

## 48th General Service Conference “Our Twelfth Step Work”

In the beginning there were two—there were two when Ebby brought the message to Bill at the kitchen table on Clinton St., Brooklyn, there where two when Bill shared his story with a hungover Dr. Bob at the gatehouse in Akron, Ohio, May 12, 1935. And when Dr. Bob put down the drink for the final time 29 days later, June 10, there were two *sober* alcoholics and a Fellowship that would eventually circle the globe and be known as Alcoholics Anonymous.

When the 48th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous U.S./Canada met at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan, April 19-25, there were over two million sober alcoholics with A.A. activity in approximately 150 countries. In 1998 the message is carried through local intergroup, district and area committees, through radio and television public service announcements, through literature translated into many languages, and, of course, via Internet.

But since identification is still one of the strongest forces in an alcoholic's getting sober it still boils down, in 1998, to two—one drunk talking to another.

Thus the 48th General Service Conference addressed the theme “Our Twelfth Step Work.” Presentations throughout Conference week explored the many and diverse ways we “carry the message to alcoholics”—Reaching the Newcomer; Sponsorship; Literature; The Home Group; The Service Structure and A.A. Around the World.

This year's Conference was chaired by Gary Glynn, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairman of the General Service Board. Assisting with the chairing duties: George D., G.S.O.'s general manager; Bob K., this year's delegate chairperson (California, Northern Coastal); and John Chappel, M.D., Class A trustee. G.S.O. staff member Joanie M. was Conference coordinator.

Sunday evening, prior to the Monday morning opening session, was the Opening Dinner/Reception followed by a five-speaker open A.A. meeting. It was an upbeat, noisy, joyful time, with first-year delegates (Panel 48) getting acquainted with the second-year delegates (Panel 47), trustees, G.S.O. and Grapevine directors and

staff members—all who make up the 131 voting members of the Conference.

Monday morning the Conference was officially opened with a welcome from chairman of the board Gary Glynn, followed by the calling of the roll, and greetings by delegate chair Bob K. The keynote address was given by Bill B., Eastern Canada regional trustee.

Throughout the week, usually from 9 am to 9 pm, there were What's on Your Mind? sharing sessions, a workshop on the Conference theme, area service highlights by Panel 48 delegates, and committee meetings and reports. Every morning at 7:30 the General Service Conference Serenity Group met for an open A.A. meeting. Tuesday afternoon delegates visited the General Service Office, where the A.A. Archives and the “new look” of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site drew the most attention.



This “Man On the Bed” painting, depicting two alcoholics Twelfth Stepping a third, hangs in many A.A. meeting rooms. Originally titled “Came to Believe,” it first appeared in the December 1955 issue of the Grapevine. The artist, Bob M., an A.A. member who was a volunteer illustrator for the Grapevine, presented the original to Bill W. in 1956. Reproductions are available from the Grapevine.

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Wednesday afternoon Marne H. of Thunder Bay, Ontario, was elected to serve as the new Eastern Canada regional trustee, replacing rotating Bill B.; Jim C. of Newport Beach, California, will be the new Pacific regional trustee, following Julian R.

At the Delegates Only Dinner, Tuesday evening, Vic B. of Western Ontario was elected delegate chair for the 1999 Conference; Bjarne (B.J.) K. of Wyoming will be the alternate chair.

Martha A., chairperson of the General Service Board in the Netherlands and a World Service Meeting Delegate, attended the Conference as an observer.

Wednesday evening through Friday afternoon, much of the time was devoted to hearing the reports from the Conference Committees, the result of their informed and thoughtful deliberation on various agenda items. The committees' recommendations and suggestions were put before the entire Conference body for discussion and a vote. Many of these items became Conference Advisory Actions, highlights of which appear on page 3.

This year the Literature Committee heard a progress report on the proposed Fourth Edition of the Big Book and discussed a video (later viewed by the entire Conference) on G.S.O., the Grapevine and the Service Structure; P.I. and Conference members reviewed four proposed television Public Service Announcements; Finance discussed self-support; and the Correctional Facilities Committee reviewed the final version of a video to encourage A.A. members to participate in corrections service (also shown to the entire Conference).

The 48th Conference closed Friday afternoon with the Serenity Prayer in English, French and Spanish. At the Saturday morning Closing Brunch all came together for the final time to hear talks by the two rotating regional trustees and John N. Chappel, M.D., Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee, who has served on the board since 1989.

G.S.O.'s general manager, George D., who will retire at the end of the year, also gave a farewell talk. This

was George's thirteenth Conference, having served as delegate, A.A.W.S. director, trustee and, since 1992, general manager.

Sadly missing from this final gathering, but remembered with love and gratitude, was Raul M., Southwest regional trustee, who died in March.

Throughout the presentations, workshop, sharing sessions (both formal and informal) many ideas were put forth on the ways and means of A.A.'s Twelfth Step: being available to and welcoming the newcomer; being available to listen; making coffee; supporting and serving our home group, district and area; just staying sober.

But, when all is said and done, with all the sophisticated technology—computers, videos, PSAs, printed word—it still goes back to two—just like that Sunday morning in Akron, Ohio, nearly 63 years ago—one drunk talking to another.

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## Resumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 1999

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees—the trustee-at-large Canada and one each from the Northeast and Southwest (U.S.) Regions—will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 1999. Resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 1999, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new Northeast regional trustee will succeed MaryJane R. of Rhode Island; the new Southwest regional will fill the position formerly held by the late Raul M. of San Antonio. The next trustee-at-large/Canada will replace rotating Michel G., Quebec.

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.

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

# 1998 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 Advisory Actions appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

**Floor Action**—that, in order to further clarify the topic of medication and other drugs in the booklet *Living Sober*, the following sections from the pamphlet “The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs” be added as an appendix at its next printing: The lead-in and 9 points on pages 5 & 6 in the section entitled “A report from a group physicians in A.A.,” and page 13 entitled “However, some alcoholics require medication...”

**Agenda**—that the theme for the 1999 General Service Conference be: “Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility”; that the following be workshop topics for the 1999 Conference: “Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility”: a. Harmony in the A.A. Community; b. Principle of Rotation; c. Spiritual Significance of Anonymity.

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**—that the draft revision of the pamphlet to replace “A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs” be approved, with the title “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?”

**Correctional Facilities**—that the video “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls,” developed to encourage more A.A. members to participate in carrying the message into correctional facilities, be approved; that an addition relative to Carrying the Message into Youth Detention Centers and Short-Term Facilities be added to the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

**Finance**—no recommendations.

**Grapevine**—no recommendations.

**International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums**—that, as at previous International Conventions, non-A.A. speakers be invited to participate in the 2000 International Convention, with the number not to exceed twenty-one.

**Literature**—that the video, “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure,” be approved for distribution; that a draft Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, continue to be developed and a progress report be brought to the 1999 Conference Literature Committee.

**Policy/Admissions**—that a Conference Archives Committee, composed of nine delegates, meet at the 49th Conference as a secondary committee assignment and that the committee meet jointly with the trustees’ Archives Committee; that the timetable for the election of delegates from the West Central Region be revised to allow for a more even distribution of new delegates on each panel.

**Public Information**—that the four proposed television Public Service Announcements developed by the trustees’ P.I. Committee, emphasizing membership of young people, minorities and generic A.A. information, be approved; that the 1998 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis, as was done in the 1996 A.A. Membership Survey.

**Report and Charter**—no recommendations.

**Treatment Facilities**—no recommendations.

**Trustees**—that the slates of trustees, officers and directors of the General Service Board, A.A. World Services and Grapevine Corporate Boards be elected.

## Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 1998<sup>1</sup>

	Groups	Members
United States	50,997	1,166,079
Canada	5,277	102,499
Correctional facilities <sup>2</sup>	2,399	62,129
Internationalists		108
Lone members		312
Total	58,673	1,331,127
Outside U.S. & Canada <sup>3</sup>	38,895	636,306
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>97,568</b>	<b>1,967,433</b>

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups registered with G.S.O., and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2. U.S. and Canada only.

3. We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 150 countries, including 43 countries that have autonomous general service offices. Annually we attempt to contact G.S.O.s outside of US/Canada and groups that request to be 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:** Raul M., our Southwest regional trustee, died on March 5, 1998. Raul was a hardworking trustee who served his region, the Grapevine, the board, and all of A.A. We are especially grateful for his service in improving the board's efforts to help carry the A.A. message to Spanish-speaking alcoholics everywhere.

Since the last Conference, the board has hosted four Regional Forums. We also hosted Special Forums: one in Alaska, which took place in six-hour sessions at four sites: Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Six languages were represented at the Special Forum in Val d'Or, Quebec, which was planned to help reach the remote communities of northern Quebec.

In October the board held a special session to discuss how to better carry out our responsibilities. We are studying ways to make our board weekends shorter and more productive. In response to a situation in Europe, at the November meeting we held a special session to discuss protecting A.A.'s copyrights. Following discussion, the trustees voted unanimously to endorse the resolution of A.A.W.S. to preserve and protect the copyrights held in trust for all of A.A., including taking legal action if necessary, as unchallenged infringement of our copyrighted literature would seriously affect the growth of A.A. in other countries.

At the January meeting, George D. told the board that he wants to retire. A search committee was appointed to review candidates and recommend one or more to the board by the October board meeting. We hope to have a new general manager in place by January; the new manager will overlap with George D. as long as necessary.

We were happy to welcome Alejandro M., G.S.O. manager, and Ramón M., Class B trustee, of the General Service Board of Mexico as guests at our August meeting. Much of our work in carrying the message is directed to other countries and other cultures; new translation projects are always underway. By translating A.A. literature and sharing our experience with service, we can give newcomer countries a much faster start than they would get on their own. One of the reasons it is important for us to maintain a strong Reserve Fund is that we never have to say no to an unexpected translation request or unplanned but needed international visit.

This Conference marks the end of my first year as chairman of the board. As I've participated in Regional Forums and talked with many of you in person or by phone, I'm more convinced than ever that we all want the same thing — to carry A.A.'s message to the alcoholic who still suffers. And I also realize more than ever how important our unity is to carrying out the Fifth Tradition. As our co-founders knew,

only the Conference will permit us to work out our inevitable differences and carry the message in unity. I am grateful that you have allowed me to be part of that.

*Gary Glynn*  
(nonalcoholic) chairman

## A.A. World Services, Inc.

**Directors' report:** A.A.W.S., Inc. is a New York not-for-profit corporation. The trustees of the General Service Board are the members of A.A.W.S. and elect the A.A.W.S. directors. It has the delegated responsibility to maintain oversight of the General Service Office, which provides group services, including printing, distribution of Conference-approved and other service literature. The board met nine 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 from A.A.s and non-A.A.s for permission to reprint A.A.-copyrighted literature; and address other matters as they arose.

The committees of the A.A.W.S. Board are: Services, which addresses the needs of all service assignments; Finance, which concerns salary and budget, audit review, and retirement; Publishing, which addresses reprints, foreign literature and publications concerns; 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 1997, 2,452 new groups were registered, compared with 2,499 in 1996. We completed the service piece "Memo to an A.A. Group Treasurer." The board approved financial assistance to Norway for printing the Norwegian A.A. *Comes of Age*, at a cost of \$13,400. This amount will be reimbursed to A.A.W.S. in semi-annual installments. G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site was visited 214,603 times in 1997, representing "hits" in English, French and Spanish. The response vehicle (e-mail) for the Letter to Professionals on the A.A. Web Site was implemented. In order to provide general information to the Fellowship regarding setting up web sites, we reviewed a new service piece, "Ten Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. Web Sites," accepted suggestions to add "A Newcomer Asks," "A Message to Teenagers" and the annual Anonymity Letter to Media to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site. G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site address will be added to recovery pamphlets as they are reprinted.

**Regional Forums:** A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. staff participated in the four Regional Forums and two Special Forums since the last Conference.

**Intergroup Seminar:** The 12th Annual Intergroup/Central Office Seminar was held in Columbus, Ohio, October 24-26, with 160 participants.

**International:** Preparations continue for the 15th World Service Meeting, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, October 4-8, 1998. G.S.O. staff member Richard B. met with A.A.s in France, Poland, and the Netherlands and attended the European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, and visited the German G.S.O. in Munich. He and Julian R. met with the board of A.A. in Argentina. Danny M., of G.S.O.'s Spanish Services desk, attended Brazil's 21st General Service Conference of A.A. in Sao Paulo, and the 14th Convention (50 years) in Rio de Janeiro, and the Fifth General Service Conference in Asuncion. Dean R., Michel G. and Danny M. visited G.S.O. in Mexico City and attended the Meeting of the Americas in Guadalajara. George D. and Danny M. attended a Spanish General Service Board meeting in Aviles, Spain.

**Finance:** A brief summary of the financial results for 1997 follows: Sales for the year of \$9,221,300 were approximately \$111,000 less than budgeted and \$186,000 more than in 1996. Gross profit (sales less cost of manufacturing, royalties, shipping & warehousing) was \$4,244,400, approximately \$45,000 greater than budgeted and \$1,043,000 greater than in 1996. Contribution support for the year of \$3,854,600 was approximately \$175,000 (4.3%) under budget and \$58,000 (1.5%) less than 1996. Total revenue (gross profit from literature and contributions) was \$8,103,000, approximately \$130,500 under budget. For 1997, the statements reflect a loss of \$244,900 compared with a budgeted loss of \$219,900. Through its Finance Committee, the board prepared, reviewed and recommended the 1998 G.S.O. budget to the trustees' Finance Committee, calling for sales of \$9,574,800, contributions of \$3,932,000, operating expenses of \$8,477,400, and a net income of \$237,910.

**Publishing:** Since the 1997 Conference we published the following items: "The A.A. Grapevine, Our Meeting in Print" (pamphlet); Treatment Facilities Handbook. We published three translations: Twelve Steps and *Living Sober* in Slovak; "44 Questions" in Amharic (Ethiopian). Eight translations were still in progress at mid-March 1998. During 1997, the board granted permission/did not object to 221 requests to reprint from A.A. literature; 41 requests were denied.

**Publications Francaises:** During the past year, A.A.W.S. has dealt with a situation concerning Publications Francaises, an autonomous A.A. service board in Quebec that has been licensed to fulfill A.A.W.S.' responsibility to provide French-language literature to French-

speaking groups in Canada. Issues concerning the Publications Francaises Board were brought to the attention of the A.A.W.S. Board as a result of two letters—one signed by three Quebec delegates and the Eastern Canada trustee and a second letter signed by members of the Management Committee—making conflicting requests concerning revocation of Publications Francaises' license. The A.A.W.S. chairperson, the General Service Board treasurer and G.S.O. manager met with their board in an attempt to reach accord. However, by October 30, 1997, no progress was reported in resolving the issue between the Management Committee and the delegates and Eastern Canada trustee. Another letter had been received signed by three delegates and the Eastern Canada trustee, which again requested termination of the license. Following discussion, the board adopted a resolution to issue a notice of termination of the licensing agreement between A.A.W.S. and Les Publications Francaises A.A. du Quebec (1979) Inc., effective April, 1, 1998 (later extended by A.A.W.S. to May 1, 1998). The Board of Publications Francaises subsequently, unanimously, requested that A.A.W.S. take over the operations, assets and liabilities of that organization. A.A.W.S. immediately undertook a process of "due diligence" with respect to Publications Francaises which, by late March 1998, was near completion.

**New Formats:** We approved three new formats, Big Book "Pioneer Stories" and *Living Sober* on audio cassette; and Twelve and Twelve on diskette for use on a P.C.

**Nominating:** The A.A.W.S. Nominating Committee made the following recommendations to fill 1998 vacancies, which were approved by the board: Ronald G. and Jan P. were selected to serve as nontrustee directors starting in May 1998; A.A.W.S. nontrustee director Jackie J. was elected to serve as a general service trustee, following the 1998 Conference. Lois F. was elected as a director on staff rotation in October. These recommendations were forwarded to the trustees' Nominating Committee. Other Board Actions: On May 15, 1997, the board, acting as a "committee of the whole," elected a slate of officers to terms expiring at the end of the April 1998 Conference. In May, Garry McA. replaced rotating regional trustee director Julian R.; the board requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee approve Jack O. to replace MaryJane R. as a regional trustee director following the 1998 Conference.

**G.S.O./Staff operations:** We welcomed new G.S.O. staff member Warren S., on Correctional Facilities, replacing Pat R. Judit Santon (nonalcoholic) was appointed G.S.O. archivist, replacing Frank M. Office space on the 10th and 11th floors at 475 Riverside Drive was reviewed and it appears possible that G.S.O. could consolidate all operations on the 11th floor, resulting in a savings of \$40,000-50,000 per year, or \$400,000-500,000 over the course of a ten-year lease. In 1997, G.S.O. welcomed 1,264 visitors.

*MaryJane R., chairperson*

## Archives

**Trustees' committee:** The committee approved the final format of the Archives Guidelines, which were sent to all delegates, area archivists, and archives chairs. Planning for the reproduction of the filmstrip "Markings on the Journey" continued in 1997. We will be able to use most of the documents from the current version, with only a few new additional shots to reflect the changes since the original production. We supported the acceptance of Dr. Silkworth's desk, which was offered to the G.S.O. Archives, since it was such a singular contribution, even though it is not within our general scope. The committee cautioned against setting any trend of accepting articles of this type in the future.

*Robert Miller, D.D.*

*(nonalcoholic) chairperson*

**Archivist's report:** Our scanning operation proceeds at a steady pace. We manage to scan 400-500 pages a day, and have processed approximately 70,000 documents (last year was 38,500). We have started the preliminary planning of a bibliographic database application for the Archives' holdings, which will allow us to locate all relevant documents more effectively. The nature and the purpose of this new application will be distinctly different from that of the scanner. We received an outstanding amount of requests for group histories in 1997, and an increasing number of areas have provided updates for our permanent file.

*Judit Santon,*

*(nonalcoholic) archivist*

## Conference

**Trustees' committee:** We reviewed the 1997 Advisory Actions including the theme for the 48th General Service Conference, "Our Twelfth Step Work." We reviewed the Conference Evaluation Questionnaires, and agreed to stay with the time frame used in 1997 and to begin the Conference on Monday. The committee also approved the suggestions that: spouses or partners of rotating trustees be invited to attend the Closing Brunch; chairpersons of each board to give summaries only of reports; that presenters to submit their talks in the suggested length; and a suggestion for one "casual-dress day." We reviewed proposed topics for the 1998 Conference, and forwarded subjects to the appropriate trustees' or Conference committee. We also discussed future growth of the Conference, and referred the subject to the General Service Board. We also considered Conference agenda topics submitted since the last meeting, and forwarded each to a trustees' or Conference committee, if appropriate.

*William B., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Conference secretary is the G.S.O. contact for Conference members and area and district committee members of the 92

areas throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Conference secretary is responsible for: Serving as secretary to the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference; assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; working with the G.S.O. staff and general manager on planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and other information for the Conference Manual, the Early Bird edition of *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Final Report*.

*Joanie M.*

## Cooperation With the Professional Community

**Trustees' committee:** The committee forwarded to the Conference C.P.C. Committee a draft of a revised pamphlet to replace "A.A. and Employee Assistance Programs" and a draft to replace the existing pamphlet "If You Are a Professional." We also discussed C.P.C. input in the development of future Membership Surveys and forwarded this topic to the Conference Committee. Exhibits for 25 professional meetings were coordinated in 1997. We reviewed the requests from professionals for information via the e-mail response form in the letter to the professional on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site and continue to look for additional ways the Web Site may be utilized in C.P.C. work.

*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 350 area, district and central office/intergroup C.P.C. committees. The publication *About A.A.* is also the responsibility of this assignment.

*Adrienne B.*

## Correctional Facilities

**Trustees' committee:** Since the 1997 Conference the committee completed a final version of the video on carrying the message behind the walls, and forwarded it to the Conference committee for consideration. Proposed additions to the C.F. Workbook on youth detention centers and short-term facilities were forwarded to the Conference committee for approval. A subcommittee was formed to review the current corrections literature and to distribute a questionnaire to C.F. chairs. Two examples of informational letters from G.S.O. to wardens and correctional professionals were also forwarded to the Conference committee for consideration.

*Carl B., chairperson*

**Staff report:** This assignment is responsible for carrying the message to alcoholics confined in correctional institutions. Over 600 letters a month arrive from inmates, most asking for free literature, many 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, primarily 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. Development of the video and the continuing effort by G.S.O. staff to capture the interest of A.A.s in order to increase their participation in CCS represents a small part of the correctional facilities assignment's continuing effort to facilitate Twelfth Step efforts regarding the alcoholic inmate.

Warren S.

## Finance

**Trustees' committee:** Last year your controller reviewed the proposed budget for 1997 and reported that G.S.O. expected a loss from operations of \$220,000. This followed substantial, but planned, losses in both 1995 and 1996 that helped to lower the Reserve Fund balance. Today we can report that actual results for 1997 were very close to budget and that we have accomplished the objective of lowering the Reserve Fund balance, which now stands at just nine months.

During 1997, \$3,854,600 in contributions were received from 24,400 groups. That represents 44.5% of the 56,300 groups registered with G.S.O., and is lower than the 44.9% that contributed in 1996. Net sales of literature were \$8,898,300. Some literature prices were adjusted upward in May 1997. The number of book units sold declined about 4% below 1996. Total G.S.O. revenue was \$8,103,000. Total operating expenses for G.S.O. during 1997 were \$8,347,900.

At \$7,363,835, the Reserve Fund amounts to \$131 per listed A.A. group. Since 1990, our unit sales of books have declined at an average rate of 4.5% per year. We simply had to raise prices if we are to continue to provide the Fellowship with the current level of services. The 1998 G.S.O. budget assumes a further 4.0% unit decline, a 2.0% increase in contributions, and a slight, \$130,000 (1.5%), increase in operating expenses. Based on these primary assumptions the projection for 1998 is for a modest excess of revenue over expense of \$237,900.

In 1997, we spent \$5,944,000 on services, even with the \$5,925,000 spent in 1996. Contributions provided 65% of this, 31% came from net literature sales support and the balance 4% came from the Reserve Fund. Services spending amounted to \$106 per listed A.A. group, exactly even with 1996, while contributions were \$68 per group. The 1997 service dollar was spent on the following activities: Group Services (which includes the Group Services assignment; Box 4-5-9; A.A. Directories; records and files; contributions processing; and French services), 40.4%; C.P.C., 4.5%; P.I. 4.1%;

Treatment Facilities, 1.5%; Correctional Facilities, 4.6%; Loners, Internationalists and Overseas Services, 8.5%; the Conference, 12.%; Regional Forums, 5.6%; Archives, 6.4%; trustees' and directors' activities, 8.3%; Spanish Services, 4%; and .1% to cover the preliminary expenses of the World Service Meeting.

Grapevine magazine income rose \$76,000 over last year because of the price increase that took effect on new subscriptions beginning April 1, 1996. Average circulation during 1997 was 120,679 compared with 128,360 during 1996. Gross profit on the magazine was \$980,200, which was \$126,000 higher than last year and \$49,000 higher than budget. Gross profit on Other Publishing Income was \$30,000 lower than last year and \$22,000 under budget. Total income, including interest income, was \$1,334,500, \$134,500 greater than last year and \$30,000 more than budgeted. Costs and expenses for editorial, circulation and business, and administration were \$1,417,100. The Grapevine reported a loss of \$82,600, \$22,000 greater than budgeted, but \$106,000 less than in 1996. The 1998 budget, excluding La Viña, calls for a \$69,000 increase in magazine income to \$1,758,800, compared with 1997, and an increase of \$97,000 in magazine gross profit. Gross profit on Other Publishing Income is anticipated to increase \$42,000; interest income should remain approximately the same and costs and expenses are projected to increase by \$67,000. The net effect is a budgeted decline in net loss, from \$82,560 in 1997 to \$10,170 in 1998. The Grapevine hopes to break even for 1998. La Viña, our Spanish-language magazine, was approved by the 1995 General Service Conference. During 1997, subscription income was \$62,000 and direct costs of publishing were \$65,000, resulting in a \$3,000 loss. Operating expenses directly associated with the publication were \$99,000. These include the editorial, circulation and administrative costs attributable to La Viña. Therefore, the overall loss on the project was \$102,000 for the year. For 1998, the loss on the La Viña project is budgeted to decline to \$78,400 and circulation is projected to show a modest increase to 9,500.

Arthur L. Knight, Jr.

(nonalcoholic) chairperson

## General Sharing Session:

**Trustees' report:** The topic for the first sharing session in August was "A.A. Unity — Today and Tomorrow." In January the topic was "The Still-Suffering African-American Alcoholic: The Remote Community Just Around the Corner," originally scheduled for the November board weekend. For the August session on Unity the chairperson noted that although a number of Conferences have addressed the topic of A.A. unity, it is a subject that merits constant revisiting. The chairman posed the following questions: Are we telling the A.A. unity story to the groups? Are there additional methods that need to be employed in order to better relate what

A.A. unity means to our Fellowship in the fullest practical and spiritual sense? Two presenters shared on the concept of unity as viewed from an historical perspective and spoke of ways A.A.s might be more effective in fostering unity through communication, sponsorship, prayer and the home group.

Tom McG., chairperson

## International Conventions/ A.A. Regional Forums

### Trustees' committee:

**International Convention**—The committee reviewed procedures for taping at International Conventions and recommended that A.A.s invited to speak be presented with an option to be taped or not. We discussed a request for Financial Inducement Guidelines for International Convention Bid Presentations and tabled consideration of this topic for discussion closer to site selection for the 2010 International Convention. We considered 16 final theme suggestions (out of 253) for the 2000 International and recommended: "Pass It On — Into the 21st Century."

**Regional Forums**—Four regions have held Forums since the last Conference: East Central, Northeast, West Central and Southwest. All were lively and well-attended with substantive sharing on important A.A. topics. A Special Forum was held in Alaska at four sites: Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks; another was in Val D'Or, Quebec.

Garry McA., chairperson

### Staff reports:

**International Convention**—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 already underway for the Convention in 2000 to be held June 29-July 2 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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

Susan U.

## 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 15th World Service Meeting will be held October 4-8, 1998, in Auckland, New Zealand. The theme will be "Service - Basic to Personal Recovery and A.A. Unity." In 1998 A.A. World Services will 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 General Service Boards in other countries, who carry our message to countless thousands in new regions and across difficult linguistic, cultural and economic barriers.

*Michel G., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The International desk receives letters and request from around the world. Each request is answered with a letter, often accompanied by A.A. literature. Other responsibilities on the assignment are: Serving as coordinator for the biennial World Service Meeting (WSM) and maintaining contact with delegates and their offices throughout the year; maintaining close communications with our Publications Department on requests for new translations of literature and the beginnings of new central offices that may be able to distribute literature to local members and groups.

*Richard B.*

## Literature

**Trustees' committees:** A summary of literature projects since the 1997 Conference.

**Project Completed:** A section from Warranty Six, in the Twelfth Concept, was added to the "The A.A. Group" pamphlet.

**Projects forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee:** The video, "Your A.A. General Service Office, The Grapevine, and the General Service Structure," along with the accompanying service piece; suggested changes in *Living Sober*, for consideration.

**Ongoing Projects:** A progress report on a possible Fourth Edition of the Big Book, was forwarded to the Conference committee.

*Julian R., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Literature coordinator serves as secretary to the trustees' and Conference Literature Committees and works closely with

the editor, writers and illustrators on preparing all new recovery pamphlets, books, displays and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the General Service conference. The Literature desk receives and responds to correspondence from A.A. members and groups about literature and maintains contact with area, district, intergroups and A.A. group literature chairpersons. Each newly elected literature chair receives a welcoming letter and guidelines to assist in this vital responsibility. Under the present structure, the staff member on the literature desk serves as editor of *Box 4-5-9*.

*Doug 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 327 Loners in 85 countries. Seagoing A.A.s, known as Internationalists, number about 110 with an additional 44 Port Contacts; eight Internationalist Groups meet aboard ships. There are 180 Homers, A.A.s who are housebound due to illness or physical disability. Loners, Homers, and Internationalists stay sober by sharing 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 bulletin which shares excerpts of letters received at G.S.O. from LIM members. There are also over 652 Loners Sponsors, sharing group activities and personal experience.

*Valerie O'N.*

## Nominating

**Trustees' committee:** We discussed the additional duties required of the Eastern Canada regional trustee and it was noted that the trustee is asked to serve on the French Publications Board and the board of La Vigne, in addition to their regular responsibilities. Resumes were reviewed to fill the vacancy for a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee to be approved following the 1998 General Service Conference. The proposed slates of General Service Board members, officers of the board, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine directors were forwarded to the 1998 Conference Committee on Trustees for disapproval, if any.

*Elaine M. Johnson, Ph.D.*

*(nonalcoholic) chairperson*

## Public Information

**Trustees' committee:** The 1996 A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet and one-way display were updated. The following items were referred to the Conference committee; approval of the 1998 Membership Survey questionnaire; report on updating, where necessary, all televi-

sion and radio P.S.A.s; four proposed television Public Service Announcements reviewed for approval; request to eliminate question #4 on race from the 1998 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire.

*Jack O., vice-chairperson*

**Staff report:** The goal of the P.I. assignment is to help carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic, potential alcoholic and general public through the media, health fairs, schools and G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site. Part of P.I. work at G.S.O. is to be a resource for the "collected experience and sharing" of P.I. 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 chairs 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. The 1998 Membership Survey is coordinated by the P.I. desk.

*Eva S.*

## Service Material

**Staff report:** To assist groups, the General Service Office provides service material to the Fellowship, based on an indicated need, to provide information and share experience not found in Conference-approved literature. Examples of service material include: Regional Forum Reports; A.A. Guidelines; referral list of Fellowships Similar to A.A.; and Special Needs items. Ongoing projects; Coordination 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 also serves as liaison with intergroup/central offices and as the liaison with special needs committees.

*Susan U.*

## 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 is distributed in Spanish to all delegates and alternate delegates. The staff member helps answer the correspondence received in Spanish by other assignments, and attends conventions, Hispanic intergroup meetings, Regional Forums, World Service Meetings 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. In 1997 staff received approximately 18,000 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 1,300 visitors from around the world visited G.S.O.

Lois F.

## Treatment Facilities

**Trustees' committee:** An information packet consisting of the trustees' T.F. subcommittee report on "The Changing Landscape of Treatment Facilities," summary results of the 1996 Questionnaire and the June 1997 Grapevine was mailed to Treatment Facilities, H&I and Bridging the Gap chairpersons. A questionnaire regarding experience with carrying the message into psychiatric/mental health facilities or state hospitals was sent to 350 T.F./H&I and Bridge the Gap committee chairs. Local T.F. committees are now carrying meetings into other noncorrectional institutional environments, e.g., shelters, nursing homes, hospices, half-way houses, and not just limiting their scope to "treatment facilities." The trustees' Committee continues to provide support for this special Twelfth Step service.

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 92 area T.F. chairpersons, 183 district T.F. chairs, and 73 "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.

Valerie O'N.

## Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

**Directors' report:** Since the 47th Conference, one new nontrustee director came aboard, our Spanish magazine *La Viña* passed its first birthday, a new Conference-approved pamphlet about the Grapevine was published by A.A.W.S., we hired a new circulation director, and our controller/business administrator took an early retirement. The new Grapevine Website <http://www.aagrapevine.org>, which is linked to G.S.O.'s A.A. Website, provides basic information about the Grapevine magazine and operation.

**Revised La Viña Business Plan and Three-Year Projections:** The board and the trustees' Finance Committee have been evaluating the progress of *La Viña* and an updated business plan, assessing its current position, was forwarded to the trustees' Finance Committee. The board reviewed a series of three-year financial projections and both the board and the trustees' Finance Committee recognized that the projected three-year losses were significant. *La Viña* has been well-received throughout the U.S. and Canada and around the world, yet we need to continue getting the word out and emphasizing the need for support by the Spanish-speaking A.A. community.

**Update on 1997 Conference Actions:** In response to the 1997 Advisory Action that "the Grapevine use mailing lists to provide introductory information about the Grapevine and *La Viña* to correctional facilities and treatment facilities," a series of special mailings were put together, and 8,250 correctional facilities were contacted with a letter and a return card if they wanted a sample copy of either magazine. Nearly 6% requested a sample copy of either magazine. Of the 9,500 treatment facilities contacted, we had a 10% response rate.

In July, A.A.W.S. published the Conference-approved pamphlet "The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print."

**New items for 1998:** The board approved publication of a third volume of *Best of the Grapevine*, that will contain over 65 articles selected from the last ten years of magazine publication. The set of audiocassettes on the topic of Young People and Old-Timers in A.A. should be available around mid-year.

**Canadian Circulation:** In January 1997, recognizing a gradual fall-off of Grapevine circulation in Canada, the board asked Eastern Canada regional trustee Bill B. to serve as a special advisor to the board regarding circulation in Canada. Bill contacted A.A. members throughout Canada, and gave a report which highlighted the problems of magazine pricing for Canadian subscribers, the relatively low involvement level of GvRs in Canadian groups, and the need for more articles from Canadian A.A. members. It was his sense that though it might take time to reverse the declining trend, if we continue talking about it and working together it can be done.

The board also reviewed information about the new office insurance plan; approved an amendment to the retirement plan; approved the "General Service Office/Grapevine Severance Plan" document; granted permission on an experimental basis to an area in the East Central Region to reproduce on audiocassette tape selections from the Grapevine on a monthly basis for distribution by the special needs committee; cut the price of *El Lenguaje del Corazón* to \$6.00 in order to reduce excessive inventory; and invited members from Plenitud, our Mexican counterpart, to attend the July 1998 board meeting as observers.

Chuck C., chairperson

**Staff Report:** In June 1997, the A.A. Grapevine celebrated 53 years of continuous publication. The magazine's primary mission is to publish a magazine that shares the experience, strength, and hope of a wide variety of individual A.A. members in the U.S. and Canada and around the world, and expresses current thinking in the Fellowship on matters affecting recovery, unity, and service. The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., is an autonomous corporation whose executive editor has oversight responsibility as chief executive and reports directly to the Grapevine Corporate 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 assistant. All materials are designed in-house, using desktop publishing capability. The department also answers all editorial queries and processes several hundred manuscript submissions every month.

The bookkeeping department opens and distributes all incoming mail. Both cash and credit card orders for subscriptions and related materials are sorted for processing. The administrative unit of bookkeeping maintains employee payroll and administers employee benefit programs.

The shipping department arranges for inventory transfers to and from warehouse distribution centers in Kansas City, Kansas, and Oakville, Ontario, Canada. It also ships and packs smaller orders of books, tapes, magazines, and other materials from the office.

In 1997, the circulation department was restructured and a new position, that of circulation director, was created. The job of the circulation director is to improve services to our subscribers, to make the GvR network more effective, and to increase circulation in ways consistent with the Traditions and with the goal of carrying the A.A. message.

Cynthia K., senior editor



# Budget Highlights

## 1998 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 1998 sales budget of \$9,575,000 is approximately 3.8% greater than the 1997 actual results. The budget is a result of the full year effect of the May 1997 price increases described last year. Actual unit sales are estimated approximately 4% lower for 1998. Net sales after discounts allowed are projected at \$9,334,200, approximately \$436,000 greater than 1997.

Manufacturing costs are budgeted approximately at the same level as 1997 (\$90,000 less). This represents lower unit volume of items sold. Royalties and budgeted \$76,000 less than 1997 as a result of both lower unit volume and the expiration (in October 1998) of the obligation to pay royalties to the Stepping Stones Foundation.

An increase of approximately 8% is expected in the shipping and warehousing costs anticipating increase in postage and freight. It should be noted that the 1998 budget amount of \$896,000 is \$2,000 less than 1996 actual.

Gross profit from literature, is budgeted at \$4,779,500, approximately \$535,000 greater than 1997, as result of price increases and royalty decrease.

**Contributions** for 1998 have been estimated at \$3,932.00, approximately a 2% increase over 1997.

**Total Operating Revenue** for the period is anticipated at \$8,715,300, approximately 7.5% higher than 1997.

**Total Operating Expenses** for 1998 have been budgeted at \$8,477,400, approximately 1.5% higher than 1997 actual expenses.

An excess of revenue over expenses (loss) of \$237,910 is budgeted. This compares with a \$245,000 loss for 1997, \$1,264,000 loss for 1996 and a \$1,147,000 loss for 1995. These three years of losses have accomplished the goal of reducing the Reserve Fund balance to approximately 9 months.

## 1998 Grapevine Budget

The 1998 Grapevine Budget calls for an average circulation for 1998 of 122,000 copies compared with the 1997 average of 120,679 copies. During 1998 the impact of higher renewals following the increase that went into effect with the May 1996 issue will peak.

**Income:** Magazine income of \$1,758,760 is approximately 4% higher than the \$1,689,779 in 1997 due to the price increase. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at \$513,000, approximately 10% greater than 1997. The Grapevine will produce a new *Best of the Grapevine, Vol. III* and new cassette tapes during 1998.

**Direct Costs:** Magazine direct costs are budgeted at 38.7% of income as compared with 41.9% in 1997.

**Total Gross Profit:** Combining the magazine and other publishing items the gross profit of \$1,389,434 is 61.1% of budgeted income as compared to \$1,252,940 or 58.1% in 1997. This compares with 52.3% achieved in 1996.

**Total Operating Expenses:** Total Operating Expenses for 1998 are budgeted at \$1,484,000, approximately \$67,000 more than 1997 actuals of \$1,417,100.

**Net Income:** For 1998 net loss is budgeted at \$10,170 after interest earned as compared with a net loss of \$82,560 after interest in 1997.

## 1998 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.

For 1998 La Viña expects a gross profit on the magazine of \$3,706, compared with a loss of \$2,750 for 1997. Circulation for 1998 is estimated at 9,500 copies, compared with 8,391 for 1997. Total costs and expenses are budgeted at \$82,058 for 1998, compared with \$99,390 for 1997. The 1998 budget projects a net loss of \$78,352 compared with a loss for 1997 of \$102,140.

To date, the La Viña project has incurred start-up costs/operating losses of \$29,500 in 1995, \$138,290 in 1996, \$102,140 in 1997 and projects a \$78,352 loss for 1998.

# 1997 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.	406	229	56.4%	\$30,508.26	8,083	\$3.77	59	Pennsylvania						
2	Alaska	202	88	43.5	10,426.84	3,704	2.81	59	East	1,416	718	50.7%	\$119,425.57	33,559	\$3.55
3	Arizona	792	374	47.2	72,752.31	17,130	4.24	60	West	767	377	49.1	35,135.40	11,505	3.05
4	Arkansas	246	126	51.2	15,316.63	4,383	3.49	61	Rhode Island	253	103	40.7	13,187.28	5,915	2.22
	California							62	South Carolina	301	196	65.1	31,657.02	6,537	4.84
5	Southern	1,943	732	37.6	110,569.64	60,466	1.82	63	South Dakota	162	55	33.9	3,634.47	3,635	0.99
6	N. Coastal	1,928	1,075	55.7	179,811.48	63,431	2.83	64	Tennessee	476	228	47.8	32,802.59	10,905	3.00
7	N. Interior	704	336	47.7	44,512.59	19,416	2.29		Texas						
8	San Diego/Imp.	829	365	44.0	54,016.87	25,732	2.09	65	Northeast	449	191	42.5	45,394.97	17,645	2.57
9	Mid-South	1,783	673	37.7	98,350.98	58,036	1.69	66	Northwest	237	82	34.5	14,824.01	7,316	2.02
10	Colorado	629	353	56.1	52,149.86	15,265	3.41	67	Southeast	500	231	46.2	38,905.95	15,600	2.49
11	Connecticut	1,398	535	38.2	63,471.15	34,488	1.84	68	Southwest	466	207	44.4	35,928.33	11,123	3.23
12	Delaware	198	122	61.6	21,796.41	3,267	6.67	69	Utah	269	151	56.1	25,347.88	5,307	4.77
13	D.C.	449	214	47.6	39,118.59	14,664	2.66	70	Vermont	228	96	42.1	9,841.31	4,407	2.23
	Florida							71	Virginia	1,161	621	53.4	82,838.12	22,662	3.65
14	North	636	353	55.5	64,056.92	14,621	4.38	72	Washington West	1,076	516	47.9	85,297.25	24,177	3.52
15	South/Bahamas/V.I.	1,531	791	51.6	127,300.02	32,610	3.90	73	West Virginia	294	120	40.8	10,260.90	3,445	2.97
16	Georgia	707	445	62.9	65,755.40	17,031	3.86	74	Wisconsin						
17	Hawaii	291	167	57.3	26,052.37	5,584	4.66		N. Wis./Upper Pen. Mich.	602	268	44.5	22,777.76	9,770	2.33
18	Idaho	196	97	49.4	9,410.96	3,247	2.89	75	South	955	438	45.8	41,475.57	18,679	2.22
	Illinois							76	Wyoming	104	53	50.9	5,425.22	1,862	2.91
19	Chicago	1,176	293	24.9	45,475.74	28,059	1.62	77	Puerto Rico	140	78	55.7	6,382.67	1,750	3.64
20	North	1,031	415	40.2	40,608.89	21,321	1.90	78	Alberta/N.W.T.	574	209	36.4	27,036.09	8,472	3.19
21	South	465	179	38.4	24,476.63	7,770	3.15	79	B.C./Yukon	746	361	48.3	47,661.87	13,987	3.40
	Indiana							80	Manitoba	155	55	35.4	4,624.52	4,185	1.10
22	North	667	263	39.4	29,647.09	10,405	2.84	81	N.B./P.E.I.	208	89	42.7	6,625.63	3,486	1.90
23	South	540	246	45.5	28,714.22	10,432	2.75	82	N.S./Nfld./Lab.	265	105	39.6	8,714.38	3,696	2.35
24	Iowa	649	299	46.0	39,442.74	12,765	3.08		Ontario						
25	Kansas	352	181	51.4	27,149.41	8,835	3.07	83	East	610	247	40.4	29,340.66	15,073	1.94
26	Kentucky	619	332	53.6	53,845.83	10,108	5.32	84	Northeast	174	49	28.1	6,851.13	2,422	2.82
27	Louisiana	517	185	35.7	25,641.69	10,489	2.44	85	Northwest	92	15	16.3	2,723.51	1,577	1.72
28	Maine	480	142	29.5	12,915.67	8,184	1.57	86	West	517	186	35.9	26,036.48	10,205	2.55
29	Maryland	902	385	42.6	58,269.70	14,576	3.99		Quebec <sup>1</sup>						
	Massachusetts							87	Southwest	596	384	64.4	13,750.08	15,692	0.87
30	East	1,484	566	38.1	82,844.24	50,589	1.63	88	Southeast	222	130	58.6	7,055.82	3,483	2.02
31	West	252	120	47.6	16,665.71	5,375	3.10	89	Northeast	369	295	79.9	4,531.50	7,461	0.61
	Michigan							90	Northwest	421	379	90.0	5,269.40	8,529	0.62
32	Central	535	230	42.9	32,475.29	12,379	2.62	91	Saskatchewan	328	113	34.4	12,026.34	4,231	2.84
33	Southeast	682	283	41.4	51,769.51	17,159	3.01	92	Washington East	428	172	40.1	17,555.42	5,996	2.92
34	West	473	201	42.4	26,538.52	9,114	2.91		Total U.S./Canada	56,274	25,038	44.5	3,399,042.15	1,268,578	2.68
	Minnesota								Individual, in memoriam, & special meetings				184,514.12		
35	North	538	228	42.3	17,323.68	8,177	2.11		Specials				244,277.61		
36	South	997	381	38.2	49,541.22	21,774	2.27		Total for U.S. & Canada				3,827,833.88		
37	Mississippi	235	117	49.7	14,719.73	4,324	3.40								
	Missouri								<b>FOREIGN AND OTHER</b>						
38	East	535	276	51.5	40,492.89	8,613	4.70		A.A. On Line				1,159.14		
39	West	206	102	49.5	11,451.66	6,645	1.72		Birds of a Feather				50.00		
40	Montana	284	129	45.4	16,797.03	4,316	3.89		Correctional facility groups				45.00		
41	Nebraska	683	337	49.3	44,983.40	14,520	3.09		Foreign				22,126.80		
42	Nevada	404	169	41.8	23,318.32	8,556	2.72		Internationalists				25.00		
43	New Hampshire	563	211	37.4	22,427.53	9,317	2.40		Loners				1,158.50		
	New Jersey								Internationalists groups				150.20		
44	North	1,293	479	37.0	64,742.64	32,467	1.99		International Dr.'s in A.A.				2,000.00		
45	South	485	230	47.4	41,141.36	8,885	4.63		World Hello				78.00		
46	New Mexico	352	140	39.7	17,537.22	6,107	2.87		Grand Total				3,854,626.52		
	New York														
47	Central	735	266	36.1	35,540.40	11,973	2.96								
48	H./M./B.	749	274	36.5	24,648.09	11,721	2.10								
49	Southeast	1,767	777	43.9	155,535.47	56,031	2.78								
50	West	333	96	28.8	11,029.56	5,997	1.83								
51	North Carolina	868	470	54.1	77,630.53	14,026	5.53								
52	North Dakota	167	75	44.9	6,359.55	3,226	1.97								
	Ohio														
53	Cent. & S.E.	630	158	25.0	16,402.45	9,248	1.77								
54	Northeast	1,274	289	22.6	29,095.77	24,040	1.21								
55	N.W. Ohio/S.E. Mich.	276	117	42.3	11,974.38	3,872	3.09								
56	S.W. Ohio	512	216	42.1	30,135.92	10,455	2.88								
57	Oklahoma	377	224	59.4	28,614.65	6,480	4.41								
58	Oregon	758	364	48.0	45,395.44	14,796	3.06								

## CONTRIBUTION COMPARISON — 1997-1996

(in U.S. dollars)

	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA
U.S. & Canada						
1997	56,274	25,038	44.5%	\$3,399,042.15 <sup>2</sup>	1,268,578	\$2.68
U.S. & Canada						
1996	55,956	25,138	44.9%	\$3,392,480.34 <sup>2</sup>	1,257,570	\$2.70
Increase (Decrease)	318	(100)	-0.4%	\$6,561.81	11,008	(\$0.02)

<sup>1</sup> 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).

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

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

JUNE - JULY 1998

## 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

- 5-7—Flagstaff, Arizona. Flagstaff Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 155, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 5-7—Fresno, California. 23rd Annual Spanish Conv. Write: Ch., 4241 So. Orange Ave., Fresno, CA 93725
- 5-7—San Jose, California. NCAA 51st Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Box 508, Rockhm, CA 95677
- 5-7—Santa Barbara, California. Ninth Annual Santa Barbara Get Together. Write: Ch., 1615 Castillo #1, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2935
- 5-7—Grand Island, Nebraska. 39th State Reunion. Write: Ch. Box 382, Wauneta, NE 69045
- 5-7—Albuquerque, New Mexico. Area 46 State Conv. Write: Ch., 5 Sparling Ct., Los Lunas, NM 87031
- 12-14—Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Gratitude Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 954, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
- 12-14—Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Western Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 12-14—Mobile, Alabama. 17th Annual Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36609
- 12-14—Ft. Dodge, Iowa. Area 24 1998 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 155, Ft. Dodge, IA 50501
- 12-14—Springfield, Missouri. Heart of the Ozarks Roundup. Write: Tr., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- 12-14—North Conway, New Hampshire. NH Area Assembly Conv. Write: Ch., 321 Lincoln St., Rm 214, Manchester, NH 03103
- 12-14—Medford, New Jersey. South Jersey Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3724, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
- 18-21—Indian Wells, California. Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255-0128
- 18-21—Hagerstown, Maryland. Area 29 Maryland Celebration of Sobriety. Write: Ch., Box 19135, Baltimore, MD 21286
- 18-21—Charleston, South Carolina. SERCY-PAA. Write: Ch., Box 31092, Charleston, SC 29417
- 19-20—Key West, Florida. Sunset Round-Up '98. Write: Ch., Box 2557, Key West, FL 33045
- 19-21—Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada. Cache Creek/Ashcroft 23rd Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC V0K 1H0
- 19-21—Coomb's, British Columbia, Canada. 38th Annual Parksville/Qualicum Beach Rally. Write: Ch., Box 544, Errington, BC V0R 1V0

- 19-21—Bloomington, Illinois. BNAA 35th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1384, Bloomington, IL 61702
- 19-21—Marion, Illinois. Little Egypt Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 44, Thompsonville, IL 62890
- 19-21—Jackson, Mississippi. 52nd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289
- 19-21—Melville, New York. Big Book Study. Write: Ch., Box 0764, Floral Park, NY 11002-0764
- 19-21—Arlington, Virginia. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 893, Annandale, VA 22003-0893
- 19-21—Casper, Wyoming. 23rd June Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 50071, Casper, WY 82605-0071
- 26-27—Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Kawartha Dist. 37 Annual Conf. Write: Box 1233, RR#8, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H5
- 26-28—Moodus, Connecticut. Eighth Annual Soberfest. Write: Ch., 124 Peck St., Stratford, CT 06497
- 26-28—Indianapolis, Indiana. 45th State Conv. & 20th East Central Regional Conf. Write: Ch., 115 N. 5th Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107
- 26-28—Spiritwood Lake, North Dakota. District 6 Campout. Write: Ch., 401 8th St., NE, Jamestown, ND 58401
- 27-28—Vilnius, Lithuania. 10th Annual Congress of Lithuania. Write: Ch., Lithuanian Service Office, Box 2304, Vilnius 2050, Lithuania.

### July

- 3-5—Seattle, Washington. Pacific Northwest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 39313, Tacoma, WA 98439-0313
- 8-12—Naples, Florida. 42nd State Conv. Write: Ch., 18533 Bradenton Rd., Ft. Myers, FL 33912
- 10-12—Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada. 16th Annual Round Up. Write: Ch., 46095 - 5th Avenue, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1M6

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

June (page 31): Old-timers corner

July (page 29): 'The only Big Book'

- 10-12—Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. Big Book Comes Alive. Write: Ch., 6105 Icarus Dr., Nanaimo, BC V9V 1B6
- 10-12—Sacramento, California. Pacific Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 10-12—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Oklahoma State Roundup of Young People. Write: Ch., 17119 Sunny Hollow Rd., Edmond, OK 73003
- 10-12—Eugene, Oregon. Summerfest. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97401
- 16-19—Lubbock, Texas. 24th Annual Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79493
- 17-19—White Rock, British Columbia, Canada. White Rock Roundup. Write: Ch. 3023 McBride Ave., Surrey, BC V4A 3G5
- 17-19—Sterling, Colorado. Area 10 Summer Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 373, Fort Morgan, CO 80701
- 17-19—Carrabassett Valley, Maine. 21st Annual Maine Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1453, Ellsworth, ME 04605
- 17-19—Madison, Minnesota. 22nd Annual Freedom Fest & Campout. Write: Ch., Rt. 2, Box 8, Correll, MN 56227
- 17-19—Lancaster, Pennsylvania. PENNSCY-PAA X. Write: Ch., Box 4042, Lancaster, PA 17604
- 18-19—Brookings, Oregon. 21st Annual South Coast Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 6612, Brookings, OR 97415

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on August, September or 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

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



- 23-26—*Winston-Salem, North Carolina*. 51st State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 11401, Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1401
- 24-26—*Tacoma, Washington*. Freedom In Sobriety Conf. Write: Ch., Box 111914, Tacoma, WA 98411-1914
- 29-Aug. 4—*Oshkosh, Wisconsin*. 11th Annual Meeting of the 12 Step High Group. Write: Ch., 1819 Kasper Dr., Appleton, WI 54914
- 31-Aug. 2—*Altoona, Pennsylvania*. Fifth Annual West/East State Conv. Write: P.I. Chair, 6131 Samson, Philadelphia, PA 19139

## August

- 7-9—*Los Angeles, California*. Sixth Annual Foothill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 184, Montrose, CA 91021
- 7-9—*Moorhead, Minnesota*. 23rd Annual Red River Valley Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 558, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 14-16—*Mattawa, Ontario, Canada*. Second Annual Campout. Write: Ch., Box 448, Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0
- 15-16—*Helena and Mile City, Montana*. (Special) West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 21-23—*Paso Robles, California*. 31st Annual 22nd Dist. San Luis Obispo County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 21-23—*Cartersville, Georgia*. Allatoona Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 200856, Cartersville, GA 30120-9009
- 21-23—*York, Pennsylvania*. Sunlight of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3538, York, PA 17402
- 28-30—*Dallas, Texas*. 27th Annual Lone Star Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 836221, Richardson, TX 75083-6221

## September

- 4-7—*Tampa, Florida*. 12th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685-2545
- 18-20—*Angeles City, Philippines*. Third Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o 9-29 Marcellus St., Diamond Subdivision, Balibago, Angeles City, 2009 Philippines
- 18-20—*Brampton, Ontario, Canada*. 16th Annual Brampton/Bramalea Conv. Write: Ch., Box 345, Brampton, ON L6V 2L3
- 18-20—*Salinas, California*. Coastal Rally. Write: Ch., 9 West Gabilan, Ste. 11, Salinas, CA 93901
- 18-20—*Taos, New Mexico*. Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., HCR 74 Box 22013, El Prado, NM 87529-9520
- 18-20—*Aberdeen, South Dakota*. Dakota Prairie Round-Up. Write: Ch., 402 South Kline, Aberdeen, SD 57401
- 25-27—*Luntenen, The Netherlands*. 1998 Nederland Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1594, 1000 BN Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 25-27—*St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada*. Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 25-28—*Page, Arizona*. Lake Powell Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2781, Page, AZ 86040
- 25-27—*Tucson, Arizona*. Arizona Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 85694, Tucson, AZ 85754-5694