

AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

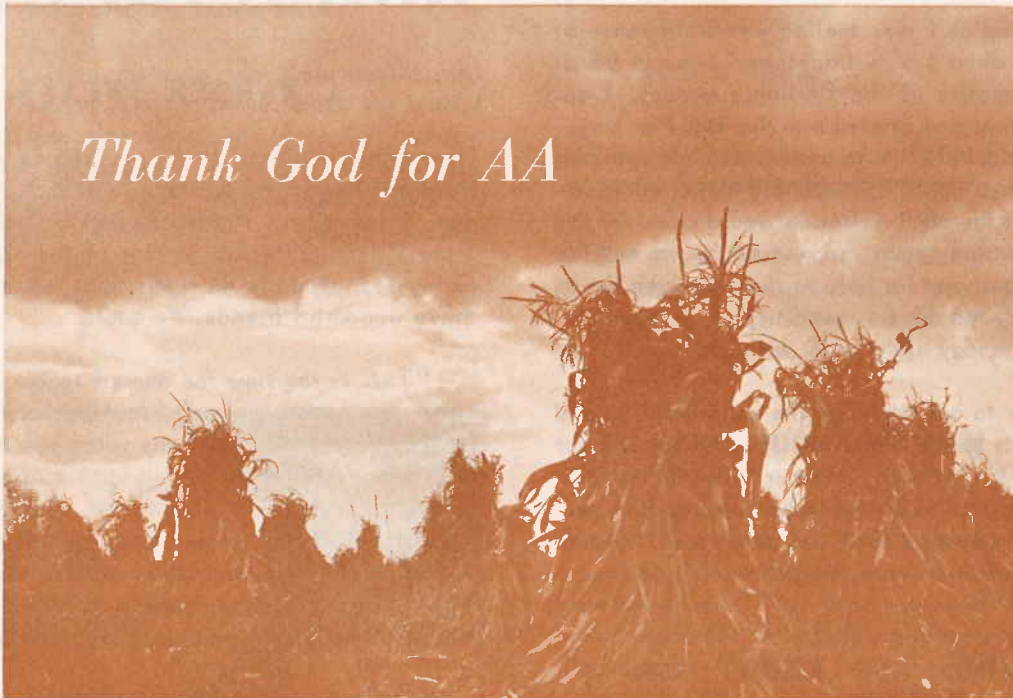
NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

Vol. 7 No. 9 • 305 East 45th Street, New York 17 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 • November 1962

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR

★ THANKSGIVING FOR G.S.O. AND A.A.'S EVERYWHERE ★

Thank God for AA



So say we all in A.A. at Thanksgiving time. When we saw this picture, appearing in the centerfold of the November "Grapevine," we asked permission to reprint it here. So special thanks to Jerry, the "Grapevine's" Editor-Publisher. * * * This is the time of year when we want especially to express our thanks for all that we have received. We do so with hearts full of gratitude for our dearly beloved Fellowship and all who share in it.

BILL'S BIRTHDAY DINNER

A.A.'s from all over the Northeast gathered at the Hotel Commodore in New York on October 6th to celebrate Bill W.'s 28th A.A. Birthday. From all reports it was one of the most inspiring Birthday Dinners. Dr. Earle M. of Mill Valley, California, was the featured speaker and Liz B. represented our women A.A.'s. Dr. Sam Shoemaker, one of A.A.'s earliest friends among the clergy, spoke, and Bill himself topped the program. He introduced Henrietta Seiberling, the catalyst that brought Bill and Dr. Bob together on that fateful day in 1935 in Akron, Ohio and Ebby T., the man who gave Bill hope for the first time that recovery might be possible through God's grace.

SHARING FROM WITHIN - SCOTLAND

The Peterhead Prison Group's Secretary Stan, writes: "I have learned that so long as I don't take the first one and so long as I retain my association with my fellow alcoholics on my release, then I can confidently say, I will not be back within these walls as an inmate. Help is offered me so readily by my friends such as Gee Bee in Glasgow, Syd and the others nearer to me here, in the Peterhead Group. Also the fellow inmates of the New Hope Group, Leavenworth, Kansas, Mar-Pen Group, Md. and the Sundial Group in New Mexico. To them all, I would

(Continued on page 2)

SHARING FROM WITHIN - SCOTLAND

(Continued from page 1)

appreciate it very much if you would convey my thanks to them stateside.

"Gee Bee, our Barlinnie Sponsor, let me have the Sundial magazine last year. Also the Mar-Pen magazine. Incidentally, it was the article in the Mar-Pen, 'A Little History,' which was instrumental in the founding of the Group here last month.

"I had read it and as I was feeling a terrible sense of something missing when I was transferred here in March (having had the benefits of the Barlinnie Group), I approached the Governor and offered him the Mar-Pen magazine hoping it would help him to understand. He retained it for a few days. The Deputy then granted me an additional letter saying that the administration would consider the formation of an inmates group, sponsored by an outside member. I sent a call out for help to the Aberdeen Group which Syd answered. Syd does a round-trip of approximately 74 miles each Tuesday night to be with us.

"We would like to acknowledge the consideration and understanding shown by our Governor, Mr. Frisby, and our Deputy Governor, Mr. Swanson, and our Chief Officer and his staff in allowing us to have a nice meeting room and all reasonable facilities so that our group will flourish with a minimum of official obstruction."

CENSUS CARDS ASK ABOUT A.A. WOMEN

The card reproduced below will be mailed out on or about November 1st along with Group Information cards (for the 1963 World Directory). This year's census will ask for information about the number of women members and members 25 or under. This will be the first time that such information has been asked for in an A.A. Census. The returns will be interesting.

SPECIAL A.A. CENSUS FALL 1962	
1. NAME OF GROUP _____	
2. LOCATION: CITY OR TOWN _____	STATE OR PROVINCE _____
3. ACTIVE REPORTED MEMBERSHIP _____	4. TOTAL MEMBERSHIP _____
5. NUMBER OF WOMEN MEMBERS _____	6. MEMBERS 25 OR UNDER _____
RETURN THIS CARD TO: P.O. BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION NEW YORK 17, N. Y.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON RETURNING THIS INFORMATION _____ _____

LONERS, INTERNATIONALISTS AND SPANISH BULLETINS ★

Some of you may not know that a regular monthly Bulletin goes out to our Internationalists (seamen). There is also one for Loners, and another for Spanish-speaking members. Each is edited with the needs of the particular A.A. audience in mind. Maybe you'd like to see one to find out if it could be helpful to a "baby" of yours. If so, just write and ask for a copy.

A WARDEN SPEAKS OUT

How grateful we can be for our friends in the correctional field who have done so much to help A.A. carry the message. A letter from Warden Robert G. Smith of the Vermont State Prison, directed to one of the Vermont Conference Delegates, reminds us again that we can be thankful to these wonderful friends. We quote:

"This is the time for annual reports, budget formulation and a general period of looking backward and forward. It reminds me that for many years you have given of your time unselfishly to help men at this institution who really desire to grasp the A.A. program. A letter such as this is small thanks but it is most sincere in saying thank you on behalf of the Administration of this institution. Without your interest and support our A.A. Group could never have accomplished the work that it has done over the years."

GO BACK TO AUGUST . . .

and remember if you can, an item in the Bulletin called "Invitation to Travellers," purportedly written by the secretary of the Humboldt-del-Norte Central Committee. We're sorry, Ella, that apparently someone other than you sent in this item which contained misinformation about the number of groups located on the Redwood Highway between Portland and San Francisco. The story stated that there were only two groups located on the Highway between the two towns. Actually there are many more. As you can see, we just aren't too familiar with the Redwood Highway!

PRESS GETS A.A. "ANNUAL REPORT"

An "Annual Report" of A.A. activities in the U.S., Canada, and overseas has gone out to a limited press list - to those who have asked to be updated on A.A. news.

PLAN NEW EDITIONS OF INSTITUTIONAL PAMPHLETS

"Hospital Administrators Evaluate A.A." and "Correctional Officials Evaluate A.A." are being brought up to date. When the new editions are ready, we'll let you know.

THE DOOR IS WIDE OPEN



A warm welcome awaits visitors at Milton Hall, 244 Deansgate, Manchester, England. Every Saturday night visitors to Manchester are urged to attend. If you're uncertain of the time or location, call BRAMhall 1671.



WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR \$3.00?

Lots of A.A.'s want to know why they should contribute to A.A.'s General Service Office. Since the leaflet "\$3.00 in the Hat" has gone the rounds, more A.A.'s know why they are asked to help make G.S.O. activities self-supporting. Since you are again being asked to help out with your \$3.00 annual contribution, we thought another look-see at the leaflet would be helpful. One is enclosed.

Questions and Answers on SPONSORSHIP



CAN A SPONSOR BE TOO CASUAL? This question appears in "Questions and Answers about Sponsorship," a Conference-approved pamphlet distributed by G.S.O. It is a question that deeply concerns all A.A.'s, as we ask ourselves, "Are we doing the very best job that we can to sponsor a new member?"

Some old-timers say that the feeling isn't there any more, that present day A.A.'s are pretty lackadaisical about carrying the message. Before we tell an old-timer off for his "bleeding deacon" attitude, shouldn't we look searchingly at ourselves. Perhaps we might have to answer "Yes" to that question. If so, it's time to get on to Step Ten.

The pamphlet "Sponsorship" has many good suggestions for a person who is new in A.A. as well as for the member who may be looking for new ways to do a better job in "carrying the message." Does your group have the "Sponsorship" pamphlet on its literature table?

SEVEN NEW DELEGATES ELECTED

The following new Area Delegates have been elected to attend their first Conference in April 1963:

INDIANA	Bill G.
LOUISIANA	Hope S.
SOUTH EASTERN NEW YORK	Ralph A.
NORTH CAROLINA	Mack F.
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	Paul O.
WASHINGTON	Everett K.
WEST VIRGINIA	George F.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE GRAPEVINE?

The November issue emphasizing "Gratitude Month," is carrying a story about Doctor Bob - A.A.'s Co-Founder, which we're sure you'll all want to read.

GRATITUDE LUNCHEON COMING UP

For the last several years, the General Service Board has held a "Gratitude Luncheon" for the friends of A.A. who have helped to bring the story of A.A. to the public in the preceding year. This year, as usual, the luncheon will be given in November. We'll have more news of it for you in December.

WHO'S WHO AT G.S.O.

Our Manager of General Services

In September we told you about the rotation of Staff assignments, but it didn't give you the whole picture of who's who at your General Service Office. Herb M. continues to serve as Manager of A.A. World Services and we are glad. Putting up with six females .. well .. we are full of admiration for his patience - and his durability!

-And the "Nons" or "Civilians"

Too, we didn't get to our wonderful non-A.A. helpers; Dennis Manders, heading up the Accounting Department; Al Cryan, Supervisor of Shipping; Kleina Jones, of Stenographic; Nell Wing who is Bill's secretary and our archivist. Last but not least, a fine new gal, Marie Proctor, who is now in charge of Records. Without these guys and gals and their staffs we could not do the job we must do. We are so grateful for their boundless interest and enthusiasm.

INTERNATIONALIST REPRESENTATION AT THE 1963 CONFERENCE

Internationalists are being polled to find out who is their choice for Observer at the forthcoming General Service Conference in April. This means that one of their number would attend without vote, as do Observers from overseas. This will be a first and we're waiting to submit the choice to the Conference Committee on Admissions.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO G.S.O.

from

A.A. MEETINGS AND A.A. COMMITTEES

September and October, 1962

FLORIDA

6th Annual Florida State Convention \$210.23

GEORGIA

Georgia State Assembly Meeting \$ 32.00

KANSAS

Kansas State Assembly Fund \$184.64

KENTUCKY

Western Kentucky Area Groups \$ 50.00
18th S.E., and 11th Kentucky State \$200.00

MICHIGAN

Senton Group Special \$100.00

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire State Assembly of A.A. Annual Outing. \$ 75.00

VIRGINIA

Virginia State Convention Committee \$716.52

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Kamloops Interior A.A. Round-Up \$ 78.66

ONTARIO

Homewood Sanitorium \$ 5.04
Central West Area \$ 9.00
Niagara Frontier \$ 7.50
Central East Area Conference \$ 17.00

GERMANY

10th Annual Round-Up \$135.00

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP 1962

A letter from a member of the Limerick, Ireland Group, Mick M., tells about the Weisbaden (West Germany) Round-up, the traditional European A.A. get-together:

"It was my first Round-Up but one I shall never forget. As we approach Brussels flying at 12,000 feet there are no clouds below and looking down I can see the roads and railway lines quite clearly. I am thinking of the A.A.'s from other countries I met at Weisbaden - from Finland, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, France, Austria, Switzerland, England, Scotland, as well as Canada and the U.S. They are now wending their way home to their own groups. Each carries with him the message of A.A., received so freely at the Round-Up; each returns home strengthened in his sobriety, with a greater feeling of fellowship for his brother alcoholics and an increased consciousness of the presence of God.

"Some memories in particular of this grand get-together I shall always retain: Marc's infectious smile as he interpreted for his Belgian friend who spoke in Flemish, while yet a third member of their Group interpreted in French; the moving story of the lady member from Vienna, (as interpreted by a German girl) who found A.A. through a friend in Holland; and Lov, the negro from the U.S. Forces, whose story told with such simplicity and sincerity was so inspiring that no words of mine could describe its effect.

"National boundaries proved no barrier to our understanding as all spoke with what Mike, from Hanau, so beautifully described as the 'language of the heart.' (A quote from Bill W.)"

CANDIDATES FOR TRUSTEESHIPS NAMED

Two candidates for Regional Class B (alcoholic) Trustees have been sent into the Trustee's Nominating Committee. The Committee will be looking forward to receiving the names of additional candidates before January 14, 1963.

A. A. CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

10 - TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
 Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Banquet Chairman, 2218 1st Ave. So.,
 Minneapolis 4, Minn.

10-11 - SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL TRI-STATE CONVENTION
 Washington-Youree Hotel, Shreveport, La.
 Intergroup Committee, P.O. 495, Shreveport, La.

18 - DAY OF THANKSGIVING
 Meeting 1 p.m. Banquet 6 p.m.
 Jorgensen's Holiday Inn, Helena, Mont.
 P.O. Box 371, Helena, Mont.

30-Dec. 2 - SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGIONAL CONFERENCE
 Rice Hotel, Houston, Texas