

47th General Service Conference “Spirituality—Our Foundation”

“A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.” (*The A.A. Service Manual*, p. 6)

In a presentation on group financial responsibility, Bill A., delegate from SW Quebec, told members of the 47th A.A. General Service Conference: “. . . we have [not] found the answer to carrying the message by simply translating the words. We have to translate the actions of Alcoholics Anonymous. . . .”

The actions A.A. has been taking, past and present, were echoed throughout the various presentations and general sessions during Conference week.

Larry N., trustee-at-large/U.S., reporting on the 14th World Service Meeting, held last October, spoke of how the A.A. message continues to spread throughout the world by countries supporting countries. Vinnie M., G.S.O.’s Publications director, spoke of the door of A.A. opening in Eastern Europe—the first foothold in Russia (at the initiative of Finnish A.A.s) in 1977; the courage of A.A.s in Poland who translated A.A. literature at the risk of imprisonment; and the most recent breakthrough in

the Czech and Slovak Republics. (Michaela T., of Slovakia, was an observer at the Conference.)

Perhaps the most difficult and last frontier A.A. has had to forge is the remote Native communities of Canada and Alaska. Robert P., NW Quebec delegate, gave a moving presentation on the work being done by the Remote Community Service Committee. Translations of the Serenity Prayer, the Steps and Traditions and other A.A. material have been translated into various native languages and the message is often carried, relay style, from group to group.

When delegate chairperson Jack S. (Manitoba) spoke Monday morning he told Conference members, “I can relate to the theme, ‘Spirituality—Our Foundation,’ as doing the work to keep our Fellowship strong.” And work they did when the 132 members of the 47th General Service Conference met at the Crowne Plaza, New York City, April 13–19. As always, it was a busy week for the 92 area delegates, trustees, and directors and staff of the two corporations, A.A. World Services and the A.A. Grapevine.

This year’s Conference was chaired by Jim Estelle, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairman of the General Service Board. Assisting with the chairing duties: George D., G.S.O.’s general manager; Jack S., Manitoba, this year’s delegate chairperson; and John Chappel, M.D., Class A



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trustee. G.S.O. staff member **Richard B.** was Conference coordinator.

Beside the informative and thoughtful presentations the week was filled with area service highlights, sharing sessions, workshops and committee meetings and reports. **Don W.**, East Central regional trustee, delivered the keynote address. The deliberations of the 11 standing committees resulted in recommendations and suggestions that were presented for discussion and vote to the entire Conference. Many of these items became Conference Advisory Actions, highlights of which appear on page 3.

The week began Sunday evening with the Opening Dinner, followed by a five-speaker A.A. meeting. A special guest recognized at the dinner was **Ann M.** (New York), who was celebrating 50 years of sobriety. **Ann**, a former G.S.O. staff member for over 27 years who was hired by **Bill W.**, is still a regular on the phones at Intergroup.

At the Wednesday afternoon trustee elections, **Betty S.** of South Carolina was elected the new Southeast regional trustee, replacing **Gay G.** of Georgia; **Jack O.** of Illinois will become East Central regional, filling the position now held by **Don W.** of Michigan. The new trustee-at-large/U.S., replacing **Larry N.** of California, will be **Dean R.** of Oklahoma.

At the Delegates Only Dinner on Tuesday evening, **Bob K.** of California, Northern Coastal, was elected delegate chair for the 1998 Conference; **Keith L.**, of NW Ontario will be the alternate chair.

Although the Conference officially closed Friday afternoon, all gathered for the final time at Saturday's closing brunch. There were farewell talks from rotating trustees: General Service Board chairman **Jim Estelle**, the three trustees replaced by election, and general service trustees **Michael M.** and **Jane S.**

Then it was home to their areas to visit groups, give reports and do the ongoing work of A.A., "to translate the actions of Alcoholics Anonymous," or, to quote **Vinnie M.** when she closed her presentation—"to be continued. . ."

Resumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 1998

Two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees—from the Eastern Canada and Pacific Regions, will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 1998. Resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 1998, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new Eastern Canada regional trustee will succeed **Bill B.**, of Newfoundland; the new Pacific regional trustee will fill the position currently held by **Julian R.**, of Nevada.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the General Service Conference, which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards which meet more frequently than the General Service Board. Regional trustees may also attend many area and regional events.

Please submit your candidate's resumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee Vacancy

A medical doctor has traditionally served on the General Service Board of Trustees. With the rotation of Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee **John N. Chappel, M.D.**, in April 1998, there will be no physician on the board. Class A trustees are nominated and elected by the board, subject to the disapproval of the Conference. They serve two consecutive three-year terms.

If you know of an appropriate "friend of A.A." willing to serve in this position, please ask your area general service delegate to submit his or her name and professional or business resumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office, by July 15, 1997.

1997 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some significant Advisory Actions appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

Agenda—that the theme for the 1998 General Service Conference be: “Our Twelfth Step Work”; that the following be Workshop topics for the 1998 General Service Conference: “Our Twelfth Step Work”: a. In the Home Group; b. In the Service Structure; c. Around the World.

Cooperation With the Professional Community—that a statement regarding Singleness of Purpose be added to the C.P.C. pamphlets “A.A. in Your Community,” “A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs,” “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals,” “If You Are a Professional,” and “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.”

Correctional Facilities—that the video on encouraging more A.A. members to participate in carrying the A.A. message into correctional facilities be completed and brought back to the 1998 Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities for review.

Finance—that the area contributions for delegates’ expenses for the Conference be increased from \$600 to \$800 (U.S.) and that, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, areas continue to be encouraged to make contributions over and above this requested amount to help cover a greater portion of the Conference costs.

Grapevine—that the manuscript providing information on the Grapevine and its place in A.A. be produced as a pamphlet; that the Grapevine use mailing lists to provide introductory information about the Grapevine and La Viña to correctional facilities and treatment facilities.

International Convention/Regional Forums—no recommendations.

Literature—that a draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 1998 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘the Doctor’s opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is.”

Policy/Admissions—that the name of Area 72 be changed from Western Washington State Area to Western Washington Area.

Public Information—that the A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 1996 Membership Survey; that a minimum of three television Public Service Announcements emphasizing membership of young people and minorities, and generic A.A. information be produced.

Report and Charter—that suggested changes be made to the *A.A. Service Manual*; that a thorough review of the *A.A. Service Manual* be undertaken by G.S.O.’s Publications department; that on-line A.A. meetings that request to be listed in A.A. directories be added. . . with the name and address of a “mail” contact.

Treatment Facilities—that a concise and streamlined version of the Treatment Facilities Workbook (three-ring binder) be accepted with minor changes; that the final draft of the soft-cover T.F. Handbook be accepted.

Trustees—that the 90th Meridian be the dividing line in the Northwest Territories between the Eastern and Western Canada Regions.

Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 1997

	Groups	Members
United States	50,681	1,158,850
Canada	5,275	98,720
Correctional facilities ¹	2,276	59,174
Internationalists		133
Lone members		316
Total	58,232 ²	1,317,193 ²
Outside U.S. & Canada ³	38,765	642,636
Grand Total	96,997	1,959,829

1. U.S. and Canada only.

2. U.S./Canada data includes only groups which ask to be registered at G.S.O., and which provide us with membership information. Although G.S.O. encourages groups to register, the process is optional. As of '94, the total number of A.A. groups reported was no longer inclusive of entities described as A.A. meetings, which chose not to be considered as A.A. groups. Such meetings had been included in the total for prior years.

3. There is A.A. activity in approximately 144 countries, including 42 countries that have autonomous general service offices. Annually we attempt to contact all groups & G.S.O.s outside of US/Canada which are listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use previous year's figures.

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

General Service Board

Trustees' report: I am happy to report a busy and productive year. In June, La Viña, A.A.'s new magazine in Spanish, came off the press; many subscriptions have been received from correctional and treatment facilities committees. In July, a Site Review Committee was appointed to complete a review of the current site of the G.S.O. and report on its suitability, any recommendations for change or improvement, and any other options the committee might wish to present to the trustees for further consideration. The committee conducted a full review of previous site selection studies, comparative historical financial data concerning G.S.O. site costs, and current lease cost information and presented their views on the suitability of the current site.

The 14th World Service Meeting was held in New York City in October. The participation of Grapevine staff at this WSM was a first and we hope the practice continues. The board hosted 42 delegates from countries around the world at our board weekend in November. The eight days of worldwide sharing was a spiritual experience that will always be remembered.

There is still much work to do in carrying the A.A. message internationally. In the past year, visits by trustees, staff and the general manager have been made to Australia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Slovakia and Thailand. Many of our books and pamphlets have been translated into several languages and the Big Book is now in 34 languages.

In November, the board received a report from the Ad Hoc Web Site Committee and their recommendations were approved by the board and forwarded to the Conference.

In 1996, we bid farewell to four longtime staff members, Eileen G., John G., Sarah P. and Helen T., and another longtime nonalcoholic employee, Margie Janicek. Peter B., general service trustee, died while in service. These good people were honored by the board for their dedication and valuable contribution to the Fellowship. They will be missed.

We are now on the threshold of a new Conference year and our commitment to carrying A.A.'s lifesaving message remains resolute, as it must. Our predecessors have handed us this gift and it is our responsibility to be sure that the hand of A.A. will always be extended to any alcoholic, anywhere, reaching out for help.

With rotation this April, I too will rotate from the position of your chairman. It's time, because I'm beginning to think I know what I'm doing and am enjoying being your chairman. It has been a mountaintop experience and I thank you for this opportunity to serve. The greatest com-

pliment paid me has been the mutual trust we have shared.

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

A.A. World Services, Inc.

Directors' report: A.A.W.S., Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the General Service Board with the delegated responsibility to maintain oversight of group services, including printing and distribution of Conference-approved and other service literature. The board met eight times since the last Conference to hear G.S.O. management and staff reports; review group services activity and progress on compliance with Conference and board recommendations; review budgets, expenditures, and salary policy; establish prices for literature and other materials; discuss publishing operations and matters of G.S.O. administration; consider requests for permission to reprint A.A. copyrighted literature; and address other matters as they arise.

The committees of the A.A.W.S. Board are: Services; Finance and Administration; Publishing, and Nominating. Long-range planning is done within each committee and by the board as a whole. The following significant items are noted:

Services: During 1996, 2,499 new groups were registered, compared to 2,695 in 1995. We continued to evaluate ways to convey the message of self-support to the Fellowship. The committee is developing a service piece for group treasurers. Distribution of the quarterly, *Sharing From Behind the Walls*, to inmates in correctional facilities began with the Summer 1996 issue. Feedback has been positive. The total cost of foreign literature assistance in 1996 was \$136,800. Projects included literature in Amharic (Ethiopian), Armenian, Bulgarian, Croatian and Czech. Over \$27,700 in contributions from eight countries and several miscellaneous donations were received toward the International Literature Fund. We recommended—and the board approved—that information on central/intergroup offices and answering services in the U.S./Canada should be included on G.S.O.'s Web Page. Guidelines will be prepared for use by central/intergroup offices on planning their Web Sites and how G.S.O. will relate to them electronically.

The board recognized that, with the growth in the use of electronic communication, it is important that G.S.O. implement a strategy to permit a step-by-step expansion in electronic communication. A "pilot project" was approved requesting that G.S.O. take the following steps: implement e-mail response for the C.P.C. letter; develop a plan that would lead to the next steps to make it more possible to carry the message and to communicate inside and outside the Fellowship electronically.

Regional Forums: A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. staff participated in the following Forums since the last Conference: Pacific, in Salt Lake City; Eastern Canada, in Sherbrooke; and Southeast, in Asheville, North Carolina.

Intergroup Seminar: The 11th Annual Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S. Seminar was held in Minneapolis, with representation from 90 central/intergroup offices around the U.S. and Canada; 132 managers, delegates, and intergroup committee chairs attended.

Remote Communities Weekend: An enlightening and helpful meeting was held in Toronto, attended by all Canadian delegates and the Alaskan delegate, all Canadian trustees, Pat R., George D., and two A.A. members from the Arctic Native American community.

International: The 14th World Service Meeting took place, October 27-31, in New York City. This year our visitors also included G.S.O. managers from Finland, Germany, and Great Britain. Trustees and G.S.O. staff attended A.A. events in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. General manager George D. attended the Sixth National Congress and Service Conference in Warsaw, where Poland adopted a formal "Conference Charter." John N. Chappel, M.D., Class A trustee, and Larry N., trustee-at-large/U.S., visited Slovakia to meet with treatment professionals and attend a psychiatric congress; we received news that the first A.A. service office in Slovakia has opened in Nove Zamky. A.A.s in Ukraine have established a structure, which is expected to evolve into a General Service Conference.

International Conventions: Preparations for the 2000 International, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, are on target. Site-selection trips, in preparation for the 2005 International, were made to St. Louis, San Antonio, Atlanta and Toronto. Toronto was selected as the site for the 2005 International Convention.

Finance: A brief summary of the financial results for 1996 is as follows: Sales were approximately 4% under budget, contributions approximately 5% over budget, total expenses approximately on budget (.6% under), and net loss for the year was \$1,264,175. This loss compares with a budget that—after mid-year adjustments—called for a \$1,147,400 loss and was \$153,000 less than anticipated; contributions finished 1996 at approximately \$248,000, 6.76% better than 1995, and \$176,000, or 4.7% better than budgeted.

We received, approved and forwarded to the General Service Board, mid-year budget adjustments totaling \$168,000. This included Advisory Actions of \$20,000 for a Correctional Facilities film and \$6,000 for a newsletter. The balance of the adjustment, \$142,000, covered early retirement severance benefits. In accordance with its

1996 Budget, the board removed the 5% across-the-board discount and reduced, from 30% to 20%, the discount on selected items, thus bringing A.A.W.S. discounts back to the same position as in September 1994.

Through our Finance and Administration Committee, we prepared, reviewed and recommended the 1997 G.S.O. budget to the trustees' Finance Committee, which provided for increases of \$1.00 on most of A.A.'s large-selling books, \$1.50 on the hardcover Bill and Dr. Bob biographies, and 75¢ on booklets, as well as adjustments in Spanish literature prices, to be effective in May 1997. It was noted by the board that this was the first price increase since 1991 and there have been actual price decreases in recent years.

Publishing: We published the following items: soft-cover of *As Bill Sees It*; Braille *Daily Reflections*; Spanish pocket *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; video of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in American Sign Language; and the archival "Scrapbook (1943)," as well as six translations. We granted permission/did not object to 209 requests to reprint from A.A. literature; 37 requests were denied. We received 17 requests for new formats of existing publications; an evaluation form, will help determine the need and feasibility of these requests in order to evaluate and prioritize action on them.

G.S.O./Staff Operations: At year-end 1996, G.S.O. had 82 full-time employees, down from 103 at year-end 1991, a reduction of 20.4%. The early retirement "window" offer to eligible employees, originally effective March 31 through September 30, 1996, was extended by the board through September 30, 1997. By the end of December 1996, G.S.O. had welcomed 1,361 visitors for the year. We reviewed a demonstration of the Delegate Area Database. Approximately 82 areas are now receiving their data via diskette, and half are returning their changes on diskette.

We heard a report regarding the phenomenon which will occur throughout the information industry in the year 2000 because computer programs, historically, have used dates whereby the year was represented by only two digits, e.g., "95" rather than "1995." Since G.S.O. deals mostly in legacy (existing) applications, our problem extends across all applications except for Group Records and Grapevine subscriptions which are new modules. The planning and methodology necessary to effect the change from two to four digit years is considerable, and the magnitude of the project enormous. An estimate of \$35,000 was given for the lease of additional hardware and software, hours and salary. The modifications should be well underway by the end of 1997.

Julian R., chairperson

Archives

Trustees' committee: The committee approved the preparation and production of a Second Archival Scrapbook covering the year 1943. We reviewed a draft of the proposed Archival

Guidelines and it was also circulated among the area archivists and archives chairpersons for their input. Currently we have 93 persons on our mailing list and continue to ask the delegates to send us updates. Preparations for a reproduction of "Markings on the Journey" are on the way. The original item, created in 1979, is in filmstrip format; it has lost some of its cohesion in the change, and the sound track seems to have deteriorated. The narrative and the visual could be updated to reflect the current office location and present personnel.

William B., chairperson

Archivist's report: Interest in our prepublication manuscript of the Big Book continues to be high. After an article on the availability of this historical document in *The A.A. Grapevine*, we've had nearly 500 requests. Two of our members, working independently, have produced computer discs of the textual alterations between this manuscript and the First Edition. In response to a mailing to area delegates, we've been able to update partially our listing of area archivists.

Frank M., archivist

Conference

Trustees' committees: We reviewed the 1996 Advisory Actions and approved the theme for the 47th Conference, "Spirituality—Our Foundation." We reviewed the Conference Evaluation Questionnaires and noted there were suggestions to cut down on the length and number of presentations, to shorten reports and even to shorten the Conference. An Agenda Planning subcommittee studied these further and recommended the Conference formally open on Monday morning. The committee reviewed a draft of the final Conference agenda and discussed and disposed of unassigned agenda requests. We also asked the Conference coordinator to find two whisper translators to respond to requests for translation from two Quebec delegates and approved an invitation for an observer from Slovakia to attend this year's Conference, subject to Conference approval.

Michael McP., chairperson

Staff report: The Conference coordinator is the contact for Conference members, and area and district committee members of the 92 areas throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Conference coordinator assumes responsibility for: assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; serving as secretary for the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' Committee on the Conference; working with the general manager and G.S.O. staff in planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and all material for the Conference Manual, Early Bird edition of *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Final Report*.

Richard B.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

Trustees' committee: The committee reviewed the 1996 Conference Committee Response Literature Review Report and prepared a report for review by the 1997 Conference Committee. We discussed and approved the updated lists of the C.P.C. exhibits at national professional meetings. The committee recommended that the proposed general letter to professionals seeking information about A.A. be added to the A.A. Web Site. The chairperson suggested that the trustees' Committee on C.P.C. continue to think of ways the A.A. Web Site could be utilized in C.P.C. service work. In September the chairperson and another trustee visited the Republic of Slovakia to carry the message to nonalcoholic professionals and share on how A.A. cooperates with the professional community.

John N. Chappel, M.D.

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff report: The purpose of C.P.C. is to provide information about A.A. and establish good communication with those outside A.A. who may have direct contact with the still-suffering alcoholic through their professional work. The staff member maintains communication with C.P.C. committee chairs throughout the U.S. and Canada. Currently there are over 560 area, district and central office/intergroup C.P.C. committees. The newsletter, *About A.A.*, is also the responsibility of this assignment.

Eva S.

Correctional Facilities

Trustees' committee: Since the 1996 Conference, the committee completed the sample video on carrying the message behind the walls and forwarded it to the Conference Committee for their consideration. The newsletter, *Sharing From Behind the Walls*, is printed quarterly and sent to inmates. The committee forwarded to the Conference C.F. committee: expanding the *Sharing From Behind the Walls* mailing list to include A.A. groups that meet in correctional facilities; six suggestions to better inform professional correctional personnel, groups and associations about A.A.

Don W., chairperson

Staff report: This assignment is responsible for carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics confined in correctional institutions. Over 500 letters a month arrive from inmates, most asking for free literature, some for names of outside members with whom to correspond, or for help in making contact with A.A. upon release. We try to facilitate these requests through our network of area, district and local C.F. committees. The Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), coordinated by this desk, continues as one of our most valuable efforts. Since the last Conference the staff member has worked with the produc-

ers of the video on encouraging C.F. service. *Sharing From Behind the Walls* is also the responsibility of this assignment.
Doug R.

Finance

Trustees' committee: Contributions in 1996 increased by \$248,000 (6.7%) to \$3,913,000 the highest level of contributions we have seen since 1992. Net sales of \$8,261,000 were down 2% compared with 1995. Manufacturing, shipping, and royalty costs all declined more than sales, so gross profit from literature actually increased by \$94,000 compared with 1995, yet was \$75,000 below budget. Total G.S.O. revenue increased by \$333,000, or 5%, compared with last year and was 1.5% ahead of budget. G.S.O. operating expenses were \$50,000 below budget and \$450,000, or 5.6%, higher than they were in 1995. Approximately \$230,000 of the increase in operating expenses were attributable to an early retirement program that will save money in the future. G.S.O. had an operating loss of \$1,264,000, \$153,000 less than budgeted.

In 1994, G.S.O. lowered prices and increased literature discounts. These changes were undertaken to lower the Reserve Fund, which was approaching the limit established by the General Service Conference. Our projections show that the Reserve Fund would be in the 9 to 9.5 month range at the end of 1997. At \$7,421,000, the Reserve Fund amounts to \$133 per listed A.A. group. Some of the sales discounts were rolled back to 1994 levels on August 1, 1996. At last year's Conference, I reported that literature price increases were possible in 1997, and we have since determined that price increases are required. The General Service Board has approved a budget recommended by A.A.W.S. that will increase literature prices on most books—the first price increase since 1991. Despite excellent cost control—our operating and shipping expenses were actually lower in 1996 than they were in 1991 when we last raised prices—we simply have to raise prices if we are to continue to provide the Fellowship with the current level of services. G.S.O.'s 1997 budget also assumes a 5% decline in unit literature sales, a 3% increase in contributions, and flat operating expenses. The loss for the year is projected at \$139,000. After the price increase goes into effect on May 1, G.S.O. will be operating at better than break-even levels for the balance of the year.

In 1996, we spent \$5,925,000 on services to the Fellowship. Contributions provided 66% of this, and the balance came from the Reserve Fund. Services spending amounted to \$106 per listed A.A. group, while contributions were \$70 per group. The 1996 service dollar was spent on the following activities: Group Services (the Group Services assignment); Box 4-5-9; A.A. Directories; records and files; contributions processing, and French services 42.2%; C.P.C., 4.3%; P.I. 3.6%; Treatment Facilities, 2%; Correctional Facilities, 4.3%; Loners Internationalists and

Overseas Services, 9.5%; the General Service Conference, 11.3%; Regional Forums, 5.1%; Archives, 5.9%; trustees' and directors' activities, 7.8%; Spanish Services, 3.4%; and .6% to cover the excess expenses of the World Service Meeting.

At the Grapevine, magazine income rose \$85,000 over last year because of the 25% price increase that took effect on new subscriptions beginning April 1, 1996. Gross profit on the magazine was \$853,000, which was \$24,000 higher than last year and \$16,000 higher than budget. Weak sales of some books and tapes caused other publishing income to decline. Gross profit on other publishing income was \$66,000 lower than last year and \$47,000 under budget. Total income, including interest income, was \$1,200,000, \$40,000 below last year and \$31,000 under budget. Costs and expenses for editorial, circulation and business, and administration were \$1,388,000. This was \$145,000 higher than last year and \$75,000 over budget. Much of this increase is attributable to an office reorganization that cost more than expected. The Grapevine reported a loss of \$188,000, \$105,000 greater than budgeted and \$185,000 greater than in 1995.

The Grapevine's 1997 budget, excluding La Viña, calls for a \$100,000 increase in magazine income to \$1,714,000, compared with 1996, and an increase of \$78,000 in magazine gross profit. Gross profit on other publishing income will increase \$24,000, interest income \$3,000, and costs and expenses will decrease by \$23,000. The net effect is a budgeted decline in net loss, from \$188,000 in 1996 to \$60,000 in 1997. The Grapevine expects to return to being profitable in 1998. Although circulation at La Viña was considerably higher than budgeted, operating costs were higher as well. Net losses were \$138,000, compared with \$97,000 budgeted. For 1997, losses at La Viña are budgeted at \$98,000, compared with a loss of \$93,000 called for in the business plan approved by the trustees' Finance Committee in October 1995. In view of projected losses substantially higher than those foreseen in the original business plan for the years 1998 through 2001, the Grapevine will present a revised business plan to the trustees' Finance Committee at the July 1997 board meeting.

Gary Glynn, (nonalcoholic) chairperson

General Sharing Session

Trustees' report: The topic for the first sharing session was "Ways in Which We Can Improve How We Do Things," where concerns were discussed regarding our purpose of carrying the message—"No one has the only answer, that is why we have group conscience. The answer we try to achieve is through a Higher Power." In July, two presenters spoke on "Participation—Our Spiritual Growth." At the November sharing session two trustees were invited to present on the topic, "The A.A. Program—How It Affected My Life." At the February 1997 sharing session two

trustees spoke, one pro and one con, on "Financial Incentives for International Conventions."

Raul M., chairperson

Group Services

Staff report: To assist groups, G.S.O. provides service material, which provides information and shared experience not found in Conference-approved literature. Ongoing projects: Coordination and production of three A.A. Directories; supervision of service files; supervision/production of A.A. Guidelines, Group Handbooks, and G.S.R. Kits. The staff member on Group Services is liaison with intergroup/central offices, and liaison with special needs committees making A.A. accessible to all alcoholics.

Lois F.

International Convention/ A.A. Regional Forums

Trustees' committee:

International Convention—As our International Conventions now have a projected attendance of over 50,000, it is necessary to begin site selection nine years prior to the event. Four finalist cities were considered for the 2005 Convention, and the board accepted the recommendation from the site-selection team that Toronto, Canada be the host city for 2005. Requests for proposals were sent to members of the Institute of Assn. Management Cos. and to current and past Southern Minnesota delegates to invite proposals from convention management firms for a consultant for 2000.

Regional Forums: Three regions have held Forums since the last General Service Conference: Pacific, Eastern Canada and Southeast. The committee recommended approval of a request for a Special Forum in Alaska to be held at four sites: Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Elaine Johnson, Ph.D.

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff reports:

International Conventions—This assignment involves coordinating every aspect of the many processes and plans that go to make up A.A. International Conventions, held every five years. Preliminary plans are underway for the Convention in 2000 to be held June 29 - July 2 in Minneapolis.

Valerie O'N.

Regional Forums—The staff member handling Regional Forums is responsible for coordinating and following through on all arrangements necessary for holding Regional Forums in the U.S. and Canada. These sharing weekends help foster wider communication and understanding among A.A. service workers, the General Service Board, A.A.W.S., Inc., the Grapevine Board and staff and the G.S.O. staff. Regional Forums are held at the invitation of a particular region every two years;

there are four Forums annually. The staff member also serves as secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee, Conference Committee on Trustees and co-secretary of the trustees' and Conference International Conventions/Regional Forums Committees. Following Forums, a report is sent to all who attended.

Lois F.

International/ World Service Meeting

Trustees' committee: This committee is responsible for suggesting policies and actions to assure that the A.A. message is available around the world, especially in areas where there is no established service structure. We provide shared experience, support translations of A.A. literature in other languages, and encourage the expansion of regional or zonal service meetings. The committee is a primary link between the international A.A. community and the General Service Board. The 14th World Service Meeting, a biennial meeting of delegates from countries with an organized service structure, was held last October in New York City; 42 delegates from 26 countries or zones participated. In 1997, Literature Assistance Fund will allow A.A.W.S. to translate and publish a variety of service material. This service is partially underwritten by contributions of U.S./Canada groups, as well as support from the International Literature Fund of contributions from A.A. groups around the world. We continue to be encouraged and inspired by the international A.A. community and boards in other countries, who carry our message to countless thousands in new regions and across difficult linguistic, cultural and economic barriers.

Larry N., chairperson

Staff report: Letters from around the world come to the Overseas staff person, who responds to each letter, often accompanied by A.A. literature. The staff member is also in contact with 41 overseas general service offices. Coordinating the biennial World Service Meeting is part of this assignment. Between World Service Meetings, the European Service Meeting, Meeting of the Americas, and Asian-Oceania Meeting are held, and our board is invited to send one or two observers to each zonal meeting. Requests to translate our literature come to the overseas secretary and are forwarded to the Publications Department; where A.A. is not yet strong, A.A.W.S. undertakes the new publication when funds are available.

Joanie M.

Literature

Trustees' committee: A summary of the literature projects since the 1996 Conference.

Projects Completed: The Concepts Checklist was placed in G.S.O.'s service files.

Projects forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee: Recommended that a

draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book be developed (stories only); a publication be developed of stories dropped from the First, Second and Third Editions of the Big Book; possible changes in *Living Sober*; a suggestion that material from the Sixth Warranty be added to the section "What is An A.A. Group?" of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

Ongoing Projects: Video of G.S.O., the Grapevine and the service structure.

Gay G., chairperson

Staff report: The Literature coordinator works closely with the Publications department on preparing all new recovery pamphlets, books and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the Conference. The literature desk receives and responds to correspondence from A.A. members and groups about literature and maintains contact with area, district, intergroup/central offices and A.A. group literature chairpersons. The Literature coordinator is the liaison with the French Literature Service in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and also serves as Native North American contact person. Under the present structure of G.S.O., the staff member on this assignment serves as editor of *Box 4-5-9*.

Pat R.

Loners/Internationalists

Trustees' report: Loners are A.A.s who are unable to attend meetings because there are no groups nearby. There are about 334 Loners in 83 countries. Seagoing A.A.s, known as Internationalists, number about 134 with an additional 41 Port Contacts; 13 Internationalist Groups meet aboard ships. There are 153 Homers, A.A.s who are housebound due to illness or physical disability. Loners, Homers, and Internationalists stay sober by reading A.A. literature and by sharing A.A. experience, strength and hope with other A.A.s around the world through letters and tapes. Each new Loner, Homer or Internationalist receives a directory of members, a subscription to *Box 4-5-9* and the *Loners/Internationalists Meeting-By-Mail, (LIM)* a bimonthly meeting in print which shares excerpts of letters received at G.S.O. from LIM members. There are also over 904 Loner Sponsors, sharing group activities and personal experience.

Adrienne B.

Nominating

Trustees' committee: The committee reviewed the proposal from the Remote Communities Committee that the 90th Meridian be the dividing line in the Northwest Territories between the Eastern and Western Canada Regions and forwarded this proposal to the Conference Committee on Trustees for consideration. We discussed fractional votes in the election of regional or at-large trustees and recommended that the 1997 Conference Committee on Trustees consider

changing the "rounding-off" procedure from the nearest whole to a mathematically accurate number. The proposed slates of General Service Board members, officers of the board, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine directors were forwarded to the 1997 Conference Committee on Trustees for disapproval, if any.

MaryJane R., chairperson

Public Information

Trustees' committee: Since the last Conference much of the committee work has been an extensive review of data resulting from the 1996 Membership Survey. We referred, for consideration, to the Conference P.I. Committee: the draft of the 1996 Membership Survey pamphlet; the draft of the 1998 Membership Survey Questionnaire; approval of production of three television PSAs emphasizing membership of young people, membership of minorities and generic A.A. information.

Jane S., chairperson

Staff report: The goal of the P.I. assignment is to help to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic, potential alcoholic and the general public through the media, health fairs, schools and A.A. Web Site on the World Wide Web/Internet. It is a crucial part of P.I. work at G.S.O. to be a resource for the "collected experience and sharing" of Public Information committees throughout the U.S. and Canada. The P.I. staff person sends information three or four times a year to approximately 500 P.I. committee chairpeople at the area, district, intergroup/central office and group level, and is responsible for handling interviews with the media. The staff member responds to hundreds of written and telephone inquiries and provides accurate information to the media, researchers, students and the general public about A.A. Extensive preparation and planning has facilitated the completion of the 1996 Membership Survey, which is coordinated by the P.I. desk.

Valerie O'N.

Spanish Services

Staff report: There are more than 40,000 Spanish-speaking A.A. members, meeting in 1,500 groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. The Spanish Services staff person, who does not rotate, coordinates Spanish translations of material from the other staff assignments and assists other staff members in providing services to the Spanish-speaking community. All Spanish-speaking groups receive *Box 4-5-9* in Spanish. The General Service Board's *Quarterly Report* is also distributed in Spanish, and a list of preliminary and final Conference Agenda items was distributed in Spanish to all delegates and alternate delegates. The staff member helps answer the correspondence received in Spanish by other assignments. The staff member on this assignment attends conventions, Hispanic intergroup meetings,

Regional Forums, the World Service Meeting and the International Convention, as well as greeting Spanish-speaking visitors to G.S.O.

Danny M.

Staff Coordinator

Staff report: Services to A.A. groups and members are provided through 10 staff assignments; in addition staff members correspond with groups and members in a specific region. Staff members rotate assignments every two years; assignments are monitored by the staff coordinator. E-mail numbers have now been added to staff assignments. In 1996 staff received approximately 16,780 pieces of mail. The staff coordinator coordinates staff activities and chairs the weekly staff meetings. As assistant secretary of the General Service Board, the staff coordinator is responsible for scheduling committee meetings, distributing advance materials, preparing the minutes of the board meetings and also serves as editor of the *Quarterly Report*. In the past year approximately 1,365 visitors from around the world visited G.S.O.

Susan U.

Treatment Facilities

Trustees' committee: We completed work on a soft-cover Treatment Facilities Handbook and a concise, streamlined version of the existing T.F. Workbook (three-ring binder). This material was forwarded to the Conference T.F. Committee. We approved the message to professionals for the Web Site. The committee forwarded a report on The Changing Landscape of Treatment Facilities to the Conference Committee and to area T.F. committees, Bridging the Gap and H&I chairpersons for discussion. As the number of inpatient alcoholism treatment programs decreases, the committee discussed the need for more creative and collaborative efforts in reaching and working with alcoholics, where they are.

Peter Roach, (nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff report: The purpose of the Treatment Facilities assignment is to provide service material to assist local A.A. members who wish to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics in treatment. We now have about 97 area T.F. chairpersons, 422 district T.F. chairs, and 78 "other" T.F. chairpersons. We try to keep an up-to-date list of the chairs of these committees and to provide them with information and literature. Inquiries come to the T.F. desk via letter, telephone, fax and e-mail, from: newly sober alcoholics in treatment; local A.A.s who have become or are interested in becoming active on treatment facilities committees; treatment administrators or personnel requesting information about A.A. and assistance in setting up meetings; and area T.F. committees' meeting minutes and reports.

Adrienne B.

Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

Directors' report: In the last year two new nontrustee directors joined the Grapevine Board, a new executive editor took office, a magazine price increase was put into effect, and an entirely new A.A. magazine, *La Viña*, was brought to life. In addition, there has been an upswing of interest internationally in materials published and copyrighted by the Grapevine which has required ongoing clarification and implementation of the established policies of the board regarding translation, reprinting, and distribution of Grapevine materials.

Circulation and Price Increase: On April 1, 1996, a subscription price increase went into effect on the Grapevine magazine and a new price schedule was drawn up which incorporated some cost-saving options, including modest discounts for bulk subscriptions, a three-year subscription term, and the opportunity for subscribers to take advantage of a special one-time rate by renewing before August 1, 1996. Starting in May we expanded to 64 pages in an effort to provide a higher quality product for readers.

Finance: Loss on operations for 1996 amounted to \$188,227, a budgeted loss of \$93,000. These year-end figures were close to the revised projections reviewed by the board and the trustees' Finance Committee at mid-year. While sales did pick up through the last quarter, by year's end we experienced an overall drop of \$25,000 in the gross profit on other publishing income. To comply with acceptable accounting principles, \$20,000 of excess inventory had to be written off. Adding further to the deficit was an increase over budget for salaries and benefits based on the office restructuring plan, amounting to \$40,000. The loss on operations for *La Viña* was \$138,290, a \$98,000 budgeted loss. While circulation was higher than the 6,000 copies budgeted, ending the year at greater than 8,000 copies, expenses were higher than anticipated.

1997 Budget: In January, the board approved and forwarded to the trustees' Finance Committee a budget for 1997 which anticipates a loss of \$60,262. The budget includes a decrease in circulation from the average 1996 circulation of 128,360 to an annual 1997 average of 126,350. The board also reviewed a 1997 budget for *La Viña* which projected a loss of \$97,809. The budget was approved and passed on to the trustees' Finance Committee with the understanding that a revised plan would be presented to the trustees' Finance Committee in July.

Update on Grapevine Business Plan: The board accepted an update to the Grapevine Business Plan, which includes proposed strategies to reach the following three-year goals: a) Expand Circulation Base; b) Introduce New Technology Wherever Appropriate; c) Enhance Grapevine's Responsiveness to the Fellowship; d) Contain Costs, Maintain Gross Margins, Increase Volume; e) Increase Communication with Overseas Service Structures.

La Viña: From a circulation standpoint, the news is good, especially considering the goal for the first year of 6,000 copies and the actual circulation of over 8,000.

International Activity: For the first time, the Grapevine took part in the World Service Meeting, in New York in October 1996, with a session on A.A. magazines and newsletters moderated by executive editor, Ames S. Interest has been expressed by Mexico, El Salvador, and Colombia regarding publication in those countries of the Grapevine's Spanish translation of *The Language of the Heart*. After a visit to our counterpart in Mexico Grapevine was able to provide mechanicals of our translation at a minimal expense from which the Mexican G.S.O. was able to publish their own edition of *El Lenguaje del Corazón*.

Conference Business: A draft of the proposed pamphlet on the Grapevine was forwarded to the 1997 Conference Grapevine Committee for their consideration. We also reviewed a list of related-item ideas for possible production in 1999. Chuck C., chairperson

Staff report: The primary mission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is to publish a magazine that shares the experience, strength and hope of a variety of individual A.A.s around the world, and expresses current thinking in the Fellowship on matters affecting recovery, unity and service.

The Grapevine is managed by the executive editor who has oversight responsibility as chief executive and reports to the Grapevine Board. A nonalcoholic controller/business administrator manages financial and accounting functions. There are four major areas of operations: editorial, circulation, accounting/bookkeeping and shipping.

The editorial department, managed by the executive editor, consists of a senior editor, Spanish resources editor, executive secretary, and an editorial staff assistant. All editorial materials are designed in-house, using desktop publishing. The department also answers all editorial queries and processes several hundred manuscript submissions every month.

The circulation department maintains subscriber and donor lists. In 1996, it processed 26,267 new subscriptions and 74,049 renewals, as well as almost 11,000 changes of address.

The bookkeeping department opens and distributes all incoming mail. Cash and credit card orders, for subscriptions and related materials, are sorted into categories for processing. In 1996, the Grapevine processed about 140,000 orders. The administrative unit of bookkeeping maintains employee payroll and administers employee benefits programs. The controller, as part of this unit, maintains control over all books of accounts, prepares statements of financial operations, and prepares the annual budgets.

The shipping department arranges for inventory transfers to and from warehouse distribution centers and also ships and packs smaller orders. Cynthia K., senior editor

Budget Highlights

1997 G.S.O. Budget

This budget describes the "OPERATIONS" of the General Service Office. It includes expenses of A.A. World Services (the Publishing operation) and the General Fund (Service activities). It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund or the Capital Projects Fund. The Grapevine operations are described below in a separate report.

Income: The 1997 sales budget of \$9,332,000 is approximately 3% greater than the 1996 actual results. The budget calls for an increase in prices of some literature (principally hard cover) effective May 1997. The details of which are described more fully in the treasurer's report to the Conference. Net sales after discounts allowed are projected at \$9,015,800, approximately \$750,000 greater than 1996. The 1997 Budget assumes approximately a 5% decline in unit literature sales. This budget brings full circle the plan implemented in the Fall of 1994 which then called for increasing discounts and reducing certain prices for the primary purpose of reducing the Reserve Fund below its ceiling. It is no longer prudent or feasible to continue to operate at million dollar loss levels.

Manufacturing costs are budgeted approximately \$300,000 less than 1996. This takes into account both a lower unit volume of items sold and the favorable effect of purchasing trends in Publishing activities.

An increase of approximately 5% is again expected in the shipping and warehousing costs anticipating increase in postage and freight.

Gross profit from literature, is budgeted at \$4,200,000, approximately \$1,000,000 greater than 1996, as result of price increases and manufacturing costs decreases.

Contributions for 1997 have been estimated at \$4,030,000, approximately a 3% increase over 1996. It is our hope that the increase in contributions that occurred during 1996 will continue during 1997.

Total Operating Revenue for the period is anticipated at \$8,233,400, approximately 16% higher than 1996.

Total Operating Expenses for 1997 have been budgeted at \$8,372,400, approximately \$9,000 less than the 1996 actual expense.

An operating loss of \$139,000 is budgeted. This will be covered by a drawdown from the Reserve Fund. This compares with a \$1,264,000 loss for 1996 and a \$1,147,000 loss for 1995. As mentioned previously, these two years of significant losses have accomplished its goal of reducing the Reserve Fund balance to approximately 9 months.

1997 Grapevine Budget

The 1997 Grapevine Budget calls for an average circulation for 1997 of 126,350 copies compared with the 1996 average of 128,360 copies. During 1997 the Grapevine will realize a full year of higher renewals following the increase that went into effect with the May 1996 issue.

Income: Magazine income of \$1,714,000 is approximately 6% higher than the \$1,614,000 in 1996 due to the increase price. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at \$490,000, approximately 2% less than 1996. The Grapevine still continues to suffer from an aging product line with no new items anticipated until 1998.

Direct Costs: Magazine direct costs are budgeted at 45.6% of income as compared with 47% in 1996.

Total Gross Profit: Combining the magazine and other publishing items the gross profit of \$1,220,000 is 55.3% of budgeted income as compared to \$1,118,400, or 52.3% in 1996. This compares with 55.7% achieved in 1995.

Total Operating Expenses: Total Operating Expenses for 1997 are budgeted at \$1,365,000, approximately \$23,000 less than 1996 actuals of \$1,388,200.

Net Income: For 1997 net loss is budgeted at \$60,300 after interest earned as compared with a net loss of \$188,200 after interest in 1996.

1997 Spanish Grapevine Budget

Following the 1995 General Service Conference Advisory Action #7, the publication of the Grapevine magazine in Spanish was approved by the Grapevine Board of Directors and the trustees' Finance Committee of the General Service Board. Recognizing this publication as a new venture, both boards will review the financial impact on the Fellowship and the progress of circulation and continue to monitor the viability of this venture.

The 1997 LaViña Budget calls for an average circulation of 9,000 copies compared with the 8,068 achieved in 1996. Gross profit on the magazine for 1997 is anticipated at \$34,000 compared with a \$11,000 loss for 1996. Total costs and expenses of the project are estimated at \$131,800 for 1997 compared with \$127,300 in 1996. The net loss for 1997 is estimated at \$97,800 compared with a \$138,300 loss for 1996.

Recognizing that the entire project involved a bit more intricacies and work than originally anticipated, the Grapevine will present a revised business plan for LaViña, based on the experience gained during the first year of operation, to the July 1997 trustees' Finance Committee meeting.

1996 Contributions From Groups — by Delegate Area

(in U.S. dollars)

AREA #	GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AREA	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA	AREA #	GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AREA	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA
1	Ala./N.W.Fla.	397	205	51.6%	29,522.03	7,685	\$3.84								
2	Alaska	222	86	38.7	11,026.98	3,689	2.98		Pennsylvania						
3	Arizona	776	371	47.8	65,368.24	16,226	4.02	59	East	1,423	740	52.0	11,977.05	34,066	3.28
4	Arkansas	241	117	48.5	12,229.70	4,130	2.96	60	West	760	357	46.9	36,608.53	11,263	3.25
	California							61	Rhode Island	246	111	45.1	15,816.17	5,781	2.73
5	Southern	1,961	729	37.1	110,140.89	64,222	1.71	62	South Carolina	294	191	64.9	30,739.47	6,394	4.80
6	N. Coastal	1,915	1,057	55.1	184,912.46	62,448	2.96	63	South Dakota	162	51	31.4	4,027.62	3,567	1.12
7	N. Interior	704	350	49.7	43,767.98	19,113	2.28	64	Tennessee	466	233	50.0	35,153.71	10,312	3.40
8	San Diego/Imp.	824	370	44.9	51,488.60	25,057	2.05		Texas						
9	Mid-South.	1,758	690	39.2	86,879.59	56,256	1.54	65	Northeast	429	181	42.1	42,415.04	17,335	2.44
10	Colorado	618	360	58.2	51,561.84	15,363	3.35	66	Northwest	234	89	38.0	12,469.25	6,938	1.79
11	Connecticut	1,366	533	39.0	58,802.87	33,316	1.76	67	Southeast	499	236	47.2	38,949.33	15,439	2.52
12	Delaware	193	107	55.4	19,528.39	3,095	6.30	68	Southwest	446	192	43.0	30,547.37	10,320	2.96
13	D.C.	455	232	50.9	39,067.04	14,955	2.61	69	Utah	269	161	59.8	25,507.54	4,989	5.11
	Florida							70	Vermont	229	87	37.9	9,620.65	4,580	2.10
14	North	621	342	55.0	53,285.59	14,202	3.75	71	Virginia	1,152	625	54.2	81,576.29	22,464	3.63
15	South/Bahamas/ V.I.	1,537	765	49.7	121,143.96	31,692	3.82	72	Washington West	1,031	503	48.7	79,661.57	23,640	3.36
16	Georgia	690	459	66.5	72,909.19	17,125	4.25	73	West Virginia	302	127	42.0	8,840.19	3,521	2.51
17	Hawaii	276	174	63.0	26,970.01	5,346	5.04		Wisconsin						
18	Idaho	198	103	52.0	10,208.51	3,126	3.26	74	N. Wis./Upper Pen. Mich.	592	277	46.7	23,400.47	9,608	2.43
	Illinois							75	South	937	440	46.9	42,682.19	18,355	2.33
19	Chicago	1,158	327	28.2	50,586.89	27,571	1.83	76	Wyoming	113	49	43.3	5,039.21	2,026	2.48
20	North	1,046	405	38.7	50,894.43	21,547	2.36	77	Puerto Rico	140	79	56.4	5,872.70	1,755	3.34
21	South	459	201	43.7	22,404.65	7,798	2.87	78	Alberta/N.W.T.	574	230	40.0	29,749.99	7,990	3.72
	Indiana							79	B.C./Yukon	766	349	45.5	48,407.60	14,048	3.44
22	North	664	283	42.6	35,253.21	10,458	3.37	80	Manitoba	153	58	37.9	5,862.84	4,221	1.38
23	South	534	258	48.3	29,991.67	10,551	2.84	81	N.B./P.E.I.	216	101	46.7	7,603.06	3,531	2.15
24	Iowa	638	289	45.2	30,232.39	12,683	2.38	82	N.S./Nfld./Lab. Ontario	271	112	41.3	8,187.81	3,653	2.24
25	Kansas	364	190	52.1	25,942.19	9,216	2.81	83	East	626	264	42.1	34,627.43	15,199	2.27
26	Kentucky	627	316	50.3	55,816.95	10,420	5.35	84	Northeast	177	58	32.7	8,128.39	2,290	3.54
27	Louisiana	508	199	39.1	25,736.19	10,403	2.47	85	Northwest	92	17	18.4	2,854.00	1,536	1.85
28	Maine	477	150	31.4	12,747.67	8,027	1.58	86	West	509	211	41.4	29,609.14	10,215	2.89
29	Maryland	890	358	40.2	50,780.45	14,337	3.54		Quebec ¹						
	Massachusetts							87	Southwest	601	289	48.1	17,406.89	15,656	1.11
30	East	1,486	576	38.7	80,133.70	51,118	1.56	88	Southeast	226	136	60.1	9,591.52	3,356	2.85
31	West	251	134	53.3	16,599.53	5,326	3.11	89	Northeast	364	290	79.7	4,548.89	6,897	0.65
	Michigan							90	Northwest	397	336	84.5	20,507.25	7,860	2.61
32	Central	567	220	38.8	32,475.32	12,785	2.54	91	Saskatchewan	325	122	37.5	10,613.47	4,163	2.54
33	Southeast	671	292	43.5	55,547.01	17,345	3.20	92	Washington East	416	151	36.2	16,058.88	5,824	2.75
34	West	447	201	44.9	28,144.80	9,047	3.11		Total U.S./ Canada	55,956	25,138	44.9	\$3,392,480.34	1,257,570	2.70
	Minnesota								Individual, in memoriam, & special meetings				189,147.91		
35	North	534	232	43.4	19,060.26	8,207	2.32		Specials				290,871.91		
36	South	1,012	408	40.3	48,482.40	22,031	2.20		Total for U.S. & Canada				\$3,872,500.16		
37	Mississippi	227	128	56.3	13,758.44	4,108	3.34		FOREIGN AND OTHER						
	Missouri								Birds of a Feather				1,380.00		
38	East	559	268	47.9	37,037.28	8,535	4.33		Correctional facility groups				315.00		
39	West	215	107	49.7	12,763.00	6,275	2.03		Foreign				35,165.49		
40	Montana	297	120	40.4	18,699.35	4,630	4.03		Internationalists				15.00		
41	Nebraska	696	326	46.8	49,355.88	14,817	3.33		Loners				1,782.35		
42	Nevada	380	165	43.4	18,741.47	8,223	2.27		Internationalists groups				30.00		
43	New Hampshire	530	205	38.6	21,794.30	8,623	2.52		International Dr.'s in A.A.				1,500.00		
	New Jersey								World Hello				30.00		
44	North	1,283	445	34.7	54,616.45	32,164	1.69		Grand Total				\$3,912,718.00		
45	South	478	241	50.4	40,790.44	8,670	4.70								
46	New Mexico	350	147	42.0	18,486.24	5,985	3.08								
	New York														
47	Central	716	264	36.9	36,100.92	11,463	3.14								
48	H.M./B.	768	284	36.9	27,366.15	11,819	2.31								
49	Southeast	1,782	762	42.7	159,780.49	55,865	2.86								
50	West	320	104	32.5	13,121.90	5,836	2.24								
51	North Carolina	863	484	56.0	79,529.43	13,661	5.82								
52	North Dakota	173	69	39.9	5,752.89	3,432	1.67								
	Ohio														
53	Cent. & S.E.	607	214	35.2	21,588.56	8,643	2.49								
54	Northeast	1,245	294	23.6	31,528.30	24,090	1.30								
55	N.W. Ohio/ S.E. Mich.	289	127	43.9	13,951.43	3,918	3.56								
56	S.W. Ohio	530	225	42.4	25,586.39	10,870	2.35								
57	Oklahoma	389	243	62.4	33,210.74	6,776	4.90								
58	Oregon	737	374	50.7	44,617.20	14,459	3.08								

CONTRIBUTION COMPARISON — 1996-1995

(in U.S. dollars)

	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA
U.S. & Canada						
1996	55,956	25,138	44.9%	\$3,392,480.34 ²	1,257,570	\$2.70
U.S. & Canada						
1995	55,930	24,865	44.5%	\$3,220,355.38 ²	1,251,192	\$2.57
Increase (Decrease)	26	273	0.4%	\$172,124.96	6,378	\$0.13

¹ Reflects not only those groups that contributed directly to G.S.O., but also those groups that contributed to G.S.O. through their Conference areas (per lists of percentages submitted by areas).

² Group contributions reported on this schedule do not include contributions received as special, individual, in-memoriam, and special meetings.

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.

June

- 6-8—*Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada.* BC & Yukon Area 79 Conv. Write: Ch., 2561-267 St., Aldergrove, BC V4W 2Y2
- 6-8—*Deming, New Mexico.* 40th Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., 1997 New Mexico State Conv., Box 5062, Silver City, NM 88062
- 6-8—*Akron, Ohio.* Founders Days. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309
- 6-8—*Olympia, Washington.* Capitol Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2414, Olympia, WA 98507-2414
- 12-15—*Wilmington, North Carolina.* 1997 SERCYPAA. Write: Ch., 3130 Wrightsville Ave., Wilmington, NC 28403
- 13-14—*North Bay, Ontario, Canada.* 50th Anniversary. Write: Ch., Box 1165, North Bay, ON P1B 8K4
- 13-15—*Onoway, Alberta, Canada.* Dr. Bob's Birthday Bash. Write: Ch., Box 13, Site 4, RR#2, Onoway, AB T0E 1V0
- 13-15—*Port Alma, Ontario, Canada.* 19th Annual Midseason Campout. Write: Ch., Box C-1, Port Alma, ON N0P 1A0
- 13-15—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada.* Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 954, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
- 13-15—*Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada.* Cache Creek/Ashcroft 22nd Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC V0K 1H0
- 13-15—*Blackpool, England.* Great Britain 50th Anniversary Conv. Write: Registrar, Box 32, South Shore, Blackpool FY4 2UA England
- 13-15—*Willow, Alaska.* Mat-Su Blast. Write: Ch., HC 34, Box 2115, Wasilla, AK 99654
- 13-15—*Chinle, Arizona.* Canyon DeChelly Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 417, Chinle, AZ 86503
- 13-15—*Des Moines, Iowa.* Area 24 "97" Spring Assembly. Write: Box 5295, Des Moines, IA 50306-5295
- 13-15—*Springfield, Missouri.* Seventh Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- 13-15—*Medford, New Jersey.* Sixth Annual SJYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 3724, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
- 13-15—*Akron, Ohio.* 16th Annual LIM Conf. Write: LIM Ch., Box 238, Brice, OH 43109
- 13-15—*Exter, Rhode Island.* Ocean State Young People Conf. Write: Ch., Box 41091, Providence, RI 02940
- 19-22—*Indian Wells, California.* Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255

- 20-22—*Coombs, British Columbia, Canada.* 36th Parksville Qualicum Rally. Write: Ch., 665 Ironwood Ave., Parksville, BC V9P 2S2
- 20-22—*Coldbrook, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 1997 Provincial Roundup. Write: Ch., 1162 McKittrick Road, Kentville, NS B4N 3V9
- 20-22—*Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.* 36th Kawartha District Conf. Write: Ch., 625 Cameron St., Peterborough, ON K9J 3Z9
- 20-22—*Tarrytown, New York.* Northeast Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 20-22—*Casper, Wyoming.* 22nd June Jamboree. Write: Tr., Box 50071, Casper, WY 82605-0071
- 27-29—*Moodus, Connecticut.* Soberfest 97. Write: Ch., 239 Jefferson Ave., New London, CT 06302
- 27-29—*Tupelo, Mississippi.* 51st State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7051, Tupelo, MS 38802
- 27-29—*Vancouver, Washington.* Seventh SW Washington Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 66026, Vancouver, WA 98666
- 27-29—*Lancaster, California.* Antelope Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3174, Quartz Hill, CA 93536
- 28-29—*Kalispell, Montana.* Flathead Mini Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1935, Whitefish, MT 59937

July

- 3-6—*Columbus, Ohio.* OYPAA 1997. Write: Ch., Box 8314, Columbus, OH 43201
- 4-6—*Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* TYPC. 1997. Write: Ch., TYPC, Toronto Intragp, 234 Eglinton Ave. East, Ste 202, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5
- 4-6—*Lakeland, Florida.* SFCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 91052, Lakeland, FL 33804-1052
- 4-6—*Portland, Oregon.* Pacific Northwest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1595, Beaverton, OR 97075
- 8-14—*McCloud, California.* Eighth Annual McCloud Camp-out. Write: Ch., 123 Belle Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901-3482

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

June (page 50): Solutions in sobriety

July (page 20-22): What is the message?

- 10-13—*Lubbock, Texas.* 23rd Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79493
- 11-13—*Bronx, New York.* 12th Annual BOTWCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 243, Westchester Sq. Station, Bronx, NY 10461
- 16-20—*Orlando, Florida.* 41st Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 520282, Longwood, FL 32752-0282
- 17-20—*Winston-Salem, North Carolina.* 50th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 11401, Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1401
- 17-20—*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.* PENNSCYPAA IX. Write: Ch., Box 8336, Philadelphia, PA 19104
- 18-20—*Show Low, Arizona.* Sixth Annual Lewis Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 651, Taylor AZ 85939
- 18-20—*Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.* Chilliwack Roundup. Write: Ch., 6219 Parson Rd., Chilliwack, BC V4Z 1Z4
- 18-20—*Smithers, British Columbia, Canada.* Eighth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 92, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
- 18-20—*Camden, Arkansas.* Arkansas Roundup of Young People. Write: Ch., 431 E. North, Magnolia, AR 71753
- 18-20—*Carrabasset Valley, Maine.* 20th Maine Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 51, Waterville, ME 04903-0051
- 18-20—*Albany, New York.* 30th Annual NYS Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6042, Albany, NY 12206

Planning a Future Event?

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



- 24-27—*Winter Park, Colorado*. Breckenridge at Winter Park. Write: Ch., 2525 Arapahoe, Ste. E4-109, Boulder, CO 80302
- 25-27—*Birmingham, England*. The Tenth Heart of England Conv. Write: Ch., Box 119, Birmingham, B1 1AA, England
- 25-27—*Houston, Texas*. The Tenth Annual HCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 37, Spring, TX 77383
- 29-Aug 5—*Oshkosh, Wisconsin*. 12 Step High EAA Conv. Write: Ch., 1819 Kasper Dr., Appleton, WI 54914

August

- 1-3—*Los Angeles, California*. Poothill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 184, Montrose, CA 91021
- 1-3—*State College, Pennsylvania*. West-East Pennsylvania State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 115, Barnsboro, PA 15714
- 8-10—*Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada*. 13th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
- 8-10—*Waterloo, Ontario, Canada*. Central West Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., 48-385 Fairway Rd., So., Box 126, Kitchener, ON N2C 2N9
- 14-17—*Mountain View, Arkansas*. "Old Grandad" State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 271, Siloam Springs, AR 72761
- 14-17—*Omaha, Nebraska*. Cornhusker Roundup XX. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 15-17—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. 25th Annual Lakeshore Conf. Write: Ch., 200 Thornton Rd. N., Oshawa, ON L1J 6T8
- 15-17—*Powers, Oregon*. Annual Campout. Write: Ch., 708 Harris St., Myrtle Point, OR 97458

- 15-17—*Decatur, Illinois*. 24th State Conf. 6-10th East Central Region Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3961, Decatur, IL 62526
- 22-23—*Val D'Or, Quebec, Canada*. Special Eastern Canada Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 22-24—*Kalamazoo, Michigan*. 45th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 58, Augusta, MI 49012
- 22-24—*New York, New York*. Big Apple Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., 527 3rd Ave., Ste. 226, New York, NY 10016
- 22-24—*Toledo, Ohio*. 15th Ohio Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9423, Toledo, OH 43697-9423
- 22-24—*Joplin, Missouri*. Summer Hummer. Write: Ch., Box 2075, Joplin, MO 64803
- 29-31—*Pinckney, Michigan*. Agape Weekend. Write: Ch., 4745 Chovin, Dearborn, MI 48126
- 29-31—*Dallas, Texas*. Lone Star Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 836221, Richardson, TX 75083-6221
- 29-31—*Seattle, Washington*. Emerald City Roundup. Write: Ch., 1122 East Pike, Ste 1006, Seattle, WA 98122-3927

September

- 4-7—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. 36th Annual Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823-3434
- 5-7—*Cromwell, Connecticut*. 39th Annual Area 11 Conv. Write: Ch., 670 Mix Ave., Apt. 5B, Hamden, CT 06514
- 5-7—*St. Paul, Minnesota*. West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

- 12-14—*Beachwood, Ohio*. 61st Punderson Park Conf. Write: Ch., Box 22440, Beachwood, OH 44122
- 12-14—*Angels, Camp, California*. 11th Annual Gold Country Roundup. Write: Box 865, Angels Camp, CA 95222
- 18-21—*Estes Park, Colorado*. ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 18207, Denver, CO 80218-0207
- 18-21—*Norman Park, Georgia*. Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 30344, Sea Island, GA 31561
- 19-21—*Anchorage, Alaska*. 50 Years in Anchorage. Write: Ch., 5620 E. 40th #C-203, Anchorage, AK 99504
- 19-21—*Santa Maria, California*. 52nd District Conv. Write: Ch., Box 401, Santa Maria, CA 93456
- 19-21—*Grand Junction, Colorado*. Color Daze Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4013, Grand Junction, CO 81502
- 19-21—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. Seventh Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop. Write: Ch., 1909 Brad St., Waukesha, WI 53188
- 19-21—*Naples, Florida*. West Coast Weekend. Write: Ch., 345 Colonial Ave., Marco Island, FL 33937
- 26-28—*Park City, Utah*. Skyline Conf. Write: Ch., 6678 So. 3235 W., West Jordan, UT 84084
- 26-28—*Batesville, Arkansas*. Fourth Annual Fall In The Foothills Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4144, Batesville, AR 72503
- 26-28—*Muscataine, Iowa*. Melon City Roundup VI. Write: Ch., Box 1244, Muscatine, IA 52761