traditions Eight and Nine, with special attention to topics of interest to all—relations between area committees and intergroups, increasing/encouraging involvement of the groups, volunteers, and survival in these difficult economic times.

The registration fee is \$20. To guarantee a room at the special-event rate, reservations should be made by October 10. For more information or to register, write: Viki E., Vancouver and Lower Mainland Intergroup, 3457 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5R 5L5; or call (604) 434-3933.

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## Sharing a High On Service

“In January 1992,” writes Bob H. of Austin, Minnesota, “I had been sober just three weeks when my sponsor began urging me to attend our area service conference. I didn’t want to go but I did, and when I walked into the big room, my fears were running riot!

“What was I so afraid of? Caring, friendship, an introduction to A.A. service.... What I experienced that weekend should happen to every newcomer. Seeing all those alcoholics together, and not one of them drinking, gave me the first natural high—the first truly spiritual experience—that I can remember.”

Now continuously sober more than two years, Bob has stayed high on A.A., sponsorship and service ever since. “Thanks to my sponsor, I’ve been active in my group, the Austin Go-Getters,” he says. “I’ve served both as alternate and regular general service representative, and do whatever I can to give freely what has been given me.

“I’m glad and grateful that I said yes to my sponsor from the beginning, because it meant that I was also saying yes to life.”

## Young People's Group Holds 'Oldtimers Night'

Memories. The snows of yesteryear. Where are they? And while we're at it, where are the Fellowship's oldtimers? They're not forgotten, certainly, but we do miss them and often wonder what *has* happened to these trusted friends who forged a helpful, sober path ahead of us; whose powers of example cast a clear, guiding light for us, especially when we were new.

A number of oldtimers remain in our midst, to be sure, never having stopped sharing their experience, strength and hope with us. But we who are newer, greener, often ask why so many *seem* to have permanently drifted away from the groups where we first knew them. Did we somehow drop, even drive, them away? Or did they leave us—wittingly, deliberately—behind? Each question raises new ones, and they are rarely answered satisfactorily. One fact is certain: wondering and guessing gets us nowhere.

One A.A. group grabbed that fact by the horns and ran with it. The Endfield Young People's Group in Connecticut has been gathering oldtimers in with the zeal and skill of experienced fishermen. And the oldtimers have willingly been swimming right into the net the group spread out for them. The net is Oldtimers Night, and so far there have been two, the second one drawing an even larger crowd than the first. The group plans to schedule these nights regularly now.

"Around September of 1993, a member of our group brought up an idea at our business meeting," writes John S. "The thought was for any group member to invite one or more people they knew in A.A. with 10 or more years of continuous sobriety, to invite them to simply show up at the meeting and get acquainted or reacquainted. Well, the first Oldtimers Night, held last October, had nearly 130 in attendance, and several had 10 years sobriety or more!" Usually, John writes, the group's turnout for special events is 80 to 100 people.

Word spread of the group's Oldtimers Night and some group members were asked if another such evening was in the works. The interest spurred them to schedule another one in April. "This evening, there were approximately 200 people in the basement of St. Adalbert's Church, all celebrating *Sobriety!* You could indeed feel the presence of a Higher Power and the loving hand of Alcoholics Anonymous working its miracle," writes John.

"To our pleasant surprise, we heard four or five speakers who had regularly attended the group when it was formed 18 or 19 years ago! And all of them have maintained their sobriety; it was one more of thousands of ways that proves that A.A. works!" John writes,

adding that, since his joining the group in 1985, he had never seen any of the oldtimers who spoke. "So it really blew me away simply to have these people come together again on this night to share with us how it was for them 18 years ago. As we say, fondly and lovingly in our group, young is from 9 to 90."

John concludes: "We do not have a date set for our next Oldtimers Meeting, but this alcoholic has a feeling it won't be long before it takes place."

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## Serenity Can Bloom In Your Own Backyard

A newcomer in A.A. has built a very special Japanese bonsai pavilion in his backyard. "It is made," he says, "of wood, nails, screws, nuts, bolts, washers and the Serenity Prayer. This last served as a blueprint, construction management, time clock and training department. While the pavilion will never grace the pages of *Better Homes and Gardens*, I am, for the first time that I can recall, completely satisfied with the results of my work."

Writing to the General Service Office last November, Neil W. of Washington, D.C., noted that he had been "sober in the Fellowship for two months. It has been one of the most difficult, yet rewarding periods of my life, and as an atheist of 25 years' standing, my search for a Higher Power has proved neither simple nor direct.

"Now my bonsai pavilion serves as my place of daily reading, mediation and, yes, prayer. I find that to be surrounded by nature in this way helps put me in touch with my Higher Power, which is beginning to be revealed to me one day at a time."

In his letter to G.S.O., Neil requested a copy of the Serenity Prayer in Japanese. "I intend to engrave the symbols into the pillars of the pavilion," he explained, "so that I can reflect upon them each time I enter, and so that I can read them to my children and others who visit, in the hope that they, too, may benefit."

Discussing the essence of meditation in Step Eleven (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 101), A.A. co-founder Bill W. says that it is "an individual adventure, something which each one of us works out in his own way.... And let's always remember that meditation is in reality intensely practical. One of its first fruits is emotional balance. With it we can broaden and deepen the channel between ourselves and God as we understand Him."

He might have been speaking of Neil.

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# Think 1995! Time to Register for A.A.'s International Convention

The registration/housing forms for the 1995 International Convention in San Diego, June 29-July 2, 1995, are now being sent out around the world. You can get your form from your G.S.R., your area structure, your central office/intergroup or your G.S.O. (You can make copies if you need more.) To help keep it simple, please be sure to: 1. read the form thoroughly; 2. fill it out carefully, following the instructions given; 3. *print* legibly; and 4. remit payment(s) to the correct address.

The process of registering and assigning housing will begin six weeks after the worldwide mailing is completed. Because thousands and thousands of completed registration/housing forms will return simultaneously and promptly, housing will be randomly assigned, within preferred price ranges (double occupancy) and locations indicated, as closely as possible. Again, the mailbags full of completed registration/housing forms can only be processed by the clerks one at a time, at random.

The preregistration fee is \$65.00; on-site registration fee is \$70.00. (The form indicates methods of payment, etc.) Your registration badge entitles you to attend all Convention events, including the Thursday night festivities, the Stadium meetings on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and all of the marathons, panels, workshops, topic, special interest and other meetings at the

Convention Center and other sites. In addition, your badge entitles you to complimentary shuttle bus pick up and drop off at all Convention locations.

In keeping with our Seventh Tradition, and Conference Action, the International A.A. Birthday celebrations must be self-supporting. No group funds are used for the Convention. Because we have many A.A. meetings at the International Convention, some ask, regarding the registration fee, "What about our Third Tradition and 'no dues or fees'?" The expenses of putting on an event of this size are astronomical; for example, renting a stadium and a convention center, renting other spaces, transportation shuttles, labor costs, simultaneous translations, lighting, sound, security, insurance, and much, much more. The registration fee helps cover these expenses.

As at other International Conventions, many A.A.s will be accompanied by their Al-Anons and Alateens (check appropriate badge box on form), and Al-Anon and Alateen have scheduled a variety of daytime activities, including meetings and workshops at the San Diego Concourse Center, and the adjacent U.S. Grant and Doubletree Hotels. And, of course, Al-Anons and Alateens will join in the festivities at the Harbor "Block Party," the Big Meetings and more.

## B1. HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

- I/We do not require housing.
- I/We request hotel/motel accommodations (complete sections B2 and B3 below).
- Please mail a request form for dormitory accommodations (all dorms are twin-bedded).

## B2. HOTEL/MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

ARRIVAL: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTURE: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### ROOM TYPE

- Single
- Double
- Suite

### ROOM OCCUPANCY

- Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_
- Accessible Room Needed
  - Rollaway Bed Needed

### ROOM RATES

	Preferred (✓ one)	Maximum (✓ one)	Rate Range
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 - 59
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 - 79
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$80 - 99
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 - 119
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$120 - 139
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$140 - 159
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$160 - 179

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\* A housing deposit of \$75 (for room rates \$99 and below) or \$125 (for room rates \$100 and over) will be required. This deposit may be paid now by credit card only; or paid after the hotel room is assigned by check, money order or credit card.

## C1. PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Please charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ US for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s).

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

- Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

USING DEPOSIT (If housing is required)

Please also charge my card for the housing deposit (\$75 or \$125 depending on room rate).

I/We prefer to pay the housing deposit after the hotel room is assigned.

## C2. BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

I/We enclose the following in payment for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s).

- \$65 US per person totalling ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$90 CAD per person totalling ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$220 NPESO per person totalling ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Make checks/money order payable to "1995 CONVENTION FUND."

• International checks/money orders must be in US funds drawn on a US bank.

• Do NOT include housing deposit. If you have requested housing you will be asked to send a housing deposit after the hotel room is assigned.

San Diego is a beautiful setting for our celebration of A.A.'s 60th Birthday! From La Jolla, the jewel of the Pacific, to just south of the border, Tijuana, Mexico, all of the neighborhoods will delight you. The historic mission sites and Old Town, Balboa and Mission Bay Parks, Sea-World, the Zoo, the beautiful Coronado Pacific Beach, Rosarito Beach in Mexico, the swimming, the fishing, the surfing, the sailing, the seafood! And, many conventioners, regardless of where their accommodations are located, can choose to stay all day in the Convention Center downtown area, taking a break from meetings, meetings, meetings; to stroll the waterfront, shop at the Horton Plaza Mall and Seaport Village, observe or sail in the sailboats in the harbor, and, of course, everywhere run into old and new friends, all speaking the language of the heart!

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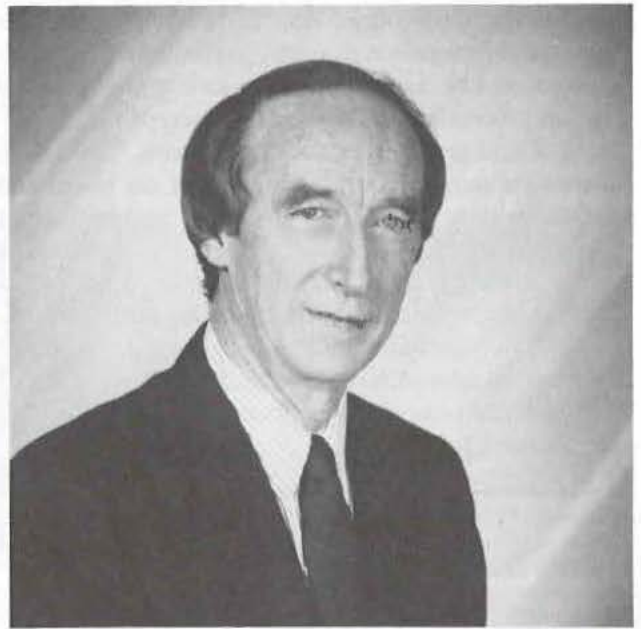
## A.A.'s New Board Members

Peter Roach, of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, a long-time educator, as well as businessman, was elected Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee at the General Service Board meeting following the 44th Conference. Prior to his retirement in 1992, Peter was director of education of the Peterborough School Board, responsible for the education of 11,000 students and a large operating budget. A lifelong teacher, first in Canadian elementary, then secondary schools, he also owned and ran a medical supply company, and was often actively involved with his hometown's manufacturing community.

"My association with Alcoholics Anonymous goes back a long time," Peter says. "In our family of ten, six could have been classified as alcoholics. Not all of them found A.A. But one who did, an older brother who died of a brain tumor a few years ago, was in the Fellowship for 25 years and, you could not believe what his fellow A.A.s did to comfort the family and be with him during the weeks before he died."

Of his new role as trustee, he says, "I feel very privileged to have been selected and if I can bring my combined administrative and budgeting skills to help A.A. better meet its needs, I want to do that." Moreover, he adds, "I'm new at this, don't pretend to know everything that goes on, but I'm very willing to learn. I've seen how the Fellowship can save lives."

Julian R., of Boulder City, Nevada, a past delegate from Nevada, former alternate delegate, treasurer, D.C.M. and G.S.R., replaces Greg M., as the Pacific regional trustee. He said, when told of his election, according to the Third Legacy procedure, that he "was very grateful to have been given the privilege to serve the Fellowship in this capacity. The secret of our past suc-



*Peter Roach  
New Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee*

cess and growth has been our unity. Even though the times are changing, what has remained constant has been our unity, reinforced by our Traditions. It will be the key to our future success." Julian adds, "Communication is also very important. In recent years technology has provided us with added communication capabilities. It is up to our trusted servants to match these capabilities with communication skills, thereby preserving the trust level within the Fellowship."

William B., of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada, replaces Marc P., as Eastern Canada regional trustee. A past delegate, alternate delegate, and D.C.M., Bill also sees the Fellowship spreading rapidly in a changing world and hopes in the next few years to help make "more people in the Fellowship aware of service on a worldwide scale." Efforts in this direction have to be aimed "at the basic level," Bill adds. He wants to see the Fellowship "attract new members to be aware of the service structure of A.A. Among our Three Legacies—Recovery, Unity, Service—there's no problem with recovery. We come in, hear stories, get the hang of it at the basic level. But service is more complicated and many people shy away from getting involved." His own service experience, he says, taught him that "there are people who have a flair for service work, G.S.R., D.C.M., or what have you, and I think we should groom those people, identify their talents, acknowledge them."

Peter B., of Arlington, Virginia, a former G.S.R., and area assembly program chair, is the new A.A.W.S. general service trustee. Peter says, "It's not the kind of thing one aspires to or runs for. It's another form of service, very gratifying and very humbling; you do the thing that needs to be done, like when you go to a meeting, you set

up chairs or make coffee." Echoing Julian, he believes it's essential to preserve A.A. unity, particularly during the current, rapidly changing times, resorting always to the "group process and a willingness to accept the conclusions of that process." In addition, he says, "One of the ways I see our carrying the message at the board and G.S.O. level, is to enhance the group and individual members' ability to carry the message." That means, he adds, "sharing with people who are in touch with alcoholics, being available to them through our C.P.C. work, through our literature and through our P.I. activities." Peter served as an A.A.W.S. director for two years and as an appointed committee member on the trustees' C.P.C. Committee for four years.

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## **New A.A. Guidelines For Literature Committees**

In 1993, the Conference Literature Committee suggested that the trustees' Literature Committee develop an A.A. Guideline for literature committees, comprised of shared experience from the Fellowship.

These Guidelines, now available, are a summary of experiences of A.A.s in general service areas, districts, central/intergroup offices and A.A. groups who have formed literature committees and share how they "Let Literature Carry the Message, Too."

Write Literature Coordinator, G.S.O. for a copy (MG-9).

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## **Viewpoint**

### **The Missing Piece of the Puzzle Is Us**

"For some time now," says A.A. member Tom R., "I have become increasingly apprehensive about the negative direction the Fellowship seems to be taking. I have felt less filled with the 'glow' after meetings. Have felt tensions in the air as others sought answers to the malaise affecting A.A. as a whole."

Writing in "The Primary Purpose," the newsletter of the Vancouver Area Intergroup, Tom feels that we may be forgetting Dr. Bob's admonition to "Keep it Simple." As an A.A. member active in general service, he says, "I, along with many others, have looked to ad-hoc committees, motions, Advisory Actions and splits to solve the simplest 'problem.' We have studied, investigated, discussed and chewed until we no longer even know what

the problem is. Then, confused and off course, we seek to blame and indict: 'They can't relate to the Big Book the way it is written'... 'They want the power'... and on ad infinitum."

Forced by personal circumstances to put A.A. service temporarily on the back burner, Tom says that distance has afforded perspective: "In being forced to step back, I have come to realize what is missing, and I think it is this: A trend that seems to have developed in A.A. over the past couple of decades mirrors what's been happening in society. It is the desire—no, demand—that A.A. do for me what I am not willing to do for myself."

This attitude, Tom believes, "flies in the face of A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which clearly spell out our responsibilities to ourselves, to each other and to A.A. as a whole. We are the only truly democratic organization in the world," he points out. "At first, fortunately, we grew in number slowly enough for our founders to oversee and guide us. But recently we have grown so fast and so big that it has seemed necessary to some, perhaps even mandatory, that we adopt strategies of society at large."

What can we do about it? Says Tom: "We must stop looking for answers elsewhere. Instead of saying that something needs to be done, let's just do it! In our home groups, let us return to the basic principles that have made it possible for you and me to be members of this wonderful Fellowship."

"The solution begins with me and you. One person taking the phrase 'I am responsible' and putting it into practice on a daily basis, not just when convenient. It's called commitment."

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## **Credit Card Payments For Literature Orders**

Effective June 15, 1994, G.S.O. will accept either Visa or Mastercard payment for your literature orders. This practice is being introduced on a six-month trial basis and will be reevaluated in December 1994. During that time, perhaps you will let us know if credit card payment is working well for you or if it has created any problems.

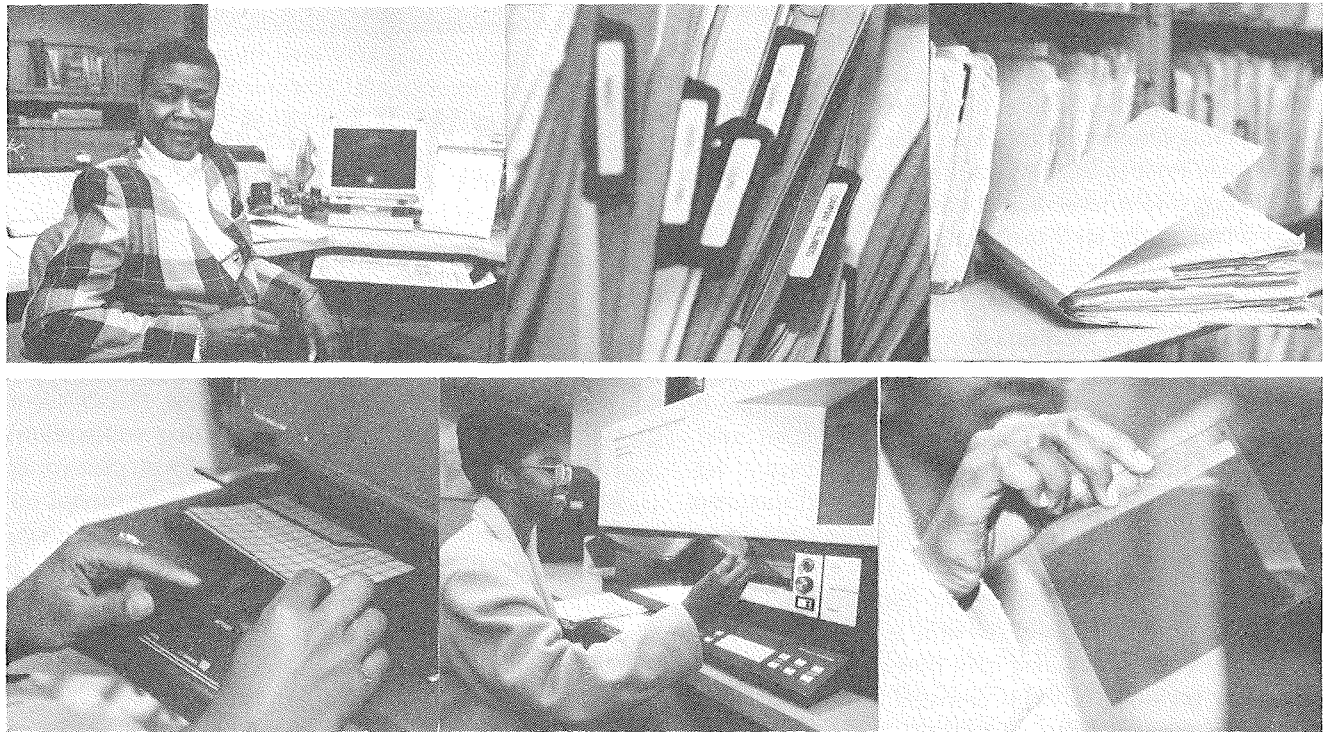
On a new order form you will see the credit card section in the bottom right corner. Please be sure to sign the form if you would like to pay with a credit card.

If you are placing an order by phone and have a push button telephone, please call: 1-212-870-3312. Otherwise, please call the switchboard 1-212-870-3400 and ask for order entry. There are no handling charges for credit card orders.

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## SERVICES AT G.S.O.

### Keeping 59 Years of Paper in Order: G.S.O.'s Files Department



Top row, left to right: *Wilma Joseph, nonalcoholic supervisor, Files Department; the myriad files, covering over 1,004 feet.* Bottom row: *Retrieving information on the reader/printer; Jewel James (nonalcoholic), recording information on the Camera/Processor/Monitor (C/P/M); a master microfiche that contains 98 frames.*

When a member of the Fellowship in a small village in Alaska or a Loner or Internationalist in the heart of Africa or on the high seas, or a G.S.R. in, say, Hartford, Connecticut, writes to G.S.O. for information or any of thousands of possible varieties of requests, and information-sharing, the job of keeping track of it all, year after year, belongs to nonalcoholic Wilma Joseph, who heads G.S.O.'s Files Department.

Over the years, the accumulation of files, letters and all manner of different documents, (filed according to subject category) that have reached G.S.O. is in the millions. And it's safe to say that Wilma can lay her finger on any document you might ask her to retrieve within a very short while, possibly minutes. Wilma has directed the department for nineteen of the twenty-one years she's been at G.S.O. Interestingly, for all of technology's advances, her basic method is, though now computerized, essentially the same, and continues to serve the Fellowship with a great deal of efficiency.

If the manner of logging all outgoing correspondence

from staff members remains unchanged, the sheer volume of what needs to be filed puts the whole business in another ball park. "It was all much smaller years ago," Wilma reports, referring to the expansion of A.A.'s groups in the U.S. and Canada alone to the present total of 55,828. This number doesn't include the burgeoning number of groups around the world, as well as Loners, Internationalists and inmates, *all* of whom write to A.A. for a variety of reasons all the time. It all gets filed.

To maintain order in what could be a chaotic flow of paperwork, Wilma's files are broken down according to 1) group, and 2) subject. She has a many-paged notebook, containing the listing of the various subject categories, that cover a wide range. For example, requests for help, she explains, may be "about a troublesome member or someone who's an agnostic or there's a financial matter or how to best help a handicapped individual." Someone else may write for specific information regarding changes in one of the Fellowship's many pieces of literature. All of the literature, down to

each pamphlet, has its own subject folder.

A copy of every outgoing letter from G.S.O. gets filed and, of course, all incoming mail is also filed, attached to the relevant staff member's response. Typically, a staff member will receive a letter from someone, seeking help of some sort. The request will be pertinent to the staff member's assignment—C.P.C., P.I., International, Treatment Facilities, and so on. The staff member, in answering the letter, may need some background information that will be found in the subject's folder.

Entering letters into the computer began only three years ago. Prior to that, Wilma says, "each letter used to be logged into a loose-leaf folder by hand, assigned a classification, the staff member's initials, the person to whom the letter was addressed, along with city and state and a notation of where the letter was filed. Now all that is done on the word processor. You can imagine how time-consuming it all was," Wilma says cheerfully, adding that, while still time-consuming, the process of logging information is obviously more streamlined now.

On any given day, Wilma reads through about 60 letters (a conservative number), written by staff members and attached to the letter received. Wilma ascertains each letter's subject matter and then logs each one onto the computer, following the same lines she used to follow by hand. "The bulk of my time is spent reading the letters," she says, "making sure that each one is coded properly for filing." This is essential in order to avoid future search problems. In addition to group and subject files, there are separate files for book and literature orders, miscellaneous contributions, delegate files, C.P.C. or P.I. committee files, and so on.

Once the information is logged onto the computer, the letters are then filed into folders by Wilma's only full-time assistant, nonalcoholic Janice Gravesande, with the help of part-timers, usually students. Janice files a couple hundred letters every week.

When necessary, excess material is weeded. A great deal of correspondence comes from G.S.O.'s Records Department, where information on group names and locations are constantly changing. "We keep all historical data regarding groups."

G.S.O.'s new quarters have provided the filing department with considerably more space than it used to have, but even so, any amount of space will eventually be used up. With that in mind, a camera processor monitor was purchased eight years ago with a capability of filming 98 letters on individual 4" x 6" pieces of film—called microfiche—retrievable for inspection by copying out documents when needed. Three small cabinets stored with microfiche are the equivalent of an entire wall full of folders presently in use. Unfortunately, the documents reproduced on microfiche aren't satisfactorily clear to read, so there's a search on for a better system to be

installed in the near future, Wilma says, possibly one involving optical disks.

As relentless as all the paper pile-up is, "I love my work," Wilma confesses. "I feel a satisfaction when I'm helping an alcoholic out there, or finding a letter for the staff people so they can help an alcoholic."

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## Getting Well in A.A. —A Day At A Time

This is the true-life story of a modern-day Cinderella we'll call Gina, told by member Tanya B. of Anchorage, Alaska, who you might say has played the role of fairy godmother.

Sometime last August, Tanya begins, "Gina began coming to our 11 p.m. candlelight meeting, which allows for privacy and anonymity in a special way. She would slip into the room after the lights had been turned off, squeeze silently against the darkened wall, as close to the door as possible with her head bowed, and dash out before the final prayer."

Apparently reassured that her coach would not turn into a pumpkin, nor her horses into mice, Gina soon started coming to the meeting earlier, staying later, and even holding hands during the closing prayer. Then she broke free quickly as before and was out the door in a flash, but not before performing her first act of service in A.A. She turned the lights back on before stealing away.

"The day came," says Tanya, "when Gina sat right in the middle of the meeting room, opened her mouth and spoke. Afterward she ran over to me (she knew many of us by our shoes), threw her arms around my neck, and thanked me for something unintelligible. Then she ran out.

"Several weeks later, I again saw Gina sitting in the center of the room, gazing around and matching faces to all the shoes she knew so well from keeping her eyes glued to the floor. She stayed after the meeting and, before I knew what was happening, asked me with tears in her eyes to sponsor her 'if it wouldn't be too much of a bother.' After a period of sharing, we agreed it would work. Some months later, she is blossoming into a whole and wonderful person I feel privileged to know."

This sober Cinderella wears shoes and boots instead of glass slippers. But her story, as Tanya points out, "is a little miracle to bring light to our days." Best of all, it signals a happy beginning instead of an ending, and it is duplicated in rooms all over the world every day and night, wherever A.A.s come together.



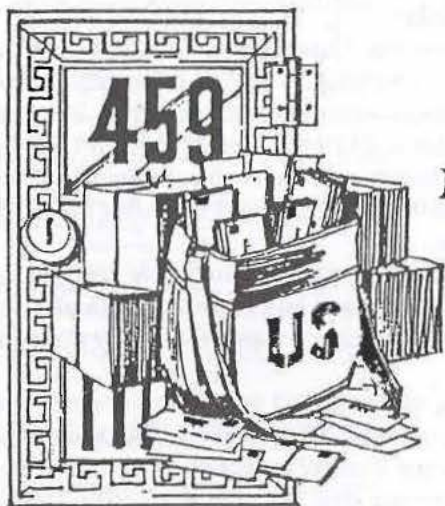
## Thirteenth World Service Meeting

The Thirteenth World Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held October 9-13, 1994, in Cartagena, Colombia. The theme will be "Back to Basics."

The meeting is held every two years, with the location alternating between New York and a country selected by a site-selection committee. The primary purpose of the World Service Meeting is to carry the message to all alcoholics—wherever they may be; whatever language they speak.

Some presentation topics throughout the week will be: "Anonymity," "Sponsorship is a Language of the Heart" and "Maintaining our Traditions in a Changing World." Workshop topics will be on "Communication Between Countries," "Literature—a Basic Tool" and "Understanding Anonymity."

John G., staff member serving on the International desk, is the coordinator and has worked closely with the host country's G.S.O. in Colombia, organizing the five-day meeting where 38 delegates from 25 countries are expected to attend.



### From the Mailbag

• "Greetings from the Minsk Group, 'The First Step,'" writes Alexander B., wanting to express his group's "deep gratitude" for the A.A. literature it has received from G.S.O. since it came into existence nine months ago. He writes that the budding groups that are sprouting up like wildfire in the Republic of Belarus, and elsewhere, can't get enough literature. "Our sobriety is quite young and we do not have much experience," Alexander confides. "Under the circumstances, only with the help of those priceless (let me call them that way) books are

we able to learn the A.A. program." He says that contact with other groups in the region helps a lot, too, and that he and others have traveled to visit other groups—in the last nine months alone—in Vilnius, Lutsck, Odessa, Moscow, Shklov, Kiev and Vitebsk. Especially popular among the pamphlets his fellow A.A.s like, he says, are "44 Questions," and "This is A.A."

• The Accessibilities Committee of Northwest Pennsylvania (ACNP) has brought out an extremely helpful report on the steps it took to standardize criteria for handicap-accessible meeting sites, and the regulations groups must adhere to for handicap accessibility (HA) listings.

The three, strictly adhered to criteria are: 1) on-site, marked parking space (blue sign with wheelchair symbol); 2) handicap accessible entrance (i.e., free of curbs, steps, or other impediments); and 3) a restroom that's accessible without assistance to a person in a wheelchair, which has specific measurements for entry, and grab bars readily available for fixture use. A helpful booklet on the subject: "Readily Available Checklist: A Survey for Accessibility," is put out by the National Center for Access Unlimited.

• The first International Deaf Group Meeting-by-Mail Newsletter was published and distributed to the group's fifteen members on March 5. John B., a founder of the group, writes how he got sober 26 years ago, and invites members to share their A.A. strength and experience. Depending on the response he receives, he hopes to distribute the newsletter twice a year. For further information, write to John B., 656 Brunswick Dr., Apt. 205, Saint John, NB, Canada E2L-3S5. (Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

## P.I.

### Kauai A.A.s Circulate Literature

The five public libraries on the Hawaiian island of Kauai now have A.A. literature racks, thanks to the efforts of the district Public Information committee. Says area P.I. chairperson Curtis H.: "In carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics and their families and friends, we try to reach them wherever they are in our communities, as in our well-used libraries." The racks are stocked with pamphlets, which are free of charge. They cover a broad range of topics that include: "Is A.A. for You?"; "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic"; "Young People and A.A."; "Time to Start Living," (for alcoholics over age 60); and

"Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" Also available from the libraries, for regular checkout, are the Big Book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and *A.A. Comes of Age*.

An article appearing in the local Kauai newspaper announced presentation of the new A.A. literature racks. It was accompanied by a front-face photo of a branch librarian accepting a rack from an A.A. member, back to camera. "In the spirit of Tradition Eleven," Curtis says, "we try to make sure we're publicizing our program of recovery, but not ourselves."

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## Correctional Facilities

### Sponsorship Program Makes Haste Slowly In Pennsylvania

The program started in 1990 with one question directed to a group of inmates: "How would you like to have a sponsor to talk with one-to-one to complete the Fourth and Fifth Steps?" The response was enthusiastic. But then, says Rosetta B., Eastern Pennsylvania Correctional Facilities chairperson, "it took four years to get the inmate sponsorship program off the ground. First we had to wait for the green light from the drug and alcohol staff of the facilities themselves; then we set about the not-so-easy task of finding enough volunteer A.A.s with some length of sobriety."

By December 1992, Rosetta relates, "the C.F. committee of the ABE Intergroup (an acronym for the three Areas covered—Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton) conducted its first sponsorship meeting 'inside.' There were 11 sponsors and 11 inmates sitting down at one table across from each other. The meeting was opened with a reading of 'How It Works,' from Chapter Five of the Big Book. Then 22 pairs of hands reached across the table and joined together. Within seconds, the meeting began."

Mike T. who, with fellow C.F. committee member Ken M., has taken more meetings than he can count into area jails and prisons, reports that the fledgling sponsorship program is alive and thriving. "Inmates are given the opportunity, many for the first time in their lives, to develop a consistently caring, supportive relationship. They frequently voice such comments as, 'I don't feel so alone in the world' and 'I never realized there were other people who feel the way I do.'"

Mike points out that "all sponsorship meetings are voluntary. Of course, the inmates know that attendance

will look good on their records, but we have been pleasantly surprised by how many of them genuinely want to be there." Here he notes that the sponsorship program is strictly a prerelease effort, "but we're working on establishing follow-up. There's also a Bridge-the-Gap program run by our area Hospitals & Institutions committee that's available to inmates once they're on the outside."

Fresh from its recent experience in setting up a sponsorship program, the C.F. committee offers some "Suggested Guidelines" that it hopes may be of help to other areas. Some excerpts:

1. There must first be an established A.A. meeting in the correctional facility.

2. Explain at the meeting what a sponsor does and does not do; how a sponsor assists in working the Twelve Steps. Then, if the group is interested in having individual sponsors, take a group conscience vote concerning the establishment of a sponsorship program.

3. Take the idea to the facility's drug and alcohol staff supervisor. Be prepared to discuss in detail what a sponsorship program is about. And remember that it takes time and effort to get a program going. Don't let those periods when nothing seems to be happening get you down.

4. Establish clear, ongoing communication between A.A. and the facility.

5. Once the program has received clearance from the facility, determine the number of A.A. volunteers needed to serve as sponsors—preferably those with at least one year of continuous sobriety. Then arrange a meeting between the sponsors and the facility personnel to further communication as well as understanding of security requirements.

6. Once the meeting day and time have been established, be sure to start and end on time. Follow all rules and regulations, ever mindful that we A.A.s are guests of the facility.

"Sponsoring an inmate is very much like being a sponsor on the outside," Mike observes. "By being there week in and week out, we gradually build trust and friendship; share our own experience with the Twelve Steps; and help the person to substitute fear with hope and the A.A. way of life."

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## Correctional Facilities Workbook

The Correctional Facilities Workbook booklet may now be purchased separately, without the vinyl folder. To order the insert only, use item number M-45I, \$2.50.

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Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.—Via G.S.O.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1994

## 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.

### August

- 4-7 — *Cedaredge, Colorado*. Ninth Annual Int'l. Serenity Run. Write: Ch., Box 1143, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
- 5-6 — *Jacksonville, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Fernandina Beach, FL 3203
- 5-7 — *Indian Wells, California*. Maad Dog Daze. Write: Ch., Box 4383, Palm Desert, CA 92261
- 5-7 — *Redwood Creek, California*. 16th HCI Campout. Write: Ch., Box 6872, Eureka, CA 95502
- 5-7 — *Tulameen, British Columbia, Canada*. 13th Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3C, Comp 3, Tulameen, BC V0X 2L0
- 5-7 — *Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada*. 10th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 925, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
- 5-7 — *Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. Eighth Annual Algoma District Campout. Write: Ch., 341 Morin, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6C 3E5
- 5-7 — *Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada*. MCYPAA. Write: Ch., 57 McDougall Ave., Moncton, NB E1C 6B1
- 5-7 — *Guelph, Ontario, Canada*. 25th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., 4 Leacock Ave., Guelph, ON N1E 6B1
- 5-7 — *Cromwell, Connecticut*. 11th Annual Walk Roundup (sponsored by gay & lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 1389, New Haven, CT 06505
- 5-7 — *Springfield, Illinois*. 1994 State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 181, Petersburg, IL 62675
- 5-7 — *New Orleans, Louisiana*. Big Easy Does It Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 51266, New Orleans, LA 70151-1266
- 5-7 — *Negaunee, Michigan*. U. P. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 243, Palmer, MI 49871
- 5-7 — *Havre, Montana*. Mini Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2443, Havre, MT 59501
- 5-7 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. Soberfest (presented by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., 2413 S. Eastern, #309, Las Vegas, NV 89104
- 5-7 — *State College, Pennsylvania*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 522, Paoli, PA 19301
- 6-7 — *Fort Morgan, Colorado*. 15th NE Colorado Mini-Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 1063, Fort Morgan, CO 80701
- 11-14 — *Washington, D.C.* The Capital Roundup (presented by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 76786, Washington, DC 20013-6785
- 12-13 — *Tampa, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
- 12-14 — *Woodstock, Ontario, Canada*. 13th Marathon of Unity. Write: Ch., Box 22002, Woodstock, ON N4S 8Y1
- 12-14 — *Hull, Quebec, Canada*. Annual

- Conf. Write: Ch., C.P. 24, Succursale A, Hull, QC J8Y 6M7
- 12-14 — *Tiel, The Netherlands*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Harstenhoekweg 74, 2587SM The Hague, Netherlands
- 12-14 — *Kutztown, Pennsylvania*. Ninth Annual Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1334, Reading, PA 19603-1334
- 12-14 — *Lake Poinsett, South Dakota*. Serenity Weekenders Campout. Write: Ch., R.R. 4, Box 21, Yanktown, SD 57078
- 12-14 — *Arlington, Virginia*. Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2281, Merrifield, VA 22116
- 13-14 — *Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 30th Roundup. Write: Ch., St. Croix, Hants County, NS BON 2E0
- 13-14 — *Nacogdoches, Texas*. 48th Anniv. Write: Ch., 1221 Murry St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961
- 17-20 — *Atlanta, Georgia*. 50th Southeast Conf./41st State Pre-paid Conv. Write: Ch., Box 80671, Atlanta, GA 30366
- 18-21 — *Omaha, Nebraska*. Cornhusker Roundup XVII. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 19-21 — *Soldotna, Alaska*. Wilderness Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2165, Soldotna, AK 99669
- 19-21 — *Anaheim, California*. 10th Orange City. Conv. Write: Ch. 2776 W. Russell Pl, Anaheim, CA 92801
- 19-21 — *Oakhurst, California*. Mini Conf. Write: Ch., Box 23, Oakhurst, CA 93644
- 19-21 — *Paso Robles, California*. 27th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 19-21 — *Ganges, British Columbia, Canada*. Rally. Write: Ch. RR3, Site 12, Comp 7, Ganges, BC, Salt Springs Is. V0S 1E0
- 19-21 — *Port Hardy, British Columbia, Canada*. Rally. Write: Ch., Box 2581, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
- 19-21 — *Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. Lakeshore Conf. Write: Ch., 200 Thornton Rd. N., Oshawa, ON L1J 6T7
- 19-21 — *Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada*. Fourth Congress. Write: Ch., 125 rue Rice, Edmundston, NB E3V 1T5
- 19-21 — *Meeker, Colorado*. White River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1036, Meeker, CO 81641
- 19-21 — *Snyder, Nevada*. Campout. Write: Ch., Box 154, Snyder, NE 68664

- 19-21 — *Staten Island, New York*. NY State Informational Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 090063, Staten Island, NY 10309
- 19-21 — *Powers, Oregon*. Campout. Write: Ch., Box 503, Powers, OR 97466
- 19-21 — *Clarrington, Pennsylvania*. Sixth Magic Forest Campathon. Write: Ch., Box 1567, Washington, PA 15301
- 19-21 — *Scranton, Pennsylvania*. SCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 482, Dunmore, PA 18512
- 19-21 — *Beaumont, Texas*. Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2243, Nederland, TX 77627
- 19-21 — *College Station, Texas*. 11th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 9409, College Station, TX 77842-9409
- 20-21 — *Provo, Utah*. Area Pre-Assembly Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 154, Springville, UT 84663
- 21-23 — *Beaumont, Texas*. 11th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 352, Burkeville, TX 75932
- 25-28 — *Kettle Falls, Washington*. Summer Campout. Write: Ch., 3473-B, E. Jumpoff Joe Rd., Valley, WA 99181
- 26-28 — *Writing on Stone Park, Alberta, Canada*. Corn Roast. Write: Ch., Box 618, Shelby, MT 59474
- 26-28 — *Jackson, Mississippi*. Eighth Old Timers Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 68662, Jackson, MS 39286
- 26-28 — *Joplin, Missouri*. Summer Hummer. Write: Ch., 527 Winfield, Joplin, MO 6480
- 26-28 — *Chautauqua, New York*. Tri-State/Ont. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 758, Derby, NY 14047
- 26-28 — *Chattanooga, Tennessee*. Choo-Choo Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2105, Chattanooga, TN 37409

### September

- 2-3 — *Jacksonville, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
- 2-4 — *Phoenix, Arizona*. XXII Convención Hispana. Write: Ch., Box 61512, Phoenix, AZ 85082-1512
- 2-4 — *Penticton, British Columbia, Canada*. 29th South Okanagan Labour Day Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 20036, Penticton, BC V2A 8K3

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on October, November or December events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by August 10, the calendar deadline for the October-November 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 - for events on reverse side

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

## September (Cont.)

- 2-4 — *Colorado Springs, Colorado*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 25362, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5362
- 2-4 — *Evansville, Indiana*. INCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 6756, Evansville, IN 47719-0756
- 2-4 — *Houma, Louisiana*. Jamboree. Write: Ch., 4204 Hwy. 24, Gray, LA 70359
- 2-4 — *Polson, Montana*. 10th Camporee. Write: Ch., 2900 South Shore Rt., Polson, MT 59860
- 2-4 — *Abilene, Texas*. Big Country Conf. Write: Ch., 1919 Westview, Abilene, TX 79603
- 2-5 — *Powell River, British Columbia, Canada*. 47th Rally. Write: Ch., 6898 Kamloops St., Powell River, BC V8A 1M4
- 2-5 — *Chapleau, Ontario, Canada*. 27th Anniv. Roundup. Write: Sec., Box 634, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
- 2-5 — *Tampa, Florida*. Eighth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa FL 33685
- 8-11 — *Huntsville, Alabama*. 39th Annual Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Huntsville, AL 35807
- 9-10 — *Tampa, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1092, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
- 9-11 — *Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada*. 35th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 85, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A1
- 9-11 — *Brampton, Ontario, Canada*. 12th Conv. Write: Ch., Box 401, Brampton, ON L6V 2L3
- 09-11 — *Dunville, Ontario, Canada*. 28th Conv. Write: Ch., Box 163, Dunville, ON N1A 2X5
- 9-11 — *Cromwell, Connecticut*. Area Conv. Write: Ch., 16 Cindy Lane, Berlin, CT 06037
- 9-11 — *Many, Louisiana*. 27th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3658, Fort Polk, LA 71459
- 9-11 — *Park Rapids, Minnesota*. Fourth Heartlands Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 18, Park Rapids, MN 56470
- 9-11 — *Columbus, Ohio*. Eighth Area Conv. Write: Ch., 6944 Springhouse Ln., Columbus, Oh 43229
- 9-11 — *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. Ninth Annual Gay/Lesbian Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 92794, Milwaukee, WI 53202
- 10-11 — *San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina*. Eighth Intergroup Congress. Write: Ch., Casilla Correo 621, 4000 San Miguel de Tucuman, Rep. Argentina
- 15-18 — *Sacramento, California*. Ninth Annual Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 661522, Sacramento, CA 95866
- 16-18 — *Page, Arizona*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3682, Page, AZ 86040
- 16-18 — *Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada*. Rally. Write: Ch., 4438 Latham Rd., Port Alberni, BC V9Y 5S9
- 16-18 — *Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1127, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
- 16-18 — *Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*. E. Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Ch., Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10163
- 16-18 — *Mont-Laurier, Quebec, Canada*. Fourth District Congress. Write: Ch., 3591 Chemin Lac Nadeau #2, Mont-Laurier, QC J9L 3G7
- 16-18 — *Swift Current, Saskatchewan Canada*. 33rd Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1848, Swift Current, SK S9H 4M6
- 16-18 — *Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1537, Yorkton, SK S3N 3K3
- 16-18 — *Grand Junction,*

- Colorado*. Color Daze. Write: Ch., Box 4013, Grand Junction, CO 81502
- 16-18 — *Muscatine, Iowa*. Melon City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1244, Muscatine, IA 52761
- 16-18 — *Lenox, Massachusetts*. Back to Basics. Write: Ch., 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210
- 16-18 — *Duluth, Minnesota*. 49th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816
- 16-18 — *Tupelo, Mississippi*. Fall Jubilee. Write: Ch., 11 W. Marion St., Pontotoc, MS 38863
- 16-18 — *Natchez, Mississippi*. Southern Hospitality Conv. Write: Ch., Box 18242, Natchez, MS 39122
- 16-18 — *Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri*. EDI '94. Write: Ch., Box 499, Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473
- 16-18 — *El Prado, New Mexico*. Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 253, El Prado, NM 87529
- 16-18 — *Bastrop, Texas*. Fellowship in the Pines. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 525, Cedar Creek, TX 78612
- 16-18 — *Ogden, Utah*. Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 192 North 4700 West, West Weber, UT 84404
- 16-18 — *Williamsburg, Virginia*. Second Annual Southeast Seminar, "Woman-to-Woman". Write: Ch., Box 8192, Richmond, VA 23228
- 16-18 — *Eau Claire, Wisconsin*. 38th Area Conf. Write: Ch., 3365, Locust Ln., Eau Claire, WI 54703
- 23-25 — *Mesa, Arizona*. 1994 Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 10865, Glendale, AZ 85318-0865
- 23-25 — *San Francisco, California*. Second Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 423832, San Francisco, CA 94142
- 23-25 — *Santa Maria, California*. 52nd District Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2523, Lompoc, CA 93438
- 23-25 — *Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91021, Effort Square Postal Outlet, Hamilton, ON L8N 4G3
- 23-25 — *Wichita, Kansas*. Kansas Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 48661, Wichita, KS 67201.8661
- 23-25 — *Harrisonburg, Virginia*. Shenandoah Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 2, Box 187-B, Broadway, VA 22815
- 23-25 — *Winchester, Virginia*. 40th Four State/DC Fall Get-together. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 164-C, Boyce, VA 22620
- 23-25 — *Cheyenne, Wyoming*. Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1481, Cheyenne, WY 82003
- 29-Oct 2 — *Amarillo, Texas*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 412, Amarillo, TX 79105
- 30-Oct 2 — *San Diego, California*. 43rd So. Calif. Conv. Write: Ch., 7158 Hillsboro St., San Diego, CA 92120
- 30-Oct 2 — *Vegreville, Alberta, Canada*. Dist. 20 Roundup. Write: Ch., #202 5322-46th St., Vegreville, AB T9C 1E6
- 30-Oct 2 — *Chase, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 334, Chase, BC V0E 1M0
- 30-Oct 2 — *Repentigny, Quebec, Canada*. 12th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., 116, rue Helene, Repentigny, QC J6A 2Z6
- 30-Oct 2 — *Ft. Collins, Colorado*. Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 270356, Ft. Collins, CO 80527
- 30-Oct 2 — *Snowmass Village, Colorado*. Roundup. Write: Ch., 523 Cowenhoven Ct., Aspen, CO 81611
- 30-Oct 2 — *Mackinac Island, Michigan*.

- Mackinac Weekend*. Write: Ch., 302 S. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48917
- 30-Oct 2 — *Lincoln, Nebraska*. Big Red Roundup. Write: Ch., 2840 S. 70th St., Ste. 127, Lincoln, NE 68506
- 30-Oct 2 — *Rochester, New York*. 14th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., 10 Manhattan Square Dr. Rochester, NY 14607
- 30-Oct 2 — *Cleveland, Ohio*. 11th Annual Midwest Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 6774, Cleveland, OH 44101

## October

- 1-2 — *Jacksonville, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
- 7-9 — *Batesville, Arkansas*. Recovery Unlimited. Write: Ch., Box 4144, Batesville, AR 72503
- 7-9 — *Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 30th NS/NL/LB Assembly. Write: Ch., 234 Shaft St., Glace Bay, NS B1A 6W4
- 7-9 — *Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada*. 24th Congress of Sherbrooke. Write: Ch., 880, Jogues, App. 301, Sherbrooke, QC J1H 2X9
- 07-09 — *French Lick, Indiana*. Back to Basics Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2003, Martinsville, IN 46151
- 7-9 — *Kalispell, Montana*. Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2326 Kalispell, MT 59903-2326
- 7-9 — *Tahlequah, Oklahoma*. Serenity Harvest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 12601, Oklahoma City, OK 73157
- 7-9 — *Ogden, Utah*. Ninth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9152, Ogden, UT 84409
- 7-9 — *Seattle, Washington*. Coming of Age Conf. (presented by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., 1202 E. Pike #552, Seattle, WA 98122
- 8-9 — *Tampa, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
- 11-18 — *Alicante, Spain*. Calpe Conv. Write: Ch., Finca San Antonio, Apartado 15, Benisa, Alicante, Spain
- 14-16 — *Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada*. NB/PEI Area Assembly. Write: Ch., 20 Pownall St. #3, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 3V8
- 15-16 — *Hong Kong*. 25th Anniv. Write: Ch., 2nd Floor Flat, DD283 Lot 429, Hon Ha Village, Sai Kung, Hong Kong
- 28-30 — *Duderstadt/Gottingen, Germany*. European Roundup (sponsored by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 42 08 21, D-12068 Berlin, Germany
- 28-30 — *Amherst, New York*. Fall Conv. Write: Ch., 1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst, NY 14221 November

## November

- 3-6 — *Memphis, Tennessee*. 20th Annual Bluff City Fellowship. Write: Ch., Box 240831, Memphis, TN 38124-0831
- 4-5 — *Jacksonville, Florida*. Angels are Happening. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
- 11-13 — *Salt Lake City, Utah*. 50th Anniv. Write: Ch., Box 522164, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-2164
- 18-20 — *The Abbey Fontana, Wisconsin*. Fifth Annual Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 213, Ringwood, IL 60072-0213