

# BOX 4-5-9

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A.A.

Vol. 23, No. 1

February-March 1978

## Members Asked to Review 1978 Conference Questions, Keep Area Delegates Informed

If A.A.'s in the United States and Canada will start now discussing questions to be raised at the 1978 General Service Conference (Hotel Roosevelt, New York, N.Y., Apr. 16-22), this 28th annual gathering can be one of the most productive ever held.

The theme, selected by the trustees' Committee on the G.S. Conference and the Conference Agenda Committee, will be "The Member and the Group - Recovery Through Service."

By discussing matters the Conference must decide on, each A.A. group, committee, and assembly can be sure every delegate arrives in New York well versed in the group conscience of the area.

Preliminary agenda topics already set include:

- Let's Carry the A.A. Message
- The Twelve Traditions - "Why It Works!"
- Who Establishes Policy In A.A.? You, That's Who!
- Regional Forums - What They Have Done for Service in A.A.
- How Our General Service Office Serves Us
- Are We Letting Others Do Our Work?
- Anonymity
- G.S.R. - Vital Link Between the A.A. Group and the General Service Structure
- Finance
- A.A. - What We Can Do for the Alcoholic
- Working With Others - Inside and Outside A.A.

Ninety-one delegates elected in state and provincial assemblies will

make up the majority of the 135 Conference members. Also participating will be: the 21 members of the General Service Board; the directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. (the legal entity that is A.A.'s publishing company and is responsible for operation of G.S.O.); G.S.O. staff members; and directors and staff of the Grapevine.

Also scheduled: orientation for Panel 28 (first-year) delegates; the opening dinner and A.A. meeting Sunday night; a Saturday trip to Stepping Stones, home of Bill W. and Lois in Bedford Hills, N.Y.,

*(continued on p. 5)*

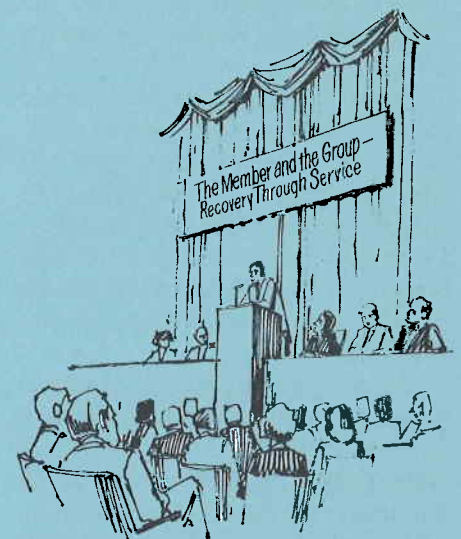
### OTTAWA FORUM BIGGEST SO FAR

A.A.'s seventh regional forum (Amarillo, Tex., Dec. 2-4) is now history. But at press time, the last forum on which we have a report is the sixth. For Eastern Canada (Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 30-Oct. 2) this was the biggest forum yet - with about 500 registered. General sessions were simultaneously translated from English into French, and workshops were held in both languages.

Largely unstructured sharing sessions, the forums have no "official" A.A. business to do, but provide better, freer communications between local A.A. Third Legacy workers and the General Service and Grapevine Boards and G.S.O. and GV staffs.

Eastern Canada's delegates to

*(continued on p. 6)*



### DELEGATES - PLEASE HELP CORRECT DIRECTORIES!

Information on all A.A. groups in your area for the last quarter of 1977 was mailed mid December to your area's delegate to the General Service Conference.

The electronic printouts are to be corrected and returned to G.S.O. by January 31st, if the next A.A. directories are to be accurate and up-to-date.

The Conference has asked that delegates, aided by area committees and G.S.R.'s, furnish such information, instead of the old system of asking each group to return its own Group Information Card.

Thanks to our new electronic data processing system, we are

*(continued on p. 6)*

Box 4-5-9 is published bimonthly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 468 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

© Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 1978.

Mail address: P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Subscriptions: Individual, \$1.50 per year; group, \$3.50 for each unit of 10 per yr. Check — made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc. — should accompany order.

## REMEMBERING PAULA C.

Many A.A.'s felt a deep sense of personal loss upon hearing that Paula C. had died, on Dec. 12. But there is also gratitude within the Fellowship for Paula's life and its enduring gifts.

From 1962, when she joined the Grapevine staff, until 1976, when she retired as managing editor, her devoted work helped to shape our magazine as it is today. Countless readers and contributors remember her as a friend whose letters expressed true understanding.

Before moving to Southbury, Conn., where her husband, Horace, survives her, Paula was active in New York A.A. She was one of the founders of the Gotham Group, which has been focusing on Step discussions for 20 years. And many A.A.'s remember her fondly and gratefully as a loving sponsor.

## YOKOHAMA OR TRENTON, N.J. — IT'S ALL A.A.

Since A.A. is international, an exotic flavor sometimes shows up in local central office newsletters.

This item turned up recently in the Trenton (N.J.) area *Intergroup Information Bulletin*. Seems Aaron K., bulletin editor, got a call from Ralph M., a U.S. Navy man visiting that city. Ralph had joined in Yokohama a year before, so he went to his first U.S. meeting in Trenton.

Later, Ralph wrote that the Yokohama A.A. group now has three to five members, with an occasional lively Japanese prospect.

## CALIFORNIAN LOIS F. NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

Shortly after coming to A.A. in 1970, Lois F. flew to Denver, Colo., her hometown, for the holidays. En route, Lois experienced self-pity, anxiety, and "Why me?" when a stewardess started taking orders for drinks. But a comforting thought came up: Surely, there was on that big plane at least one other A.A. She just wished she could guess who it was.

On her first night home, Lois wisely took herself to the nearest A.A. meeting. Guess who walked in. It was that stewardess who'd been serving drinks on the plane. They recognized each other instantly.

Such coincidences — if that's what you want to call them — have been frequent in the A.A. life of our newest staff member, who was a teacher in South San Francisco 12 years before joining the G.S.O. staff in September.

Lois was graduated from Columbus (Ga.) High School, got her B.A. at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and her M.A. at San Francisco State College, and belonged to several professional educational associations and to Pi Beta Phi.

But she seems prouder of having been secretary of the San Francisco Young People's and Friendly Circle Groups of A.A. She also served as G.S.R., D.C.M., and chairperson of the Northern California Coastal Area Committee, and was on the Twelfth Step list of the local central office.

We find her a genuine asset at G.S.O. and welcome her sharp intelligence, her quick willingness to learn, and her quiet friendliness.

## SENIOR VISITOR HAS JUNIOR VIGOR

He was one of the more than 1,500 interested A.A. members who visit the General Service Office each year. He came on a day that had brought visitors from Alaska,

Australia, India. He was from southern New Jersey, and his name was Harry P.

He was an older man, of stocky build, bright-eyed and full of energy. As secretary of the Twelve and Twelve Group down home, he was ferreting out information from G.S.O.'s files for an anniversary meeting. As a member of the local public information committee, he was talking to the staff member on the P.I. assignment. And he is also secretary of the South Jersey Intergroup. A busy man, Enthusiastic. And deeply grateful for his sobriety.

"I didn't really develop alcoholism until after I had retired from the railroad," Harry told us.

"How long ago was that?" we asked.

"In 1961," he replied. We showed surprise; from his appearance, our visitor could have been only entering senior-citizen status.

"Oh," he continued, "I worked at another job for 12 years after that — clerking in a fancy department store. I was drinking then. But a lot of the clerks did. One day, they called me in and told me I would have to retire when I hit 75. 'Then I should have retired two years ago,' I told them, 'because I'm 77 now!'"

At the time of his G.S.O. visit, Harry had been in Alcoholics Anonymous for several years. And since becoming sober, his life has been getting better every day, he declared, his eyes dancing. "I'm active, all right," he said. "I love my life in A.A."

He explained that he couldn't stay retired. Too much energy! So, a few months ago, he went to a special school and now has a brand-new, booming, rewarding career, described on the business card he flashed: "Locksmith and Professional Security Consultant." He added quickly that it wouldn't interfere with his A.A. activity.

In amazement, we asked, "How old are you now?"

"Eighty-one my next birthday," Harry P. replied with a grin.



## Delegate Corner

### ONE DELEGATE'S WORLD-CIRCLING IDEA

Ab A., the second Oklahoma delegate to the General Service Conference, wanted to find "a way (1) for more A.A.'s to express their gratitude to the Fellowship that freed them from bondage to alcohol, and (2) of helping carry the A.A. message to more suffering alcoholics," Elizabeth E., Tulsa, reminded us recently.

So, with his friend Ted C., he originated the Birthday Plan in 1954. Seven years later, the Conference voted to make the plan worldwide for any interested members.

It works like this. On your A.A., birthday, you send \$1.00 for each year of your sobriety to support A.A.'s world services. Special Birthday Plan envelopes are available free from G.S.O., but any envelopes will do. Give the name and location of your group if you want it credited for your contribution.

Oklahomans are justifiably proud of their record of support of our worldwide work, and the gratitude they have generated in other states, as well as other countries.

"Did you send in your contribution on your last A.A. birthday?" Elizabeth asked Oklahoma members.

### A.A. LIKES BEING D.C.M.

We hope all general service representatives (G.S.R.'s) who become district committee members (D.C.M.'s) keep us posted on what goes on in their district as well as this D.C.M. has. His note arrived not long ago from a Pacific state:

"I would like to introduce myself as the new district committee member from District #1. It was a very definite privilege to be chosen, having moved here only last January. I am a physician and surgeon, still practicing at the age of 65. This Fellowship has done so much for me, I know I'll always be in debt to it, so I am eager to repay as much as possible. Now I have the opportunity to devote myself wholeheartedly to A.A. service work," he writes.

"Enclosed are report forms on the G.S.R.'s in my area. They are a devoted group of people and my fine friends." — J. M.

G.S.R.'s will note that the 1978 General Service Conference will have a special presentation on the role of the G.S.R. (see p. 1). Please inform your delegate of your ideas on this.

## G.S.R. Corner

## Trustee Corner

### NONALCOHOLIC USES A.A. SPONSOR

When Gordon M. Patrick was named to head a local branch of the Ontario Addiction Research Foundation (A.R.F.) in 1958, a foundation board member gave him a tip: "Get yourself an A.A. sponsor."

"I did," this nonalcoholic trustee said recently, "and I really worked him hard. Still do!" Besides taking Gordon to many meetings, the Ontario A.A. man was always available to talk to the nonalcoholic about alcoholism and about A.A.

Eagerness to learn has been characteristic of Gordon's service to our Fellowship since he was elected to our General Service Board in 1975. He had attended the Summer School of Alcohol Studies at

*(continued on next page)*



### MODERN MESSAGE-CARRYING SUCCEEDS

According to the Los Angeles Central Office, TV and radio talk shows, spot radio announcements, and the TV announcements produced by G.S.O. are steadily exposing the local public to A.A.

One member believes these and other public information activities may be largely responsible for a two-thirds increase in southern California A.A. membership in the last eight years — from about 30,000 to some 50,000.

In one year, this central office filled 185 requests for A.A. speakers at schools. "We send young and vibrant recovering alcoholics to schools all the way from grammar grades to college," our correspondent notes. "One high school gathered 527 students into big groups. We covered them in one day with six speakers at two classes each. Now, many schools have their own alcoholism programs, and those who ask for help are directed to A.A."

"Industry in our area now has 110 alcoholism programs that try to send everyone to A.A. Court D.W.I. programs and seminars for clergymen, lawyers, doctors, and nurses spread the A.A. word, as does our cooperation with hospitals and prisons."

## Central Office Corner

## TRUSTEE CORNER

(continued)

Yale in 1958, and had also extensively studied Recovery, Inc., and Neurotics Anonymous, in both of which he has many friends.

After his A.R.F. tenure, Gordon was on the staff at Donwood Institute. Ten years ago, he became manager of the Ontario Government Employee Alcoholism Program. Late last year, he took early retirement from that position to set up his own consultant firm aiding industries with alcoholic employees.

He now chairs the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, after heading the board's Literature Committee one term. He also serves on the trustees' Policy Committee.

Gordon married his wife Margaret in Yorkshire, England, during World War II. They have three daughters and one grandchild, and now enjoy living in a rural retreat only a stone's throw from a stream.

Gordon is looking forward to testing some theories he has developed on the best ways to help certain troubled employees. We, too, look forward — to many more years of freely given service from this good nonalky friend of A.A.

## CONFERENCE CHARTER INSURES OUR SURVIVAL

Could a mass of individualistic drunks (who could *never* be told what to do!) actually find a way to act in unison?

Could A.A. *as a whole* voice its view on matters affecting the Fellowship's worldwide concerns?

Those were troubling questions when A.A. was young, only 25 years ago. They still puzzle newer members who have not had time to learn much beyond how to stay away from the first drink.

Co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob

and a handful of trustees (the majority, nonalcoholics) were in charge of A.A. "headquarters," as G.S.O. was then called. They had midwived the birth of the Big Book, had watched over A.A.'s earliest publicity like anxious parents of a newborn, and had overseen development of the tiny office that served as a central clearinghouse for information about A.A. But most A.A. members were totally unaware of all that.

Dr. Bob's mortal illness suddenly forced a new look at where A.A. was headed. When the oldtimers were gone, there would be no connection at all between the vast majority of A.A.'s and the tiny band of workers at G.S.O. The trustees and the G.S.O. staff would, in effect, be on their own, free to speak for A.A. and run its world services almost any way they pleased.

Article 3 of the Conference Charter (Article 2 was discussed in the last issue of *Box 4-5-9*) shows how that dilemma was finally solved. The solution has worked well ever since. The Fellowship has outlived its co-founders and almost all its original friends, but flourishes today as never before.

In addition, our enlarged world services are guided closely by the wishes of the membership as a whole. And members are generally much better informed today about A.A.'s worldwide efforts than ever before.

"The Conference will act for A.A. in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services," says the Charter, which was adopted by the Fellowship (all members who could get there) in St. Louis, Mo., at the Second International Convention, in 1955.

"And it will also be the vehicle by which the A.A. movement can express its view upon all matters of vital A.A. policy and all hazardous deviations from A.A. Tradition," the Charter continues.

"Delegates should be free to vote as their conscience dictates; they should also be free to decide what

questions should be taken to the group level, whether for information, discussion, or their own direct instruction," it adds.

But one looming doubt kept haunting the founding fathers even after they arrived at the idea of an annual representative Conference. Could delegates to such a gathering ever be elected without political brawls that would tear us apart in every community, setting A.A. friends against one another?

The solution, which now seems so obvious, was almost miraculously simple. It is called the Third Legacy election procedure, and is unique with A.A. It is described completely and very simply on pp. 31-32 of "The A.A. Service Manual."

Article 3 contains one additional safeguard. Not even the Conference can whimsically or impulsively change the basic A.A. program, because the last paragraph of this section reads:

"But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups." Those groups, according to a Conference resolution, "include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world!"

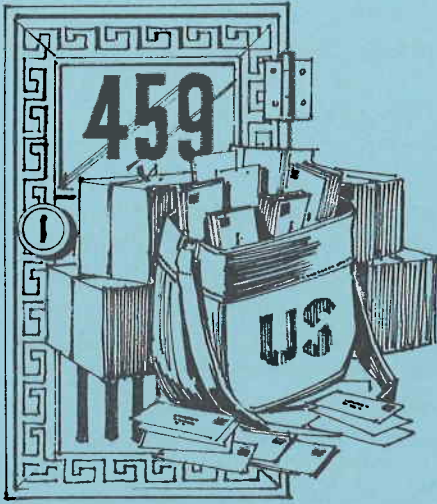
## IS THERE A DIFFERENT KIND OF A.A. IN ITALY?

From Naples, a U.S. Navy officer sober since 1971 writes:

"Attitudes toward alcoholism in Italy are quite different. For example, public drunkenness can result in a trip to a mental hospital (some serve alcohol to patients!), but alcoholism is not treated as a disease. Telephones are a luxury, so keeping in touch with fellow A.A.'s can mean extensive driving, at \$2.20 per gallon.

"Yet I have found A.A. the same all over — the warm fellowship has made it possible to maintain my continued sobriety."





## FROM THE G.S.O. MAILBAG

### Thanks, worldwide friends

Speaking of mail — we received many holiday greetings from A.A.'s everywhere. We thank each of you. Please take this as our expression of gratitude for your personal messages. Happy New Year!

### More help for deaf

Here's one person's report on what it feels like when you train yourself (sign language isn't learned overnight!) to help deaf alcoholics.

"Shortly after joining A.A., I found myself involved in a sign-language class, unsure precisely why, and not even knowing if I *could* learn the language. I also attended meetings of an A.A. group for the deaf. Through this involvement, I became more acutely aware of the severity of the problems faced by the deaf alcoholic.

"Finally, after months of wondering if I would ever use the skill, I received a call from our local intergroup office telling me of a deaf woman in a detox ward of a hospital in Brooklyn. Soon, I was face-to-face with Mary.

"Mary was a lovely lady from Nevada who had arrived in New York a month earlier to live with her sister. In her new surroundings, Mary's problems with alcohol soon became apparent, and she realized it was time to do something.

"As we spoke in sign language, Mary expressed her surprise to

learn that I was a hearing person, with the same kind of alcoholic problem, who had learned sign language for the sole purpose of sharing my experience, strength, and hope with people like her.

"I was overwhelmed with a feeling of sincerest gratitude and deepest personal satisfaction in my accomplishment — truly a gift of my sobriety. Mary, too, realized that something wonderful was happening.

"My experience with Mary is one I will long remember. It has served to reinforce my commitment to my own sobriety, and for this, I will be humbly and eternally grateful — one day at a time. Each day, I must remember that 'I am responsible.'" — *Ron H., New York, N.Y.*

### More 'mobile' meetings

Some housebound A.A.'s in Ohio now get the same extra measure of A.A. "love and service" that similarly handicapped members in Overland Park, Kans., have been receiving (see Aug.-Sept. '77 Box 4-5-9).

*Roy D., Oregon, Ohio*, writes us, "We are setting up a 'mobile' group. Volunteers will carry a regular meeting to members housebound for lengthy periods of time. The traveling unit will consist of a chairman, a leader, coffee and cookies, a few camp-type folding stools, and *no* collection plate!"

Bob T., Toledo, chairman of the area assembly, planned to set up a "study and review" committee to discuss the plan, recruit volunteers, and decide on necessary equipment and procedures.

Have any other groups, assemblies, or district or area committees tried this? Please let us know your experience, so we can share it with others.

### Gratitude from overseas

After reading the A.A.W.S. position paper on printing of A.A. "study guides" (Aug.-Sept. '77 Box 4-5-9), *Antonio G., Bogotá, Colombia*, writes us:

"As an A.A. and delegate to the General Service Conference in my country, I feel a marvelous sense of gratitude because our Association has at its service people who serenely protect it from the perils of the subduing mass of things and ideas in our times.

"Praised be our God for A.A. and for those who, grateful to the benefit provided by the program, protect it. Congratulations."

### Alive and well in sandbox

The stationery on which *Joe P.* writes us from *Saudi Arabia* is beautifully decorated with photographs and drawings of local scenes.

And the news is beautiful, too: six meetings a week (in Dhahran, Abqaiq, Ras Tanura, and Riyadh) and about 35 members, with more being referred from the medical facility at Dhahran.

So new arrival Larry B. was glad to learn A.A. is "alive and well" in the land of "The Big Sandbox."

"Lack of good telephone systems, language barrier, and transportation problems make personal contact difficult," writes Joe, who found A.A. in 1974 in Midland, Tex.

"But members do get together, and people that need our program often find us through a series of coincidences," he adds. "We think we've got the best A.A. groups in the world right here. If we didn't, we'd do something different to try to make it so." Joe signs his name in both English and Arabic (we *think!*).

## CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

(continued from p. 1)

where Lois will host a reception; regional lunches on Wednesday; a visit to G.S.O. and the Grapevine office; screening of public service TV spots about A.A.; reports from all trustee committees, the General Service Board, and the Grapevine; the delegates' dinner and meeting  
(continued on p. 6)

## CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

(continued from p. 5)

Tuesday evening; joint trustee-Conference committee meetings; Ask-It Basket sessions (so questions can be asked anonymously and answered publicly); and the closing brunch with farewell talks by retiring trustees Pete W., Oakville, Ont., and Stan W., Fairfax, Calif.

Their successors on the board will be chosen Wednesday, using the Third Legacy election procedure described in "The A.A. Service Manual."

John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., nonalcoholic chairman of the board, will be chairman of the Conference for the last time, since he relinquishes the chairmanship at the end of April. Bob P., chairman of General Services and vice-chairman of the Conference, will preside at most sessions, and Phyllis M. is Conference secretary.

Each Panel 28 delegate will give a report of service highlights in his or her area for the past year.

Full Conference sessions take up most of the time, though members spend hours in small workshops. The bulk of Conference labor is done by the Conference committees, to which delegates are assigned by random drawings.

The Conference committees are: Agenda, Conference Policy/Admissions, Conference Report and Charter, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Correctional Facilities, Finance, Grapevine, Literature, Public Information, Treatment Facilities, and Committee on Trustees.

Committee reports to the full Conference are approved or rejected by the entire Conference, and form the majority of the Conference actions.

Conference actions are advisory only. They are carried out by the board, G.S.O., A.A.W.S., and the Grapevine, but do not become laws governing any A.A. group or member (see "Our A.A. 'Legislature' Does Not Run A.A." in the Holiday '77 issue of *Box 4-5-9*).

On the last day, each delegate receives an "Early Bird" issue of the Conference edition of *Box 4-5-9*, summarizing the week's activities. In May, each group is mailed a copy of that edition, and a more extensive *Final Conference Report* is published in the summer, available to all members. It is confidential and includes complete financial data and rosters.

Others attending the Conference, but without voting or floor privileges, are nonalcoholic department heads and supervisors from G.S.O., observers from seven trustee committees, and the editor and production manager of the *Conference Report*.

## GV'S KITTY K. RETIRES

In Kitty K.'s years of service as circulation manager of the Grapevine, ending Dec. 31, 1977, she brought sincere dedication and A.A. love to a job that is strictly business on most magazines. Kitty, who celebrated her 25th A.A. birthday last May 1, came to the Grapevine in 1968, and the personal touch she gave to correspondence with subscribers leaves her with friends everywhere.

The GV's new circulation manager is Evelyn Demane (nonalcoholic), who worked closely with her predecessor for two years before Kitty's retirement.

## DELEGATES - PLEASE HELP

(continued from p. 1)

learning very quickly some astonishing facts, such as:

- You think A.A. grew fast in 1976? Wait till you see the '77 data! In 1976, 2,157 new groups started. In just the first nine months of 1977, 2,192 new groups were listed (far outbalancing the small number of groups that became inactive). Instead of about 540 new groups per quarter-year, as in 1976, we were learning of 730 new ones every three months

in 1977, an increase of about 35%.

- Our Records Department now processes 400 group information changes per week!

- Almost one-third of all U.S. and Canadian groups change G.S.R.'s within 90 days. This is very surprising, since G.S.R.'s have always been supposed to serve two-year terms. With such a turnover rate, no wonder it's difficult to keep in touch with groups!

It takes mammoth love and service to keep records on A.A. groups even approximately correct. No electronic brain, no matter how sophisticated, knows what's going on in your district unless you tell it.

Data system experts have a slogan, "GIGO." It means "Garbage In, Garbage Out." If you feed wrong information into a system, what it gives you back is wrong information. In other words, our directories will give a true picture of A.A. groups *only if correct information is fed into the system.*

We have an A.A. slogan, too. It says, "I am responsible."

## OTTAWA FORUM

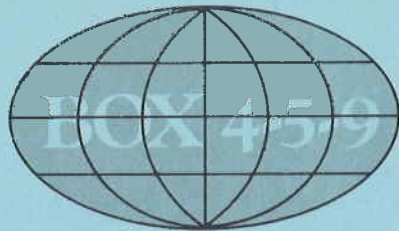
(continued from p. 1)

the General Service Conference suggested some of the chief topics for discussion, such as working with professionals and with institutions, and the use of films and filmstrips.

Other subjects explored in the no-holds-barred sharing session included group problems, G.S.R.'s, the World Service Meeting, service and structure, clubs, communications, Traditions, sponsorship, trustees, spiritual life, literature, finances, the Grapevine, public information, directories, central offices, dual problems, and tapes and cassettes.

Such gatherings are held only at the invitation of a region, and any A.A. interested is welcome to attend. There is no registration fee, but participants pay their own hotel and food expenses.





# THE BULLETIN BOARD

February-March 1978

ITEMS AND IDEAS ON AREA A.A. GATHERINGS - VIA G.S.O.

## FEBRUARY

- 3-5 - *Orlando, Florida*. Region 8 First Annual Conv. Write: S.O.A.R., P.O. Box 25, Casselberry, FL 32707
- 3-5 - *Hudson Hope, British Columbia, Canada*. Hudson Hope B.C. Roundup. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 425, Hudson Hope, B.C., Canada
- 3-5 - *North Hollywood, California*. Third Annual San Fernando Valley Conv. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 967, Van Nuys, CA 91408
- 4-5 - *Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada*. 27th Anniversary Rally. Write: Rally Chm., P.O. Box 3214, Courtenay, B.C., Canada
- 10-12 - *Fort Wayne, Indiana*. Fifth E. Cent. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 3512 Harvester Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46803
- 10-12 - *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Sixth Annual N. Shore Roundup. Write: Chm., 103 W. 3rd, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada
- 10-12 - *Christchurch, New Zealand*. New Zealand Nat. Conv. Write: Conv. Secy., P.O. Box 2062, Christchurch, New Zealand
- 17-19 - *El Paso, Texas*. 16th annual Jamboree. Write: Jamboree Secy., Box 1405, El Paso, TX 79948
- 17-19 - *Cleveland, Ohio*. 14th Annual Nat. A.A. Women's Conf. Write: Nat. Women's Conf., P.O. Box 16234, Cleveland, OH 44116
- 17-19 - *Seattle, Washington*. Fourth Annual Winter Holiday. Write: Chm., 1310 Thomas, Apt. 306, Seattle, WA 98102
- 18 - *King of Prussia, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia Intergroup's 38th Anniv. Dinner & Dance. Write: Intergroup Off., 2202 St. James St., Philadelphia, PA 19103

## A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 24-26 - *Virginia Beach, Virginia*. Second Annual Virginia Beach Oceanfront Conf. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 14024, Norfolk, VA 23518
- 24-26 - *Louisville, Kentucky*. 27th State Conf. Write: Host Comm., P.O. Box 20188, Louisville, KY 40220
- 24-26 - *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Intergroup Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 331, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada
- 24-26 - *Grove, Oklahoma*. First Annual Four-State Roundup. Write: Chm., Rte. 1, Box 139, Grove, OK 74344
- 25 - *Fort Colville, Washington*. Second Annual Intl. Fellowship Mtg. Write: Colville Fellowship Group, Box 14, Colville, WA 99114
- MARCH**
- 3-5 - *Sioux Falls, South Dakota*. 12th W. Cent. Reg. Conf. Write: Conf. Secy., 500-31st St., Apt. 4, Des Moines, IA 50312
- 3-5 - *Costa Mesa, California*. Sixth Annual Young People's Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 2713, Newport Beach, CA 92663
- 3-5 - *French Lick, Indiana*. 25th Annual Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., R.R. 2, Greencastle, IN 46135
- 10-12 - *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. 28th Annual Ont. Reg. Conf. Write: Conf. Comm., 272 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4R 1B2

- 10-12 - *Monterey, California*. Annual Spring Conf. N. Calif. Council of A.A. Write: Chm., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- 10-12 - *Corpus Christi, Texas*. 24th Annual Coastal Bend Jamboree. Write: Reg. Chm., P.O. Box 3201, Corpus Christi, TX 78404
- 10-12 - *Victoria, British Columbia*. 27th Annual Rally. Write: Rally Chm., P.O. Box 1, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 2M1
- 17-19 - *Fredonia, New York*. Annual W. N.Y. Spring Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 817, Derby, NY 14047
- 17-19 - *Westport, Connecticut*. Third Annual S. New England Conf. of Young People in A.A. Write: Conf. Chm., 148 Cross Hwy., Westport, CT 06880
- 24-27 - *Canberra, Australia*. 18th Australian Conv. Write: 1978 A.A. Nat. Conv. Comm., P.O. Box 600, Manuka, A.C.T., Australia 2603
- 31 - *Portland, Oregon*. 35th Anniv. of A.A. in Ore. Write: Portland A.A., 614 Dekum Bldg., Portland, OR 97204

## APRIL

- 2 - *Hyannis, Massachusetts*. Cape Cod Third Annual Roundup. Write: Cape Cod Roundup, 500 #30 Ocean St., Hyannis, MA 02601
- 7-9 - *Limerick City, Ireland*. 21st Annual Irish Conv. Write: Limerick Group Soc. Serv. Cent., Henry St., Limerick, Ireland
- 21-23 - *New York, New York*. S.E. N.Y. Conv. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 1850, G.P.O., New York, NY 10001
- 27-30 - *Charleston, South Carolina*. 31st S.C. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., P.O. Box 915, Folly Beach, SC 29439

## A.A. TRAVELERS: TO HELP YOU, WE NEED YOUR HELP

The 1977 *International A.A. Directory*, published late last year, is now ready to assist A.A. travelers.

But we're asking your help.

Like the 1975 edition, the new one shows all English-speaking groups outside the U.S. and Canada. But instead of two contacts for each city, the new one lists up to five wherever possible.

Also shown are addresses and phone numbers for all the general service and central offices overseas - the latest information we have.

That's where A.A. travelers can help. Please, please check the accuracy of all listings you use, and tell us of any recent changes. We are not always notified when a group or office moves.

Published every two years, this directory is an especially tough one to keep updated. When you send us corrections, we're better able to help the next traveler find A.A. away from home.

If you plan your trip far enough ahead, the *A.A. International Directory* can be mailed to you from G.S.O. upon your request. The price is 75¢. It is confidential, available only to A.A.'s.

## CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

*February*: "The Bill W. - Yale Correspondence" can start a discussion of anonymity and "principles before personalities"; "Why Me?" focuses on self-pity and its antidote - gratitude; "Easy Does It" examines application - and misapplication - of this slogan.

*March*: A newcomers section suggests sharing views on spiritual awakening, resentment and slips, getting rid of old ideas, the importance of attending meetings, and the effect of sobriety on family relationships.