

BOX 4-5-9

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

Vol. 23, No. 5

October-November 1978

Latest Survey of Membership Shows Fast-Rising Proportion of Women and Young People in A.A.

A nearly 50% jump in the proportion of young (under 30) members of Alcoholics Anonymous and a 3% increase in that of women has occurred since 1974.

These were the main findings in our 1977 survey of almost 18,000 members. When the complex work of analyzing the statistics was completed, the results were announced on Sept. 5, 1978, by John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., New London, N.H., nonalcoholic chairperson emeritus of our General Service Board, to the 32nd International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug

Dependence, meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

The fourth in a series of such studies done every three summers by U.S. and Canadian delegates to the General Service Conference, the 1977 study was compared by Dr. Jack with the findings of similar surveys done by the counterpart A.A. boards in Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and West Germany.

Dr. Jack reminded the scientific and governmental authorities at the congress that A.A. is not a profes-

sional research society. Almost the only statistic that really interests most A.A. members is the one person with a drinking problem who turns up seeking A.A. help, he said.

However, during the summer of 1977, each Conference delegate in the U.S. and Canada took to 3% of the groups in the delegate's area a two-page (one-sheet), 13-item questionnaire, which members were asked to complete anonymously after a meeting, if they wished.

(continued on p. 6)

GOING TO RUSSIA? IRAN? THE ARCTIC?

A.A. contacts are now available (from G.S.O.) for traveling A.A.'s in Moscow, Leningrad, Tehran, and the Arctic Circle (Cambridge Bay, N.W.T., Canada).

Our Loner in Moscow joined A.A. in California, has been sober over five years, and recently wrote: "I would like very much to participate in the Loners/Internationalists service. I have no objection if you give out my Moscow address to any A.A. traveler who may be heading this way and would like to make contact. I certainly would enjoy the chance to talk with another member face-to-face. There is a bit of culture shock connected with a change from four meetings a week to none, I must admit.

"I still have an awful lot of room
(continued on p. 6)

FIFTH WORLD SERVICE MEETING AT HAND

On a beautiful island outside Helsinki, Finland, the Fifth A.A. World Service Meeting (W.S.M.) will convene Oct. 5-7, 1978. Mac C. (Winnipeg, Man.), Canadian trustee-at-large, and Virginia H. (Shorewood, Wis.), East Central U.S. regional trustee, will represent the U.S./Canada General Service Board at the biennial session.

Delegates from counterpart boards will also attend from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, West Germany.

"Recovery, Unity, Service—Worldwide" will be the theme of the gathering, which will be chaired by our own Bob P., G.S.O. general

manager, at the request of the host country. June R., Phyllis M., and Mary Ellen W. will also be on hand to help the Finnish staff members, headed by Veikko K.



The meeting site is Hanasaari, a brand-new conference center given to the people of Finland by the government of Sweden in gratitude for Finland's faithful payment of its war debt.

Some preliminary planning sessions, Bob reports, were held in
(continued on p. 2)

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WHO VOTES AT YOUR A.A. AREA ASSEMBLY?

A nonalcoholic radio interviewer once said to two A.A.'s on his show, "You people must be about the best-controlled, best-organized outfit in the world. You have those thousands of A.A. chapters around the world, and you are completely self-supporting. Who keeps all of you in line?"

The members were stumped for a minute, understandably. How can we explain to nonmembers in a few seconds how the A.A. system works, with almost no visible, formal organization and no rules at all? And yet we do function together, as one worldwide body bossed by nobody.

Finally, one member guesting on the radio show said, "Well, if we don't keep A.A. going effectively, and fairly unified, we have quite a price to pay, you know. Active alcoholism is always lurking around outside A.A., just waiting for us. If we don't shape up . . ."

"The A.A. Service Manual" shows all of us how we can do our part in the A.A. system—especially the Conference Charter (pp. 23-26 in the 1977 edition).

Article 5 describes the composition of your local area assembly. Each state and province has at least one. But states and provinces with large A.A. populations and/or whose geography presents communications problems may have additional assemblies.

What goes on at an assembly is shown and heard in the G.S.O. filmstrip "Circles of Love and Ser-

vice," and the assembly is depicted as the yellow circle in the leaflet of the same title (enclosed).

Maybe one of the secret (only it should not be a secret, especially to members who appreciate A.A.) keys to the success of our loose-knit Society is the charter's statement that the assembly includes "the elected general service representatives [G.S.R.'s] of all A.A. groups desiring to participate."

It does not say all A.A. groups *must* participate. It is up to each group to decide for itself whether it wishes to share in the worldwide A.A. experience. The group that wants to have its say in A.A.'s world affairs, and desires in turn to receive the experience shared by other groups, elects a G.S.R. Or a group may, if it so decides, go it completely alone.

It's the same way with the individual A.A. member, isn't it? Of course, there is that thing lurking around outside, waiting. . . .

(This is the sixth in a series of articles on the Conference Charter.)

THEME CHOSEN FOR 1980 CONVENTION

When thousands of A.A.'s, Al-Anons, Alateens, and their families and friends get together in New Orleans, La., July 4-6, 1980, the theme of A.A.'s 45th Anniversary International Convention will be "The Joy of Living."

The General Service Board formally adopted the theme at its July 31 meeting upon recommendation of the trustees' International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums Committee, which had made its choice from many good suggestions submitted by members.

Registration forms for the 1980 Convention will be made available to the membership in the fall of 1979. *No reservations or registrations can be accepted until that time.*

The International Conventions in celebration of A.A.'s birth are held only at five-year intervals.

New Orleans can be one of the great A.A. memories of your lifetime, if you start planning for 1980 now—one day at a time!



G.S.O. OPEN HOUSE NOV. 4

G.S.R.'s and all other interested A.A.'s are invited to our annual G.S.O. open house Sat., Nov. 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

It's a chance to see your G.S.O. and Grapevine offices, meet the staff members, and enjoy a cup of coffee with us. Highlight, the past two years, has been a visit to look at the wonderful memorabilia in the A.A. archives.

The address, in New York City, is 468 Park Avenue South (between 31st and 32nd Sts.), sixth floor. We hope we see *you*!

WORLD SERVICE MEETING

(continued from p. 1)

the buff in a Finnish sauna! Other lands, other customs!

A.A. in each country is autonomous, as each A.A. group is. The World Service Meeting is a sharing forum for A.A.'s around the world—simply a way of pooling information about A.A. challenges, successes, and techniques.

Although the U.S./Canadian is the oldest General Service Board, it gets only two votes, like any other board represented, at the W.S.M.

Delegates will remain for the Finnish A.A. Convention opening Oct. 7, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of A.A. in Finland.

Trustee Corner

THREE NEW TRUSTEES TO BE CHOSEN

Two A.A. regional trustees from the U.S. will be named to four-year terms on the General Service Board at the 1979 General Service Conference, Apr. 22-28 in New York. A trustee-at-large (Canada), replacing Mac C. (Winnipeg, Man.), will also be elected. Résumés of candidates must be received at G.S.O. by registered mail, no later than Jan. 1, 1979.

Trustees are to be chosen from the Northeast Region (Conn., Del., D.C., Me., Md., Mass., N.H., N.J., N.Y., Pa., R.I., and Vt.), succeeding John W. (Washington, D.C.), and from the Southwest (Ark., Colo., Kans., Mo., N.M., Okla., and Tex.), replacing Mike R. (Cordell, Okla.).

Suggested procedures and résumé forms for elections have been sent to Conference delegates and area committee officers in those regions.

For qualifications and details, see "How A.A. Chooses Regional Trustees" (pp. 98-99) and "How A.A. Chooses Its General Service Trustees" (p. 100) in the 1977 "A.A. Service Manual." The title "general service trustee—U.S./Canada" has been changed to "trustee-at-large," but the procedure is the same.

ARE WE COOPERATING?

Excerpts from the presentation by Jim D. (Nev.) at the 1978 Conference delegates' meeting continue:

We carry the message and leave the result to our Higher Power. Bill, when he first got sober, tried to sober up other drunks, and didn't sober up one. But when he complained to Dr. Silkworth, the doctor reminded Bill that *he* had stayed sober.

Our early members had visions of A.A. hospitals and recovery houses. They found these were out of our realm, but they worked *with* hospitals. They *cooperated* with them. Now, there are many detox centers, hospitals, and recovery houses. Some want A.A. to come and carry the message.

But what do we hear from members? "I won't go there; they make money off the drunk." "I don't like that doctor." "They're all a bunch of retreads." "They can't keep sober." "They won't listen."

What better place to go? In most cases, the alcoholics who still suffer haven't had a drink for a few hours. And this beats some of the Twelfth Step calls I've been on.

(to be continued)

Delegate Corner

G.S.R. Corner

TRY A 'SERVICE SHARING MEETING'

Is it hard to get your group interested in general service? Pat O., G.S.R. of the New Anchor Group, Scarborough, Ont., reports a successful experiment with a "service sharing meeting." A letter and a flyer describing the proposed meeting were sent to all fellow G.S.R.'s in the Toronto East District.

After the Eastern Canada regional trustee had opened the special meeting, the filmstrips "Circles of Love and Service" and "P.O. Box 459" were shown. All present had been invited to put any questions they wished into Ask-It Basket boxes around the hall, and these were answered by a "service panel" including the trustee, the area's Conference delegate, and the host group's alternate G.S.R.

"Our usual attendance at our regular meeting is 25 to 35," Pat writes. "This night, we had 62. To judge from comments made, it was a real sharing experience. Then another group in Toronto East held a similar meeting, and the turnout was gratifying—about 100."

ONE TYPICAL DAY AT A TIME

Members who have worked at a local intergroup or central office (C.O.) know how rewarding it can be—and how hard it is to describe. Statistics—"490 phone calls, 147 visitors this month"—miss the point.

But the El Paso, Tex., C.O. recently published in its *Sun-Dry* bulletin a one-day log, and these samples catch the essence of the C.O. experience, we think.

7:25 Opened office, released night-watch gal.

8:10 Night watch reported one Twelfth Step call, three info calls, one for Al-Anon, two on program.

9:10 Young girl ("Mary," let's say) called. Why had she not been contacted as promised? Verified number, said she would be called.

9:20 Professional treatment agency wants to know where to get Al-Anon literature. Gave info.

9:30 Young fellow ("Harry") walks into office, bloody shirt, unshaven. Has desire to stop drinking.

9:35 Call about bulk prices on meeting lists.

9:40 Several calls made about Harry.

9:50 Non-A.A. woman wants GV subscription.

9:55 Missionary from Mexico wants A.A. literature in Spanish.

What happened to Mary and Harry? Next installment in the Holiday issue of Box 4-5-9!

Central Office Corner

GRAPEVINE LOOKS AHEAD UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

The A.A. Grapevine would love to hear from many, many more minority-group and overseas readers, its present staff says.

With circulation of our Fellowship's monthly magazine now increasing at an all-time record rate, you might wonder *what* changes, if any, Ann W., editor, and Retha G., managing editor, would dare to consider. Would any alterations lessen the effectiveness of such a highly useful tool for living sober?

These questions were put to Ann W., who became editor after Jack M.'s retirement in April.

"We want the Grapevine to improve day by day as our Fellowship does," she said, "but without losing any of the sound qualities built into it by its founders and earliest editors and contributors."

A.A. membership, of course, has itself grown dramatically since 1944, when the GV began, as a quick comparison of A.A. directories shows. Unlike those days almost 35 years ago, there are now entire groups composed of alcoholics from various minorities—young people, blacks, native Americans, Hispanics, prisoners, older people, gays, doctors, clergy, etc.

"We want very much to get articles, artwork, letters of every sort from those members, as well as from other kinds of reader," Ann said.

Looking ahead, she pointed to the November "classic" issue (see Bulletin Board page), which this year will reprint articles by Bill W., Dr. William D. Silkworth, and the Rev. Sam Shoemaker. "This is just part of the beautiful A.A. heritage the GV has stored away," Ann said.

Ann was born in New York, but grew up in Ridgewood, N.J., and moved to South Hadley, Mass., to attend college at Mount Holyoke, where she majored in English. Back in New York, she worked for two church organizations, a prestigious scientific publishing company (as copy editor), and a smaller publish-

ing company, and eventually became a free-lancer in the publishing field.

Ann had her last drink in 1969, and joined the Park-Madison Group in Manhattan. At the Grapevine, she did part-time editorial work for three years before coming aboard full-time in November 1975.

We like her friendly presence, and we look forward to many years of good Grapevine reading with

Ann and Retha as the "trusted servants" responsible for our magazine.

(Tenth Step! In the last issue of Box 4-5-9, prices of the Grapevine's new Victor E. name tags were given incorrectly. Correct prices: the stick-on pressure kind, \$3.50 for 100, \$30 for 1,000; the kind to be inserted in plastic pin-on holders, \$2 per 100, \$15 per 1,000.)

SIX NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM G.S.O.

- With this issue of *Box 4-5-9* is enclosed the leaflet "Circles of Love and Service."

Based on the new G.S.O. filmstrip of the same title, these leaflets are furnished free for distribution at each showing of the popular filmstrip. Or they can be ordered from G.S.O. The first 100 ordered are free. More than that cost 5¢ each.

- In the 1978 **Final Conference Report**, sketches from the filmstrip "Circles of Love and Service" are used as illustrations. Available to A.A.'s only, at \$2 per copy, this 64-page report summarizes all the proceedings of the 1978 Conference meeting.

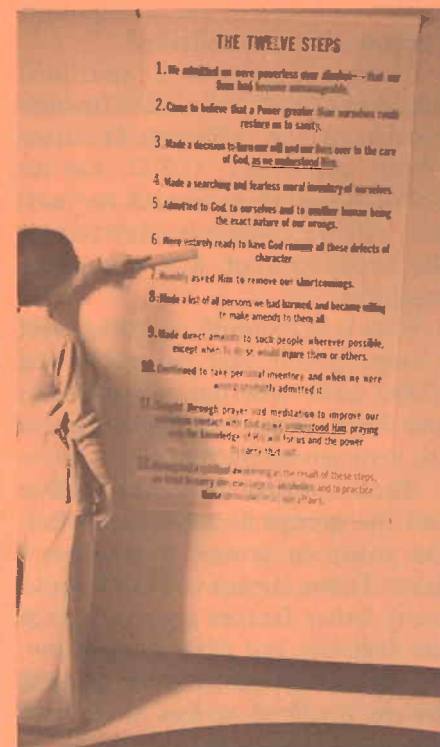
- The new editions of our directories **A.A. Groups in Correctional Facilities** and **A.A. Groups in Treatment Facilities** are now off the press and have been sent to all institutions committees and all the groups listed.

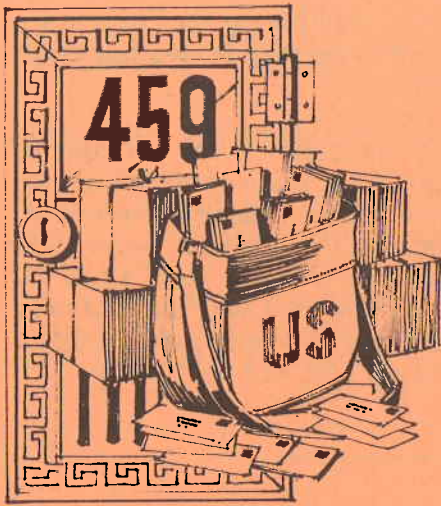
These directories are updated every two years. Even so, they can only be as accurate as the information you give us. If one of these two directories applies to your group, or committee, let us know if any corrections should be made in our records.

- New, lightweight, **window-shade-type, roll-up displays** of the **Twelve Steps** and the **Twelve Traditions** for hanging in A.A. group meeting rooms are now available from G.S.O.

Printed in black, with red headlines and numerals, on a sturdy, specially treated, durable, white cloth, the new displays are exactly the same size (6' x 3') as the older Masonite displays.

The Masonite ones fold into two 3' x 3' panels. But for convenience in carrying and putting up, the new roll-up type are, of course, much lighter in weight as well as much easier to store in a small space. The new ones are priced at \$20 each, or \$35 for the set.





SHARING SOME OF OUR MAIL

Never knew of A.A. Loners

"I have tried many times to attend local meetings. However, since half my hearing is gone, I am unable to hear much, so the meetings are virtually worthless to me.

"One of my friends says there are A.A. Loners who keep in touch by letters. This is extremely hopeful to me, for I like to write letters. Is there such a group of letter-writers?"—*D. R. A., Prescott, Ariz.*

We have added D. R. A. to our Loner list.

Central office boundaries?

There are many A.A. questions that we at G.S.O. cannot answer because of A.A.'s Fourth Tradition—local autonomy. G.S.O. has no say whatsoever in local A.A. matters. All we can do is relay to you the experience of A.A.'s in other localities.

Here is an example. A letter from a large East Coast central office (C.O.) asks whether or not Such and Such Town really belongs in the area served by that C.O.

That is up to the central office and the groups it serves, as well as the group or groups in Such and Such Town. Local geography and many other factors may influence the decision, but as far as we know, the group conscience of all the groups involved arrives at its own best decision.

Happiness in solitary

"Here's why I'm sending this check. It is my tenth birthday, and I am grateful. The way was hard and long, but the end was well worth the fighting and pain," writes *Ed Q., Emmett, Idaho.*

"It took me a total of seven years to get my first full year of sobriety. That happy day took place while I was serving a natural-life sentence for murder.

"It may sound odd to a person who has never been in prison to hear me say I found happiness in the solitary-confinement wing of a penitentiary noted as one of the worst in the country. But happiness I found. Just a spark at first," Ed continues, "but with the encouragement of outside visitors to our small group, it continued to grow until I finally found a peace that must have shown through to the ones around me.

"Without my being aware of it, my sentence was reduced enough so that time I had served made me eligible for immediate parole."

Ed goes on, "My life continued to improve with a slow consistency that still manages to surprise me almost daily. God has seen fit to allow me and my new wife (grateful for her five and a half years of sobriety) to purchase a home which we share with other A.A.'s most evenings.

"Gosh, it has taken me a lot of words to tell A.A., through you: Thanks for ten wonderful and beautiful years of life and love."

The anonymous \$1,000

One western central office (C.O.) recently received a bank's check for \$1,000 from an anonymous donor.

Was it, the C.O. manager wondered, from a member trying to evade the \$300-per-member-per-year limit on contributions to A.A.?

When the C.O. asked the bank who the giver was, the bank explained it could not tell. However, the bank took back the check and returned it to the donor.

Mobile meetings

"I was housebound several weeks with an injury last spring," writes *Ann* (no address). "But the Arcadia Valley group—small in numbers only—came to me each week, since I could not go to them.

"How can we ever repay these members for such services? We can't. They seek nothing in return. We can only continue to carry the message to others."

No meetings at all

"Here's a check in gratitude for 32 years of sobriety," writes *Frances M., Webster Groves, Mo.* "The first eight months were accomplished solely by following the directions in the Big Book, which I studied daily. I had no other contact with A.A. then, but it worked. I am amazed at members who have never even read it, and wonder how they manage!"

MARY ELLEN ENJOYS ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Retired?

Mary Ellen W., who formally left the G.S.O. staff July 1 and moved with husband Joseph to New Marlboro, Mass., did not sound at all like a retiree when *Box 4-5-9* telephoned her recently.

Among the "about ten" families in her village in the Berkshire Mountains, there are four A.A. members, one an old friend from New York. Mary Ellen loves attending a new Big Book meeting in Lenox weekly.

In addition, as a free-lance consultant, she is still translating each issue of *Box 4-5-9* into Spanish for G.S.O., and works at keeping all Spanish A.A. literature updated. As revisions are made in English books and pamphlets, she makes sure corresponding changes are made in the Spanish versions.

Mary Ellen is still secretary of the World Service Meeting Literature/Publishing Committee and, in that capacity, will go to Helsinki

(continued on p. 6)

MARY ELLEN

(continued from p. 5)

in October (see p. 1).

Long an invaluable, trilingual G.S.O. staff member, the strikingly handsome Mary Ellen is lovingly remembered by many for her correspondence with Hispanic groups. Others recall her best as secretary of the 1976 and 1977 General Service Conferences; before that, on the cooperation with the professional community and public information assignments.

But the main business of her life now is quite different. She and Joe are restoring and adding on to a beautiful, 200-year-old house. She has been a regular listener at the Tanglewood music festival, and has been busy helping set up the village fair. In the winters, Mary Ellen and Joe will call Florida home.

As far as we are concerned, she will always have homes in the hearts of her A.A. friends at G.S.O. and around the world.

GOING TO RUSSIA?

(continued from p. 1)

for improvement, particularly in relations with my family. After the nine years of my drinking, there was a lot of damage done. I sometimes think that's the reason we're here in the circumstances we are. We must spend more time together and rely more upon one another here. I don't have meetings to escape to when the going gets too tough at home. Perhaps here I will learn what it means to practice these principles in all my affairs."

Like our other Loners, this member receives the bimonthly *Loners-Internationalists Meeting (L.I.M.)*, plus Box 4-5-9.

Jim, our Tehran correspondent, says that in every issue of *L.I.M.*, "I always find two or three people where I think I can be of service, and miraculous happenings have resulted—things like my writing to Leo F. in Sri Lanka, when he was

a Loner, sending him a little literature and a Big Book. Now, there's a warm letter from Leo with news of a small group there! Our Tehran group has sent them a two-year Grapevine subscription.

"Our group is getting to be truly international," Jim says. "We have Americans, British, Germans, and a Norwegian now. We all speak some English at meetings and ask different people to lead us in prayer in different languages to end each meeting."

From Cambridge Bay, N.W.T., John M. writes, "We finally had a meeting here in Canada's Arctic Circle. Two years ago, two of us decided we were powerless over alcohol and A.A. was for us. A third member arrived to work. We were spread over 400 miles but kept in touch by phone," says John. "*L.I.M.* was our only meeting.

"Two weeks ago, a visitor asked if there were A.A.'s around and was referred to me. Then, a brand-new member arrived to work for me. Another was posted here, and still another came to do some repair work. So we had five members one night, with the temperature 48 degrees below zero!"

SURVEY OF MEMBERSHIP

(continued from p. 1)

From the two nations, 15,132 usable responses were returned, and similar procedures in other countries produced about 2,770 replies. The resulting total of almost 18,000 is the largest number of recovered alcoholics ever surveyed.

The consistency of findings over the years encourages the General Service Board to think the survey results are reliable, the past chairperson continued.

The questionnaire asked for date of first A.A. meeting attendance, date of last drink, and current frequency of meeting attendance. And for the first time, the 1977 questionnaire asked about drugs other than alcohol. Twice as many women (28%) as men (14%) indi-

cated multiple addiction when they first came to A.A. This is particularly noticeable in younger members.

Dr. Jack said there may be one fairly large A.A. population not covered by the sobriety census. It is those members who do not attend many meetings. Since groups do not keep attendance records, and very few even attempt membership lists, no one knows how many people come to a few A.A. meetings but never return, or how many older members remain sober but rarely attend meetings.

Even so, modern statistical techniques make it possible to predict the *probability* of members' staying sober. For instance, a member with less than a year's sobriety has a 35-45% chance of going through the next year without a drink. A member with from one to five years' sobriety has an 80% likelihood of staying sober another year and remaining in the Fellowship. And a member with more than five years' sobriety has a 90% chance of going through the next year both not drinking and remaining in the Fellowship.

This raises a question for A.A. groups: Can we make A.A. so attractive that more prospects, after attending their first meetings, will keep coming back?

The importance of professional alcoholism treatment and counseling in getting people to A.A. has almost doubled since 1974, Dr. Jack said. Among the respondents, 24% listed outside counseling or treatment as a factor most important in getting them to A.A. In 1974, it was only 14%.

Many other facts can be pulled out of the studies and can be explored by the Fellowship later, but space prevents their inclusion here. For instance, questions were asked about sponsorship (both sponsoring and being sponsored), the use of professional help *after* coming to A.A., and the extent to which members tell families, friends, colleagues, and others of their membership in A.A.



THE BULLETIN BOARD

October-November 1978

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

A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Wichita, Kansas*. State Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 12074, Wichita, KS 67277
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Wimberley, Texas*. Eighth Agape West Weekend. Write: Coordinator, 1507 Pease Rd. #8, Austin, TX 78703
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Huron, South Dakota*. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., Rte. 3, Box 9A, Huron, SD 57350
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*. Tenth Annual District Autumn Leaf Roundup. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 522, Hamilton, Ont.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Nashville, Indiana*. Seventh S.E. Ind. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 33, Batesville, IN 47006
- Sept. 19-Oct. 1 — *Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Roundup Com., P.O. Box 165, Medicine Hat, Alta.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Conference. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 1741, Swift Current, Sask.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Sacramento, California*. Annual Fall Conf., N. Calif. Council of A.A. Write: Ch., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Arlington, Texas*. 15th Annual N.E. Tex. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 9204, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — *Spokane, Washington*. Area Assembly. Write: Assy. Ch., 6120 N. Elm, Spokane, WA 99208
- 6-8 — *Bismarck, North Dakota*. Roundup. Write: Publicity Com., P.O. Box 161, Bismarck, ND 58501
- 6-8 — *Orillia, Ontario, Canada*. 13th Annual Conf. Write: Host Com., P.O. Box 813, Barrie, Ont.
- 6-8 — *Prince George, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1257, Prince George, B.C.
- 6-8 — *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*. 20th Annual Bilingual Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 470, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, Que. H4Z 1G7
- 6-8 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. First Fall Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 6-8 — *Kalispell, Montana*. State Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 250, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
- 6-8 — *Sudbury, Ontario, Canada*. 23rd Annual N.E. Ont. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 111, Whitefish, Ont. P0M 3E0
- 6-8 — *Hartland, Michigan*. Seventh Great Lakes Agape Weekend. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 1314A, Detroit, MI 48232
- 6-9 — *Miami, Florida*. Ocean Roundup III to Nassau. Write: Ocean Roundup III, P.O. Box 010882, Miami, FL 33101
- 7-8 — *Hope, British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Thanksgiving Roundup. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 391, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0
- 7-9 — *Helsinki, Finland*. 30th Anniv. Conv. of A.A. in Finland. Write: Conv. Ch., Pietari Hannikainen tie 2 R 88, SF-00400, Helsinki 40, Finland
- 12-15 — *Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*. Annual Fellowship by the Sea. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 201, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
- 13-15 — *New Bern, North Carolina*. 15th Semiannual Roundup. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 1304, New Bern, NC 28560
- 13-15 — *Lake Yale, Florida*. 11th Annual Autumn Mtgs. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 996, Merritt Island, FL 32952
- 13-15 — *Claresholm, Alberta, Canada*. Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 45, Claresholm, Alta. T0L 0T0
- 13-15 — *Lampe, Missouri*. W. Mo. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., P.O. Box G, Urich, MO 64788
- 13-15 — *Victoria, Texas*. 28th Annual Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 808 Hybiscus, Victoria, TX 77901
- 13-15 — *Cedar Falls, Iowa*. Fall Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 261, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
- 14 — *San Francisco, California*. Intercounty Fellowship Annual Banq. Write: Banq. Com., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- 20-21 — *Grenada, Mississippi*. Third Annual Roundup. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 786, Grenada, MS 38901
- 20-22 — *Buffalo, New York*. 37th Annual Fall Conv. Write: Buffalo Fall Conv., 534 Ellicott Sq. Bldg., 295 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203
- 20-22 — *Duncan, British Columbia, Canada*. Ninth Annual Rally. Write: Com. Ch., R.R. 2, Box 18, Vancouver Island, B.C. V9L 1N9
- 20-22 — *Palm Beach, Florida*. 19th S. Fla. Agape Weekend. Write: Coordinator, 4521 S. LeJeune Rd., Coral Gables, FL 33146
- 20-22 — *Downingtown, Pennsylvania*. E. Pa. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., R.D. 1, Box 554, Cresco, PA 18326

PLANNING AN A.A. EVENT IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY?

Please be sure to send your information on December or January A.A. events in time to reach G.S.O. by *October 15*. This is the calendar deadline for the Holiday issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed November 15).

CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

October: For Step meetings, two articles on the Second Step look at faith and the possibility that "insane" thinking may persist in sobriety; "Unmanageable Lives" notes that the First Step also remains applicable; "Who Needs Service?" examines the value of A.A. activity to group and member.

November: The annual "classic" issue reprints time-tested articles on vital topics—acceptance (as seen by Bill W.), anonymity, the problems of old-timers, the good uses of depression.

20-22 — *Camp Tama, Japan*. Far East Roundup. Write: Ch., Social Science Center, U.S.N.A.F. Box 20, F.P.O. Seattle, WA 98767

20-22 — *London, Ontario, Canada*. 25th Annual W. Ont. Conv., P.O. Box 725, London, Ont. N6A 4Y8

22 — *Maplewood, New Jersey*. 32nd Annual Intergroup Banq. Write: Banq., P.O. Box 632, Maplecrest Sta., Maplewood, NJ 07040

26-29 — *Honolulu, Hawaii*. 17th Annual Conf. Write: Conf., P.O. Box 22613, Honolulu, HI 96822

26-29 — *Jekyll Island, Georgia*. 25th State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 391, Brunswick, GA 31520

27-29 — *Avon Park, Florida*. Came to Believe Weekend. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 425, Casselberry, FL 32707

27-29 — *Thief River Falls, Minnesota*. Second Annual Harvest Festival. Write: Tkt. Ch., 422 N. Kinney Ave., Thief River Falls, MN 56701

27-29 — *Phoenix, Arizona*. 28th State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 2708, Phoenix, AZ 85002

NOVEMBER

2-4 — *Ocracoke Island, North Carolina*. Sixth Jamboree. Write: Jamboree Com., Box 355, Ocracoke Island, NC 27960

2-5 — *Memphis, Tennessee*. Fourth Annual Bluff City Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 948, Memphis, TN 38101

(continued)

A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER (continued)

- 3-5 - *Everett, Washington*. Young People's Conf. Write: E.Y.P.C.C., P.O. Box 1748, Everett, WA 98206
- 3-5 - *Owensboro, Kentucky*. 18th Annual Tri-State Conv. Write: Conv., P.O. Box 88, Owensboro, KY 42301
- 3-5 - *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. 27th Prov. Conf. Write: Conf. Com., P.O. Box 7021, Sta. M, Edmonton, Alta. T5E 5S9
- 3-5 - *Pocatello, Idaho*. Area Fall Assy. Write: Assy. Ch., P.O. Box 2395, Pocatello, ID 83201
- 3-5 - *Las Vegas, Nevada*. 12th Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup, P.O. Box 259, Las Vegas, NV 89101
- 3-5 - *Salt Lake City, Utah*. Annual Area Serv. Assy. Write: Assy. Ch., 1272 E. 5th St. S., Salt Lake City, UT 84102
- 3-5 - *Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada*. Eighth Annual Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 1541, Sherbrooke, Que. J1H 5M4
- 3-5 - *Chatham, Ontario, Canada*. Second Annual Dist. Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 391, Tilbury, Ont. N0P 2L0
- 10-12 - *Bloomington, Minnesota*. 38th Annual Founders Day Weekend. Write: Banq. Ch., Alano Soc., 2218 First Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404
- 17-19 - *Enid, Oklahoma*. N.W. Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., R.R. 2, Box 4, Alva, OK 73717
- 17-19 - *Greeley, Colorado*. Winter Regional Conf. Write: Conf. Secy., 1204 E. County Rd. 30, Fort Collins, CO 80525
- 18-19 - *Jonesboro, Arkansas*. 24th Annual Mid-South Thanksgiving. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 755, Jonesboro, AR 72401
- 18 - *Napa, California*. N. Coastal Calif. Election Assy. Write: Assy. Coordinator, 1002 Huntingdon Dr., San Jose, CA 95129