

1982—Year of Changes; Gordon Patrick Set to Chair Board of Trustees

"The times, they are a-changin'," the folk song tells us, and change was reflected in A.A.'s 32nd General Service Conference (United States/Canada), meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, April 18-24, 1982. New ways of districting to help communication in a growing Fellowship, the possibility of moving the Conference locale to counter rising costs, and literature proposals designed to meet trends in A.A. membership came to the Conference floor.

One change within A.A. was the announcement that Gordon Patrick, nonalcoholic (Class A) trustee, will succeed Dr. Milton Maxwell as chairperson of the General Service Board. (Milton, who steps down at the close of the Conference, will continue to serve as a chairperson emeritus.) Gordon, a member of the board since 1975, hails from Lyndhurst, Ont., where he is senior consultant with a management consulting firm. Active for many years in the alcoholism field, he is a longtime friend of A.A.

The overall Conference theme was "The Traditions—Our Way of Unity." George D., Pacific regional trustee, set the tone in the keynote address: "It does seem . . . that A.A. today is well aware of and observant of the Traditions, and that we have a remarkable degree of worldwide unity in the face of tremendous growth and unforeseen pressures. And as long as the vast majority of us continue to truly honor the Traditions, disunity is impossible."

Each day demonstrated A.A.'s ability to achieve unity in the midst of diverse needs and sometimes conflicting



Ready to turn the gavel over to Gordon Patrick (right), Milton Maxwell said of his successor, "He has a real feel for the Fellowship." Grateful A.A.'s have found that to be true of Milton as well during his 11 years on the board, four of them as its chairperson. (Both are nonalcoholics.)

opinions. An opening sharing session Sunday afternoon, along with the dinner and inspirational A.A. meeting that night, gave the 130 Conference members a chance to get to know one another informally. Monday morning, the work began, with committee meetings, presentation/discussions, workshops, reports, Ask-It Basket sessions, a "What's on Your Mind?" sharing session—all topped off by the closing brunch Saturday morning. On that occasion each year, trustees rotating off the board say their farewells.

The nuts-and-bolts business of the Conference took place, of course, in committee meetings and in the subsequent floor discussion and voting on committee recommendations. Some of the resulting Advisory Actions follow, in condensed form. (A complete list will appear in the *Final Conference Report*.)

Conference theme

The Traditions—Our Way of Unity

1982 Conference Advisory Actions

Agenda — that the 1983 Conference theme be one of the following: "Group Responsibilities in Service — Back to Basics"; "The A.A. Member — Service, Privileges and Responsibilities"; "Anonymity — Our Spiritual Foundation." That the following be presentations at the 1983 Conference: "How Is the A.A. Member's Voice Heard at the General Service Conference?"; "The Member, the Group, and Their Money"; and "Sponsorship."

Cooperation With the Professional Community — that a draft for a new pamphlet, "A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession," be approved, replacing "A.A. and the Medical Profession."

Correctional Facilities — that the statement "A.A. does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials" be added to "Memo to an Inmate" and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." That the pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate" continue to be published.

Finance — that a new concept for a pamphlet to replace the "60-30-10" piece be considered.

Grapevine — that the prices of miscellaneous items be increased as needed.

Literature — that we develop a draft of a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic to be considered by next year's Conference.

Policy/Admissions — that each Conference committee strive to make recommendations to the Conference at the policy level.

Public Information — approved a distribution method for two additional TV public service spots.

Report and Charter — that the modifications made by the 1978 Conference to Article 5 of the Conference Charter be reaffirmed.

Treatment Facilities — that, in light of recent statistics showing the greater influx of members from treatment facilities, a bulletin directed primarily to treatment facilities committees be instituted.

Trustee Choices Answer An Anonymous Question

The Conference selected three new regional trustees at its Wednesday-afternoon session.

In the Eastern Canada Region, Ken D. of Moncton, N.B., will step into the shoes of rotating Fern I. In the Pacific Region of the U.S., Natalie S. of Bellevue, Wash., was chosen to succeed George D. Both Ken and Natalie will serve full four-year terms.

In the West Central Region, Joan U. of Aurora, S.Dak., will serve the remaining two years of the term of Bud G., who died suddenly in December 1981.

Like most Class B (alcoholic) trustees, all three newcomers to the board have strong backgrounds in A.A. service. By coincidence, all three were delegates to the 1976 General Service Conference.

In the morning session on election day, an unsigned question slipped into the Ask-It Basket had read, "Why aren't there more women on the board of trustees?" In the afternoon, George D. commented, "Whoever asked that question got a *very* quick answer."



Estimates of Groups and Members— Spring 1982

	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Members</u>
United States	24,293	455,505
Canada	3,781	64,244
Overseas	17,650 ¹	354,465 ¹
Treatment facilities	935 ²	24,310 ²
Correctional facilities	1,138 ²	38,153 ²
Lone Members		493
Internationalists		535
	<u>47,797</u>	<u>937,705</u>

1. A.A. activity was reported in 108 overseas countries. Among them, 42 supplied no estimates of groups and members; estimates for figures there were obtained by taking an average among 60 countries that did respond (six others responding—the largest—were excluded).

2. U.S. and Canada only.

The estimated group counts in the U.S. and Canada include only those that ask to be listed at G.S.O.; thousands do not.

Among listed groups in the U.S. and Canada, many do not report membership figures. For each nonreporting group, an estimate of membership is arrived at by taking an average among reporting groups within the Conference area concerned. Even among reporting groups, membership figures include only those now active and attending meetings; there is no way to count sober members who no longer have a home group.

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Reports From G.S.O., the General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

General Service Board

Outgoing chairperson sees growing strength for A.A.

Trustees' report: This will be my last report to you as chairperson. I am grateful for the trust and warm support of my fellow trustees and for the benefit of Dr. Jack's example. Gordon has served the board well and understands A.A. I am sure he will do a fine job for us.

Sales of A.A. literature topped the previous year by 11.5%—an indication of A.A. growth. Another indication: About 3,500 new groups in the U.S. and Canada were added to G.S.O. records, for a net increase of about 2,000. Still, a large percentage of groups are not listed at G.S.O.—a situation that I hope will improve.

In my view, Regional Forums have been one of the board's most worthwhile endeavors. Very few of the nearly 200 service-minded people who showed up at the mini-forum in Billings, Mont., had ever had the opportunity to meet a trustee or a staff member before. All Forums provide extra personal and accurate communication.

A.A. continues to grow in strength overseas. At the First European Service Meeting, a dramatic strengthening of the service structure in many of the participating countries was evident.

The board approved Montreal, Que., as the 1985 International Convention site.

The entire year since the 1981 Conference has been occupied with the construction and refurbishing at G.S.O. and the Grapevine, as recommended by the 1980 Conference. Staffs and employees deserve great credit for handling a record volume of service work under difficult conditions.

The board has suffered the tragic loss of two regional trustees since we last met: LaVelle C., on Oct. 14, and Bud G., on Dec. 8. Both will be sorely missed.

Milton A. Maxwell, Ph.D.
(nonalcoholic), chairperson

A.A. World Services, Inc.

A.A. publishing shows vigor in spite of rising costs

Directors' report: Our net publishing income was \$669,286 in 1981. Income achieved its highest level in 1979 at \$849,742. The decline is caused partly by the 6% bulk discount made available in 1980. Our budget for net publishing income in 1982 is \$662,300, with increased costs roughly offsetting increased sales.

The net overall income of G.S.O., excluding major nonrecurring expense items, was \$284,034 in 1981 and is budgeted to decline to \$173,200 in 1982. This overall net is the publishing net less an amount needed to make up a deficit in group contributions' coverage of group services. However, an encouraging result in 1981 was the 20% increase in group contributions over 1980, to \$1,564,600.

We authorized transfer of funds to the General Service Board to cover 1980 operating deficits (\$703,504).

Some actions we took during 1981:

- We approved an additional 5% discount on sales of books, in amounts of 2,000 or more, to non-A.A. purchasers. Two retailers order in such quantities, relieving us of distribution costs for small orders.
- Approved prices for new publications and service material, gratis distribution for some, and a new design for *Box 4-5-9*.
- At a meeting in Quebec, agreed to assume the cost of translating and producing service materials for French-speaking groups in Canada.
- Reviewed pricing of Spanish literature.
- Granted 67 requests to reprint and six requests to tape/videotape our literature; denied three to reprint and one to tape.

Difficulties in dealing with our publishing operation in Central America led us to consider turning it over to the Central American Literature Committee.

In spite of delays in the renovation project at G.S.O. and the Grapevine, the job now needs only finishing touches.

John B., chairperson

Archives

Remodeling gives historical treasures a new home

Trustees' committee: The proliferation of archival centers within the A.A. world has made our recently fashioned newsletter, *Markings: Your Archives Interchange*, a best-seller, with over 700 issues now being mailed. Three issues a year are planned.

Many photos of our co-founders were added to our collection, Lois W. being chief donor. Our efforts to preserve significant press clippings continue; 15 scrapbooks have been completed, covering newspaper stories on A.A. from 1939 through 1960.

Nell Wing's last report to a Conference as A.A.'s archivist follows; she has decided to retire at the end of the year. We thank Nell for sharing her life with us in 35 years of service to A.A. and wish her a long, joy-filled retirement. Frank M. will become the archivist when Nell retires.

Fernand I., chairperson



After all her years of invaluable service, can't we dub Nell Wing an honorary alcoholic?

Staff report: We are busy establishing our new, permanent home on the fifth floor (joining our good neighbor, the Grapevine).

Our scrapbooks have been microfilmed for protection. We are exploring the feasibility of producing one scrapbook incorporating the "best of the scrapbooks," perhaps making reproductions of it available to local archival centers.

Much time has been given to assisting the author of the new Bill W. biography: providing information and photos, locating new material, and offering reference sources, as well as reviewing the first two drafts of the manuscript.

In the contest to name our newsletter, we received 96 suggestions, which were narrowed down to two. Since none of us could decide between them, both were chosen! The winners were Herb M. for *Markings* and Tom P. (New Zealand archives) for *Archives Interchange*.

Nell Wing (nonalcoholic), archivist

Conference

Suggestions focus on ideas for first-year delegates

Trustees' committee: We reviewed suggested 1982 Conference themes and sent our recommendation to the Conference Agenda Committee for final selection.

Results of the 1982 post-Conference sharing session and Conference questionnaire were reviewed:

• Many Conference members wanted more small meetings and, for new members, advance explanation of the week's events.

• Some expressed interest in receiving all Conference committee agendas and background material. The trustees' committee felt this action would undermine the committee system but we should continue to supply background on agenda items of interest to all Conference members.

• For new delegates, clarify the fact that a committee recommendation approved by the Conference body becomes a Conference Advisory Action.

The manager of Great Britain's G.S.O. wrote us that the English-Speaking Intergroup of Continental Europe had been included in their Conference. That intergroup had requested acceptance by our Conference, and the request was tabled to await Great Britain's decision.

Topics submitted for Conference consideration were reviewed, discussed, and referred to the appropriate Conference committee, presentation/discussion, workshop, or Ask-It Basket session. A list of Conference members to participate in the various sessions was reviewed and accepted.

Dick D., chairperson

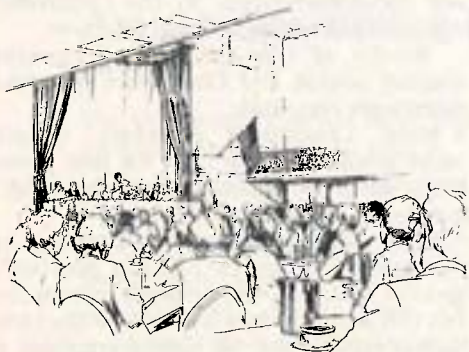
Staff report: The Conference coordinator serves as focal point for all Conference members and all members of area general service committees. We now have on our mailing list: 789 past delegates, 96 area committee chairpersons, 89 area secretaries, 78 area treasurers, 12 area secretary/treasurers.

We receive minutes of most area assemblies and committee meetings. Circulated among the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, they help us stay in touch with U.S./Canada A.A. activities.

Delegates and other A.A.'s in the service structure are encouraged to send in Conference agenda suggestions, which are passed on to the trustees' Conference Committee and the Conference Agenda Committee for approval, then shared in the *Quarterly Report*, Box 4-5-9, and the preliminary agenda mailed to delegates in January.

The Conference coordinator collects items for the theme and agenda; handles correspondence with delegates in preparation for the Conference; works with the general manager, the office manager, and the staff in planning and coordinating the Conference; schedules and routes reports and other material for Conference Manuals, Early Bird Box 4-5-9, and the *Final Conference Report*; reviews communications from area committees and district committee members.

Betty L.



Off to a good start: The Conference opening dinner is always followed by an A.A. meeting.

Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community

'Our friends' in the field become even friendlier

Trustees' committee: Professionals show increasing interest in receiving A.A. literature and presentations about A.A.; local and national officials give us fine support. Acceptance of A.A. by the professional community has never been greater, and improvement recently has been dramatic.

Responding to this increasing interest, the committee recommended the purchase of two additional Professional Exhibits for professional conventions. The C.P.C. Workbook was completed and sent to all committee chairpersons and delegates. We recommended its translation into French and Spanish.

After working all year on a pamphlet to replace "A.A. and the Medical Profession," we will present the final draft on "A.A. as a resource for the medical profession" to the Conference C.P.C. Committee for its consideration. The new emphasis is less on information about A.A. than on techniques some professionals use to get patients involved in A.A.

We are reviewing the *About A.A.* bulletin, trying to make it more responsive to professionals' needs; the *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*, to include more material that would help the membership carry the message to the professional community.

William Flynn, M.D.
(nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report: Staff or members of the C.P.C. Committee have attended or participated in ten gatherings of professional groups since the 1981 Conference.

Third-year students from Cornell University School of Medicine continue to visit G.S.O. every few months.

Our Professional Exhibit was shown at 24 meetings of national organizations in 1981, resulting in over 2,000 requests for additional information.

As recommended by the 1981 Conference, the pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community" was reinstated, and the pamphlet "A.A. and Occupational Alcoholism Programs" was published.

With over 100 C.P.C. committees on the area, district, and intergroup levels, this form of Twelfth Step work is taking off.

Helen T.

Correctional Facilities

Wider participation needed in helping A.A. inmates

Trustees' committee: Guidelines were developed for "outside" correspondents on

the Institutions Correspondence Service and were mailed to all A.A.'s on the list (over 350). They will be printed in a future *Institutions Bulletin* and shared with institutions committees. After an article in Box 4-5-9 requested more volunteers to participate in that service, we received the names of about 100.

We discussed inmates' corresponding with outside A.A.'s from other states, and felt it would be more helpful if they developed ties with A.A.'s in their own states.

The committee consensus was that the *Institutions Bulletin* should remain intact, rather than being divided into two bulletins, Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities.

We recommended to the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities that we add the statement "A.A. does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, or court officials" to the pamphlets "Memo to an Inmate" and "If Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

Ways of reaching more institutions where there are no A.A. groups were discussed and referred to the Conference committee. Ways of reaching female alcoholic inmates were discussed; we may write to a number of women's prisons.

W. J. Estelle, Jr. (nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report: There are now 1,138 A.A. groups in correctional facilities; 150 institutions committees serve them.

We list A.A. groups meeting in correctional facilities in G.S.O. records and send each a Group Handbook, the Big Book, and other complimentary literature. They also get our *Directory of A.A. Groups in Correctional Facilities*, Box 4-5-9 bimonthly, and the *Institutions Bulletin* three times yearly.

Discount packages of A.A. literature (English and Spanish) are available to "inside" groups and to institutions committees. The Grapevine gives us back issues, which we pass along to groups. Films and filmstrips are lent free to inside groups.

The staff member writes about 500 letters a month. When an inmate is to be released, she informs the nearest institutions committee or intergroup, so the inmate will be met on that crucial first day out.

Our mail indicates a need for more literature, Grapevines, sponsors, outside speakers, and correspondents.

Susan D.

Finance

Group contributions can keep literature prices down

Trustees' committee: Not only did the groups help to pull us out of a hole in 1980, but this effort continued through 1981, making it one of the best contribution years in A.A. history—even ahead of our own budget predictions! However, this support

still comes from only a little more than half of the groups. We must all do what we can to encourage noncontributing groups to participate in the support of their G.S.O., thereby helping to keep literature prices at the current modest level.

Contributions from groups and members totaled \$1,564,600 for 1981—an increase of \$256,000, 19.6% over 1980; we had budgeted for an 8% increase. Net sales, after discounts to groups of \$191,500, totaled \$4,252,500—11% over 1980. Total G.S.O. income—publishing gross profit, contributions, and interest generated by cash flow—was over 1980 by \$378,500, and 2% over budget.

Adjusting for nonrecurring items—such as construction and refurbishing expenses, cost of upgrading our phone system, and net 1980 Convention expense—increases in G.S.O. operating expenses were \$395,600 (13%) over 1980 and less than 1% over budget. Construction and refurbishing expenses are pretty much on target.

The 1982 G.S.O. budget has been reviewed and approved by the committee. Both income and expenses are projected to reflect modest increases. The Grapevine budget, also reviewed, reflects additional income (as a result of subscription increases) and lower cost and expenses (mainly as a result of improved price-shopping and printing methods).

*Frank Smeal (nonalcoholic),
chairperson, board treasurer*

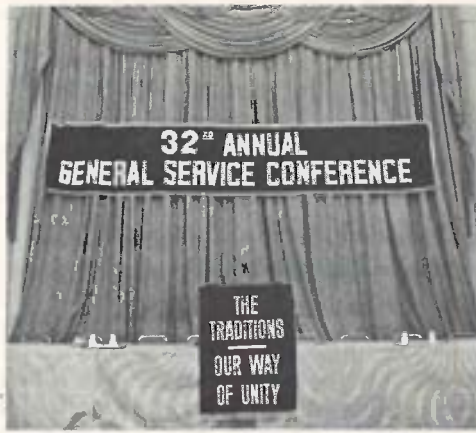
General Sharing Session

Our 'town meeting' looks at three serious group concerns

Trustees' report: In July, our discussion topic was "A.A. Has No Opinion on Outside Issues, e.g., Giving Advice on Prescribed Medication." Stories were related regarding A.A.'s who went off prescribed medications as a result of A.A. pressure and suffered grave consequences. The consensus was that we are not doctors and should never tell anyone to stop taking prescribed medication. Some A.A. literature suggests that we have no opinion on this subject; other pieces do express opinions. It was suggested that our literature be reviewed from this standpoint.

In October, the topic was "How Can We Make A.A. Meetings More Attractive to Newcomers?" Many members have noted the "revolving door" phenomenon, and recent P.I. surveys indicate a high dropout rate in the first months. When groups were smaller and there were fewer newcomers, a newcomer was likely to be given personal attention. Today, the new person may often go unnoticed. Suggestions were shared:

- *All meetings*—A group breaks into smaller components, at least for part of the meeting, so newcomers can be recognized and can share.



- *Beginners meetings*—A round robin gives newcomers a chance to briefly ventilate fears, the day's experiences, or questions about A.A. These meetings should stick to the basics of getting sober and avoid becoming general therapy sessions.

- *Large meetings*—Newcomers might be asked to identify themselves, making it clear that the intention is not to embarrass them but to ensure that group members can get to know them after the meeting. Place greeters at the door and the literature table.

In January, our focus was on the Fifth Tradition—our "primary purpose." Concern was expressed about trends in discussion meetings: too much focus on current problems of long-sober A.A.'s; too much group therapy, instead of "what happened"—how we got sober, how we use the Steps to stay sober. Some A.A.'s may expect too much of meetings and should look for help with day-to-day problems through one-to-one sharing and working with sponsors.

On the subject of special-interest groups, it was said that the message may be better carried to suffering alcoholics in a group where they can more easily identify and feel safe—particularly when new. Perhaps we should be less concerned whether such groups observe the Fifth Tradition and ask instead whether *all* groups truly observe the spirit of the Third, making all alcoholics feel accepted and comfortable.

George D., chairperson

Group correspondence

Volume of letters to G.S.O. calls for concerted effort

Staff report: Because of the heavy workload of some staff assignments, a regional correspondence function has developed. The regional correspondent replies to letters on general group problems and concerns from the S.E. and S.W. U.S., two of our larger regions.

Some group concerns: profanity at A.A. meetings; reading from non-A.A. literature

at group meetings; dually addicted members who share little, if any, of their alcohol experience at A.A. meetings; attendance by non-A.A.'s at closed meetings; nonsmoking A.A. meetings.

The staff is divided into units, so there is always full coverage of service assignments. The regional correspondent works closely with staff members in the unit composed of the Loners/Internationalists, Regional Forums/*Box 4-5-9*, and overseas assignments. She also frees other staff members for work on special projects by assisting them with regional correspondence.

June R.

Group services coordinator

New aid now provided for the hearing-impaired

Staff report: This coordinator supervises production of all service material, updating of Guidelines and listings, Group Handbooks, literature displays, G.S.R. Kits, and other material. She also works with other staff members on the literature and Conference assignments.

New groups in the U.S. and Canada receive a Group Handbook, a G.S.R. Kit, complimentary literature, *Box 4-5-9*, and the appropriate A.A. directory.

It is our intention to provide identical services to all A.A. groups within our structure. We list more than 1,000 French-speaking and 300 Spanish-speaking groups, and our handbook and *Box 4-5-9* are available in those languages. The G.S.R. Kit is available in French, and we plan to develop a Spanish kit when the translation of "The A.A. Service Manual" is completed.

Service material is available on request—for example, lists of A.A. members who wish to exchange tapes, armed service groups, deaf groups. We have suggestions for carrying the A.A. message to hearing-impaired alcoholics, and the service coordinator worked with a committee to arrange the purchase of a teletypewriter to communicate with such alcoholics.

Beth K.

International

More service structures extend the reach of A.A.

Trustees' committee: In 1981, we recommended that G.S.O. expand its use of translation services, to be of maximum help to alcoholics writing from overseas.

Findings of A.A. membership surveys from six countries—Belgium, New Zealand, England, Finland, France, Brazil—are being analyzed, and we heard progress reports from the G.S.O. Seventh World Service Meeting Planning Committee.

Because of the current political situation in Saudi Arabia, the committee recognized that we can do little "officially" to help A.A. groups get information about their meetings to the general public there.

We heard reports on the Second Ibero-American Service Meeting, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and on the First European Service Meeting, in Frankfurt, West Germany.

The committee recommended that when we update our *International A.A. Directory*, we list the English-Speaking Intergroup of Continental Europe in the section titled "Special International Groups."

Stan C., chairperson



This year, displays showing G.S.O. services were presented in a new fold-out format, easy to transport.

International Convention/ A.A. Regional Forums

Plans for 1985 emerge; Forums start fourth round

Trustees' committee:

International Convention—Our Ad Hoc Committee, after its site-inspection trip to Montreal, reported that hotel and meeting facilities are adequate. Big Meetings will be held at the Olympic Stadium, so huge that we will probably use a backdrop to divide it. Acoustics and visibility are good; giant TV screens could show the stage.

Montreal has 11,500 hotel rooms within two miles of the Palais des Congrès (Convention Center), which will be completed this year, with meeting rooms that seat from 80 to 3,000 and a large kitchen that can produce meals for 5,000. In addition, the center is in the heart of Montreal's restaurant district.

Metro (subway) trains are clean, fast, and efficient, stopping at major hotels, the stadium, and the Convention Center.

The committee recommended to the board that Montreal be approved as 1985 Convention site and appointed past delegate Denis L. (S.W. Que.) as Host Committee chairperson.

Regional Forums—Since the 1981 Conference, four regions have hosted Forums: N.E., in Danvers, Mass.; E. Cent., Akron,

Ohio; S.W., Kansas City, Mo.; E. Canada, Montreal, Que. Average attendance ran between 250 and 300.

Some topics often discussed were dually addicted members, special groups, the A.A. group and self-support, anonymity, and how to carry the service message.

The *Box 4-5-9* calendar keeps the Fellowship informed of upcoming Forums.

Kenneth H. Williams, M.D.
(nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report:

Regional Forums—They are held on the invitation of the region. The fourth round began in Montreal. Regional trustees and the region's delegates decide on location and help with planning. Board personnel attending have included: trustees, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members, and A.A.W.S. and GV directors. Hotel, meal, and travel expenses of personnel are paid by the board; those of region service people, by the individuals or the area committee.

The coordinator plans Forums with the regional trustee, delegates, and G.S.O. general manager; makes arrangements with the host-city contact, hotel, and host city; arranges travel and hotels for board personnel; handles mailings to delegates (asking for suggestions), G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, area committee officers, past/present delegates and trustees, and central offices; and is responsible for displays of literature and service material.

Any member wishing to attend may request a registration/reservation form.
Lyla B.

Internationalists, Loners, LIMs

Worldwide growth continues; use of tapes increases

Staff report: Internationalists (seagoing A.A.'s) have continued to grow in numbers. There are about 500 Internationalists and Port Contacts, with 38 Internationalists groups aboard ships or in ports.

Loners are also increasing; the latest count is about 500, in 98 countries. As the name implies, Loners are A.A.'s unable to attend meetings because there are no A.A. groups nearby. Until a group is started, Loners stay sober reading A.A. literature and sharing via correspondence. The use of tapes among Loners has increased.

LIMs are A.A.'s housebound or physically handicapped. More than 50 correspond with other LIMs, Loners, and Loner Sponsors.

Each new Internationalist, Loner or LIM receives literature, lists of Internationalists, Loners, and LIMs, the alternating bimonthly bulletins *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* and *Box 4-5-9*, and the appropriate A.A. directory.

A large number of A.A.'s serve as Loner Sponsors; they share their experience,

strength, hope, and group activities with Loners, LIMs, and Internationalists.

Lois F.

Literature

'Twelve and Twelve' taped; Convention item considered

Trustees' committee: Since the 1981 Conference, we have taken these measures:

- Approved a "translation" of the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to A.A." for hearing-impaired alcoholics. The National Association for the Deaf helped in preparation.
 - Approved production of a tape cassette of "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" for sale and distribution by A.A.W.S.
 - Reviewed the manuscript of Bill W.'s biography; recommended that it be reviewed again in July after further editing.
 - On 1981 Conference recommendation, formed a subcommittee to review literature and report whether any should be discontinued or consolidated.
 - Decided not to support a 1977 committee recommendation that a history of A.A.'s first 50 years be published for the 1985 Convention; a shorter publication simply commemorating those years would be more appropriate.
 - Considered a suggestion that a series of A.A. meetings be videotaped for cable TV; after expressing concern over preserving anonymity, referred the suggestion to the P.I. Committee.
 - Considered a possible filmstrip on central/intergroup offices; referred it to the Conference Literature Committee.
- Michael Alexander (nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report: This assignment involves preparation, production, editorial supervision, and distribution of publications and audiovisual materials, and working closely with the group services coordinator on service material.

We have eight periodical bulletins with a combined circulation of 84,780, as follows: *Box 4-5-9* (English), 44,111; *Box 4-5-9* (French), 2,555 (translated and printed by the French Literature Service in Montreal, in cooperation with this office); *Box 4-5-9* (Spanish), 11,852; *Loners-Internationalists Meeting*, 2,614; *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*, 3,542; *Institutions Bulletin*, 5,630; *Quarterly Report*, 4,397; *About A.A.*, 10,079.

The coordinator works with editors on updating and revising old pamphlets and with writers, artists, editors, and printers in preparing new pamphlets, displays, leaflets, and other service materials, including audiovisual.

He corresponds with A.A. groups and individuals requesting specific information about our literature and sends a semiannual letter to all central/intergroup offices and literature distribution centers to in-

form them of new A.A. literature, periodicals, and audiovisual materials.

Curtis M.

Nominating

Loss of two trustees means decisions on vacancies

Trustees' committee: We took the following actions during the past year:

- Discussed expiration dates of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors' terms; recommended measures to make the dates uniform on the two boards.
- After LaVelle C.'s death, discussed filling the vacancy of S.W. regional trustee and recommended to the board that it would not be feasible or fair to the region or the person selected to fill the vacancy for one year.
- Reviewed and approved as eligible for election all candidates for Pac. and E. Canada regional trustees, with an exception based on procedure.
- Approved candidates for W. Cent. regional trustee, after reviewing résumés sent by Feb. 15 (late deadline established because of Bud G.'s death in December).
- Reviewed résumés of Class A trustee candidates; agreed to proceed cautiously, allowing time to obtain more information about them and additional candidates.
- Unanimously recommended that Gordon Patrick be elected as board chairperson following Milton Maxwell's retirement at the end of the Conference; that Milton be invited to serve as a chairperson emeritus.
- Reviewed and recommended slates of trustees, board officers, and A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors for election at the board's April meeting, following presentation to the Conference for disapproval, if any.
- After conferring with Canadian delegates on the method of electing the trustee-at-large/Canada, agreed that it remain as recommended in "The A.A. Service Manual."

George D., chairperson

Overseas, World Service Meeting

It's a W.S.M. year—with still another country added

Staff report:

Overseas—The staff member on this assignment corresponds with 27 G.S.O.'s and literature distribution centers outside the U.S. and Canada. Venezuela A.A.'s tell us that a G.S.O. is being organized there.

Some 1981 highlights: Since the first printing (2,000 copies) of the Big Book in Japanese is nearly sold out, Japan's G.S.O. plans a second, under the same financial arrangement with A.A.W.S.; the first Fel-

lowship Business Conference of A.A. in West Germany took place; the Big Book has been translated into Thai; a G.S.O. staff member attended the Second Ibero-American Meeting; our general manager attended the First European Service Meeting.

To provide better service for Spanish-speaking groups in the U.S./Canada, and to generally help out in Spanish-speaking matters, we have hired a part-time Spanish-speaking translator/editor.

World Service Meeting—The W.S.M. meets biennially, at locations alternating between the U.S. and overseas. The Seventh will be held Oct. 14-18, 1982, in San Juan Del Rio, Mexico. As a result of a Sixth W.S.M. recommendation, simultaneous translation in Spanish and English will be provided for general sessions. Now that Italy has a national A.A. structure, it will be represented for the first time. A final report on the Meeting will be available.

Phyllis M.

Public Information

New approaches taken toward several minority groups

Trustees' committee:

Projects completed—A press release on the results of the 1980 membership survey was mailed to major newspapers and TV/radio news directors. "The A.A. Member" pamphlet and tabletop display were updated to reflect that survey, and a poster version was produced, as recommended by the 1981 Conference P.I. Committee.

Our feature story about the Big Book, announcing distribution of 3,000,000 copies, was sent to book-review editors of major newspapers and periodicals.

All 1,400 radio stations requesting A.A. spots had received them by November.

To help reach minority groups, suggestions by local committees were published in the *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*; a feature story was sent to 300 periodicals with a primarily black readership (about 100 requested further information); a story about A.A. help for older alcoholics was submitted to the publication of the American Association of Retired Persons.

The new edition of "Understanding Anonymity" and the Spanish "A Message to Teenagers" became available.

Projects in progress—We are developing a feature story about A.A. help for young people. All our feature stories are being translated into Spanish. Two TV public service announcements produced and approved in 1980 will be released in 1982; our suggested distribution method awaits Conference approval. We have explored the possibility of arranging a network interview with a Class A trustee, who might discuss A.A. and Big Book distribution.

Projects for the future—A press release will

introduce the new chairperson of the General Service Board, following the Conference. We are discussing a release on the 1982 World Service Meeting.

Jacquelyn S., chairperson

Staff report: In 1981, we answered over 10,000 requests for information about A.A. We processed about 500 press clippings a month; many fine articles on A.A. result from work done by more than 540 local P.I. committees. Each month, we sent about 40 gratitude letters to publications that ran good coverage of A.A. We followed up on about ten anonymity breaks monthly.

We distributed 350 TV public service announcements and 1,970 radio spots. More than 200 "A.A. Member" displays were sent with labels and pamphlets for use at health fairs and local, county, and state meetings.

Special discount packages of A.A. literature are offered to local committees. Popular items, free in quantity, are the flyers "A.A. at a Glance" (410,400 distributed in 1981) and "A Message to Teenagers" (535,100).

Vincina M.

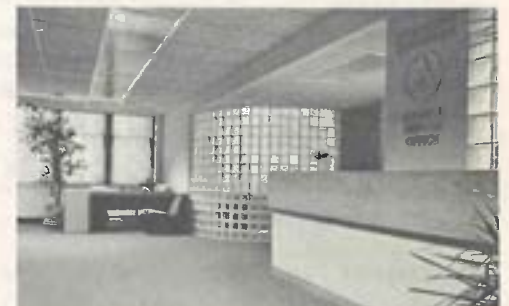
Staff coordinator

G.S.O. tours benefit both visitors and staff members

Staff report: The 11 A.A.'s who are G.S.O. staff members all have specific assignments; some involve responsibility for preparing special service bulletins. The basic responsibility is to answer correspondence. During 1981, over 20,000 letters were answered individually. The coordinator makes sure mail is answered promptly during vacations, sickness, absences, or a staff member's involvement with a special project. Most staff members answer A.A. group mail from a specific region.

Invitations to conventions, assemblies, and get-togethers give the staff opportunities to meet A.A.'s all over the U.S. and Canada, inform them about G.S.O. services, and most important, gain information on local activities that can be shared with other groups.

In 1981, more than 1,450 visitors from all over the world came to G.S.O. Their



Put yourself in this picture. G.S.O.'s new reception room offers visiting A.A.'s a serene welcome

tours through the various G.S.O. and Grapevine departments give us a wonderful chance to explain our work and to learn about A.A. activities in each visitor's hometown or country.

Staff meetings are held once a week, and the staff coordinator takes the minutes.
Sarah P.

Treatment Facilities

Newcomers from treatment centers present a challenge

Trustees' committee: A subcommittee was appointed to prepare a statement reflecting the importance of A.A. members' not giving advice on the use of prescribed

medications. We concluded that update and revision of the pamphlets "The A.A. Member and Drug Abuse" and "Problems Other Than Alcohol" are in order.

The six points to define a group, as well as clarification of the difference between groups and meetings, have been added to the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Centers."

The committee suggested exploring the mailing of multiple copies of the Guidelines For A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field to people not on the present list, such as directors of treatment centers.
Gordon Patrick (nonalcoholic), chairperson

Staff report: G.S.O. has prepared service material sharing how some areas cope with the influx of new alcoholics from treatment centers. We will obtain added experience from a 1982 Conference presentation/dis-

cussion and workshop, both titled "How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Treatment Facilities."

Correspondence indicates that more and more new regular A.A. groups simply use meeting space in treatment centers and are open to A.A.'s in the community.

G.S.O. provides the following services to those in treatment facilities: correspondence with the staff member on this assignment; a list of "outside" A.A.'s wishing to correspond with confined members; for new groups, the treatment facilities handbook and complimentary literature; for all such groups, *Box 4-5-9* bimonthly and the *Institutions Bulletin* three times yearly; a discount package of A.A. literature ordered by the group; Guidelines on Correctional and Treatment Facilities Committees.

Beth K.

Reports From the A.A. Grapevine

Problems confronted, our magazine foresees progress

Directors' report: All at the Grapevine were saddened by the loss of director Bud G. We nominated Buck B., E. Cent. regional trustee, to finish Bud's term on our board. We also approved the addition of one Class A trustee/director and nominated William Flynn, M.D.

Delivery of the magazine was hampered in 1981 by bad service from one company and then by transition to a new firm. Working to recover momentum, we have asked delegates and area GV chairpersons for help.

Revenues for 1981 increased by more than \$65,000; expenses, by \$138,140 (16%) as a result of higher postage rates and rent and of temporary help needed because of the change in fulfillment firms.

We have employed a controller, Don Meurer (nonalcoholic), and Ann W. has rejoined the staff as associate editor.

With the March 1982 issue, we employed a new printer and began mailing the magazine from Harrisburg, Pa.; our 1982 budget reflects the expected reduction in printing and mailing costs. We reduced paper cost and postage by going to lighter-weight paper.

During 1981, we embarked on a one-year plan to improve every facet of the GV operation. This challenge was accepted by all with enthusiasm. We hope for a 5% increase in circulation in 1982; if that is correct, our operations will be self-supporting by the end of the year.
Don D., chairperson

Staff report: Part of our one-year plan was a close scrutiny of the Grapevine itself. A subcommittee of the Corporate Board, working closely with staff and Editorial

Board, has made a number of suggestions:

Since people are reading less and less, we are trying to use more short articles and brief fillers, producing greater variety in each issue and a chance for more A.A.'s to be represented.

We are seeking out articles by A.A.'s not often heard from in the magazine — young, old, gay, dually addicted, and minority-group. Many members do not realize that the Grapevine is written by the Fellowship — not by "those people in New York."

We continue efforts to impart a more contemporary look to the magazine in typography, graphics, and layout effects.

Though circulation dropped late in 1981, it is up again and growing — making more work for the non-A.A.'s in the Circulation, Mailing, and Bookkeeping Departments. The process of moving into new and larger quarters created opportunities for using the Serenity Prayer. With that chaotic experience behind us and major delivery problems under control, we are settling down to the more peaceful — and if possible, more productive — year ahead.
Retha G., managing editor



Grapevine controller Don Meurer has joined our magazine's complement of hardworking nonalcoholics.

Digest of Agenda

Sunday, April 18

Opening dinner and A.A. meeting

Monday, April 19

Welcome

Roll call of all Conference members

Conference committee chairpersons

Area delegate chairperson

Keynote

General Service Board report

Presentation/discussion: "Equal Authority—Equal Responsibility"

Members of the General Service Board (trustees)

Reports of Grapevine, A.A.W.S., and trustees' committees

Joint trustees' and Conference committee meetings

Presentation/discussion: "Group Records Input From Central Offices/Intergroups"

Workshop: "Why A.A. Works—the Traditions"

Tuesday, April 20

Presentation/discussion: "Finance"/"New Conference Locale"

Conference committee meetings

Presentation/discussion: "A.A. in Institutions"

Visit to G.S.O. and Grapevine office

Delegates' meeting

Wednesday, April 21

Conference committee meetings

Ask-It Basket

Regional trustee elections

Presentation/discussion: "New Approaches to

Districting—How Could They Improve Our Service Structure?"

Presentation/discussion: "Anonymity Breaks—How Are We Handling Them?"

Thursday, April 22

Conference committee reports and discussion

Ask-It Basket

Presentation/discussion: "How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Treatment Facilities"

Sharing session: "What's on Your Mind?"

Friday, April 23

Conference committee reports and discussion

Workshop: "How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Treatment Facilities"

Presentation/discussion: "The Traditions in Personal Recovery"

Saturday, April 24

Closing brunch

Closing talks

Visit to Stepping Stones, home of Bill and Lois W.

Reports on Area Service Highlights: At intervals, Panel 32 delegates shared area experiences.