

Practicing the Seventh Tradition— Are We ‘Walking Like We’re Talking?’

A.A. has a collective case of the fiscal blues. The A.A. World Services committee on self-support reports that 1988 group contributions to the work of the General Service Office were up seven percent, which hardly sounds alarming—until you realize that expenses for the same period climbed 15 percent. Moreover, the 1989 budget reflects an expense increase of just over 10 percent, while contributions at best are holding even—threatening a shortfall of approximately \$750,000 by the end of the year. The problem, as the committee sees it, stems largely from the fact that 45 percent of the 45,442 registered groups in the United States and Canada do not support A.A.’s essential services. “Consequently,” warns Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Robert Morse, chairman/treasurer of the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee, “the budgetary process for 1989-1991 will clearly have to recognize those services for which groups are willing to pay. The process may be painful if certain services cannot be considered affordable.”

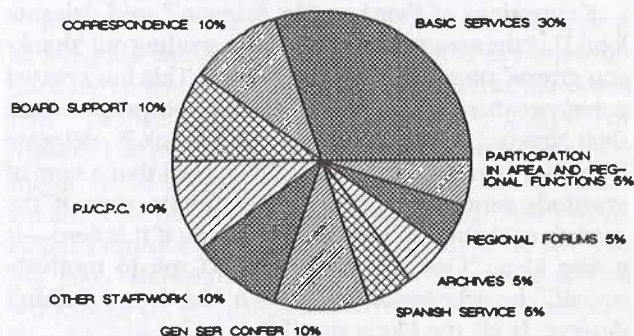
But which services would we eliminate? How would such decisions be made, and by whom? Do we rely on the same dependable people in the same dependable groups to dig a little deeper, or do we divert funds from local or area services? The answers are not simple, observes Jan W., Southwest U.S. regional trustee, “but I am confident that we will find our way. I’ve always been told that when the Fellowship perceives a need, it will be met.”

Speaking at the General Service Conference in April, Jan noted that the self-support committee, launched in late 1986, has sought in a variety of ways to alert A.A. groups to the situation and to seek their participation in finding solutions. For example: a Self-Support Manual was produced and sent to all district committee members, along with a four-page paper entitled, “The Challenge of the Seventh Tradition.” These were accompanied by a summary of that paper and a finance flyer to be duplicated for distribution to general service rep-

resentatives. The information was also sent to past delegates and trustees, and to intergroup/central offices for possible inclusion in their newsletters.

The response of the Fellowship at first was immediate and generous. Contributions to G.S.O. jumped 37 percent and the percentage of contributing groups rose five points. But as quickly as it came, the initial burst of energy waned. Meanwhile, literature prices were cut and discounted to the bone last year, in response to the jump in contributions. This went a long way toward relieving concern about G.S.O.’s increasing reliance on publishing income—much of it derived from sources outside A.A.—to cover the cost of services worldwide.

YOUR A.A. DOLLAR: THE SERVICES IT PAYS FOR



One solution to the current fiscal situation might be to raise literature prices. However, renewed dependence on publishing income, some A.A.s feel, might compromise the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, which states that “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions,” and would be a retreat from the progress we have made *away* from such dependence.

Seeking new ways to impress A.A.s with the impor-

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tance of the self-support tradition, the committee wrote last December to delegates and alternate delegates to the 1989 General Service Conference, asking for their input. The 68 respondents almost unanimously agreed that group contribution statements should be sent to G.S.R.s and/or D.C.M.s regularly, preferably on a quarterly basis. They also indicated that a person-to-person approach—including meetings and workshops explaining self-support and the Seventh Tradition—can be very effective. Other suggested approaches were submitted by delegates who elaborated on them during a self-support sharing session at the Conference. These include:

Declaring a "Self-Support Month"—This has been done in Georgia, says delegate Gay G., with a significant rise in group contributions. An added bonus, she reported, was that improved communication among D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s spilled over to group members, who became better informed about Tradition Seven and our need to be self-supporting; about the financial implications for A.A. as a whole when groups don't participate; and about how A.A. dollars are spent.

Expressions of thanks—"In Arizona," said delegate John D., "the area treasurer has been sending out 'thank-you grams' monthly to all the groups. This has created a regeneration of funds simply because people want their 'grams,' hokey as they may be." Frank P., delegate from Northern Coastal California, agreed that a note of gratitude sent with quarterly statements, even if the group's contribution is zero—especially if it is zero—is a fine idea. "One thing that caused me to motivate myself," he acknowledged, "was a 'thank you' I didn't deserve. It hit me like a shot!"

Frank emphasized the feeling of most members in his area that statements sent to groups should be "loving and gentle"—that noncontributing groups "should not be chastized in any way or made to feel embarrassed or inadequate." Some of these groups, he explained, are young or small or both, and have trouble just paying for their rent and coffee expenses.

Celebrating a "Gratitude Week"—Quebec Southwest delegate John MacD. told of "an idea our area borrowed from the Quebec Northwest Area. We instituted a

gratitude week, to be held annually the week of A.A.'s anniversary in June. Groups were asked to either contribute a night's collection to G.S.O. or to have a special collection for that purpose. Our members responded with enthusiasm, and we found that regular group contributions did not fall off because of the extra emphasis."

In the North Carolina/Bermuda Area, gratitude takes yet another form. Said delegate Judy M.: "At the area level, we have tried for the past two years to set an example by sending any extra money on hand to G.S.O. The message we're sending to area groups is that we're meeting the challenge of the Seventh Tradition—we're walking like we're talking. Their response has been tremendous!"

It was pointed out that sending in even a \$2.00 A.A. "birthday" contribution is one way to voice an opinion and so participate in A.A. as a whole. Other ways in which both individuals and groups can contribute to A.A. services are suggested in the pamphlet, "Supporting the A.A. Support System." The pamphlet recommends regular monthly contributions and a planned division of group money among A.A. services: intergroup/central office, G.S.O., and both the area and district committee. The pamphlet tells where our money goes, how we can learn more about its uses, and more.

At the Conference sharing session, it was further noted that many A.A.s sober in the Fellowship for five or more years are putting the same tired dollar in the basket as they did in the beginning. Commented Connecticut delegate Bob F.: "When I came into this Fellowship, I could buy a shot and a beer for about 75 cents. A few months ago, my wife ordered a drink that cost \$3.50 and had a heart attack. She didn't finish it and I had a heart attack! I've reminded myself that inflation has about doubled in the 1980s alone, so a dollar in the basket no longer suffices." The same group expenses go on, he added, only they are higher all the time. As Bill W. said, there is "a place in A.A. where spirituality and money can mix . . . in the hat!"

The self-support committee, which is operating on a five-year plan, will consider its work done when the costs of group services and other A.A. expenses are totally covered by group contributions. The committee welcomes suggestions and shared experience from all A.A.s. Your participation is a form of Twelfth Step work, making it possible in the long run for the Fellowship to carry the message to suffering alcoholics everywhere—through the availability of books at low prices; dissemination of free literature and audiovisual material; and direct contact with other countries and with Loners, the public, the media and our friends in the professional community.

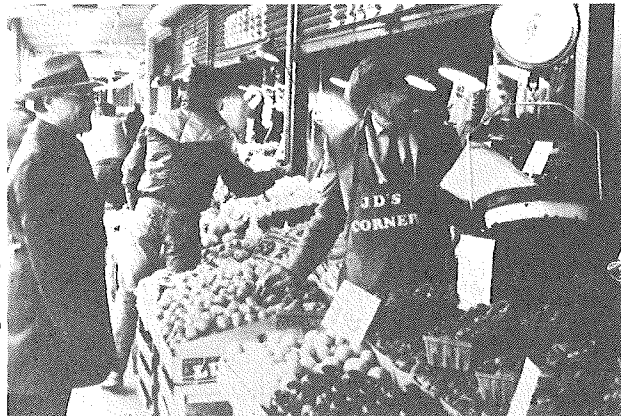
'Countdown 1990!' Host Committee Revs Up for International Convention

If their famous king salmon seem to be running faster these days, it's perhaps because excitement is in the air, everywhere, as Washington state A.A.s prepare to welcome more than 45,000 visitors to the Ninth International Convention, to be held in Seattle July 5-8, 1990.

A lion's share of responsibility for the smooth functioning of this massive gathering will rest with the Host Committee. Says chairperson Eric B.: "By Convention time, we expect to have as many as 2,000 volunteers, each working in some capacity to make A.A.'s 55th Anniversary Convention a marvelous experience for everyone here."

"Countdown 1990" officially began back in August 1986, when the General Service Board selected Seattle, the cultural and financial hub of the Northwest, as the 1990 International Convention site. Since then, planning for the event has gained momentum with each passing month.

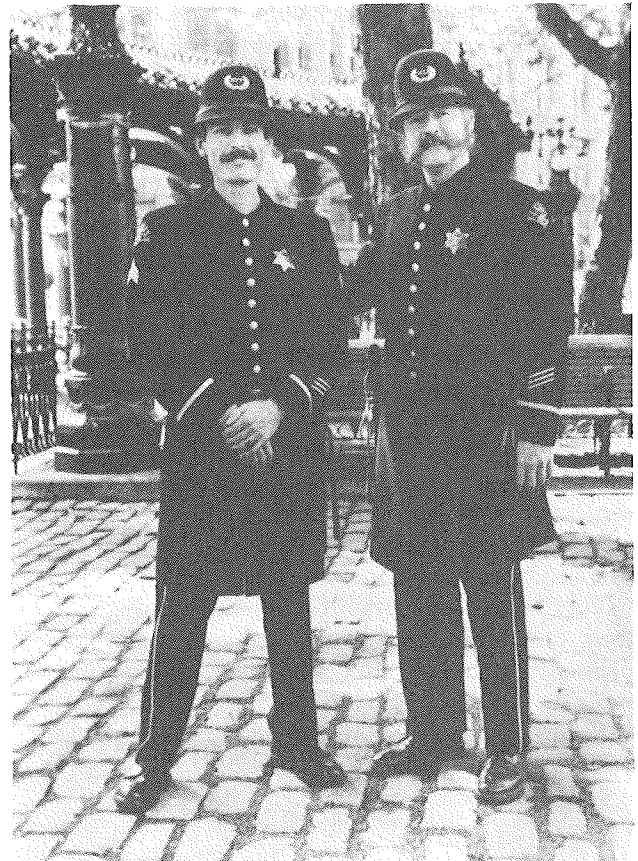
Seattle-King County Convention & Visitors Bureau



Seattle's Pike Place Market, in operation since 1907, is one of the last true farmer's markets in the country.

The Host Committee countdown began last year, when Eric, his alternate chairperson Denis F., and Burke D. were named to head the "core committee." By June 1989, additional chairpersons been chosen and plans were in motion to have members of the alternative housing subcommittee trained and ready to accept reservations in September, when registration forms were mailed by G.S.O. to more than 85,000 A.A. groups worldwide. (Registrants are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to return your completed form early.)

"The Convention theme is 'Fifty-Five Years—One Day at a Time,'" Eric observes, "and although there is an enormous amount of work to be done, we're really



Seattle-King County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Seattle policemen, dressed in 19th century costumes, patrol the city's historic Pioneer Square area.

enjoying it a day at a time. The next few months will be largely a time for establishing the committee structures, defining their individual tasks, and making sure that everything fits together."

In his column, "Countdown 1990," which will appear as a regular feature of the *Washington Area Newsletter* until the conclusion of the Convention, Burke has noted that "the extent of the program is hard to grasp." For instance, he points out, at 2:30 on Friday afternoon you might be attending a panel on "A.A. in Correction Facilities" or on "How A.A. Cooperates With the Professional Community." Perhaps you'd rather be in "The Big Book Marathon" or participate in any of several workshops on such topics as "The Twelve Concepts"; "How A.A. Reaches the Handicapped"; and "The Twelve Traditions." Then again, you might prefer a special interest meeting on "How A.A. Began in Latin America" or a topic meeting on one of a number of subjects ranging from "Ego Deflation" to "The WHO I Never Knew—Willingness, Honesty, Openness."

There is a giant candy store of activities to choose from, including the A.A. marathon and the Pacific and other regional alkathons. "Your biggest problem," Eric says, "will be to select which of the staggering array of events you will go to next! On the other hand, you may

opt to sit in the sun for a one-on-one with an A.A. friend or grab some shut-eye before dancing the night away at one of several dances now being planned. Seattle in the summer is mostly sunny, with temperatures between 75-80 degrees and cool breezes blowing in from Puget Sound and Elliott Bay—the kind of weather that encourages just about anything you want to do.”

At the Montreal Convention in 1985, host committee volunteers sported straw “boaters” which made them easy to spot. Similarly, the Seattle Host Committee is working on an identification theme of its own. “You’ll know who we are,” Eric promises. “Give us the questions and we’ll have the answers.”

Appropriately, he notes, the Washington State motto is *Alki*, an Indian word meaning “Bye and Bye” that was first used by Seattle pioneers who called their settlement New York-Alki. “We’re looking forward to hosting all you ‘alkis,’ ” he grins, “in the ever-nearer bye and bye.”

For further information, or to obtain your registration form directly (instead of through your home group), please write to: International Convention Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Register Early for Dorm Space in Seattle

Those wanting dorm housing at the 1990 International Convention are urged to register early. G.S.O. has made a commitment for a certain number of dorm rooms, and will be held financially responsible for the rooms whether or not they are filled by Convention goers—so please register as soon as possible if you want dorm housing so we can get a sense of the number of rooms we will need.

Box 4-5-9 Is to Share

Some of our readers, reporting that they receive duplicate copies of *Box 4-5-9*, have asked that we adjust their individual mailings accordingly.

Even in this age of instant electronic fix-its, such changes are not so easy to effect. More importantly, *Box 4-5-9* is a newsletter for all A.A.s. So, if you are receiving more than one copy (a result of being on several mailing lists), why not “pass it on”? The more members who read it, the better informed we will be about what is happening around the Fellowship.

Published six times a year, *Box 4-5-9* is available, in packets of 10 copies, to all groups for \$3.50 per packet.

A.A.-Speak: a Glossary of Services, Slogans and Jargon

When Northern California’s District 15 General Service joined with the Humboldt/Del Norte Central Committee to sponsor a Unity Day Workshop on “Recovery Through Service,” they prepared program guidelines and a glossary of A.A. terms that would be hard to match for clarity and helpfulness.

The introduction noted that the guidelines were intended “to help you conduct a workshop. Remember, there are no authorities in A.A., so use what you can and forget the rest.” The main section of the guidelines, entitled “Alphabet Soup,” listed a number of service abbreviations and acronyms, and what they mean. Even seasoned A.A.s sometimes blank out when it comes to understanding the difference between G.S.R. and GvR, that C.P.C. isn’t some new ingredient in aspirin, or that H&I isn’t A.A.-speak for “hi.” So *Box 4-5-9* offers a capsule glossary of terms, borrowing liberally from “Alphabet Soup”:

A.A.W.S.—A.A. World Services, Inc. The trustees do much of their work through two corporations, A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and through members of the trustees’ committees. The two service corporations are responsible for the employment and direction of the General Service Office and Grapevine personnel.

C.P.C.—Cooperation With the Professional Community. Committee members throughout the U.S. and Canada carry information about A.A. to doctors, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, the clergy and other professionals who may come in contact with alcoholics. C.P.C. committees help A.A.’s effort to be “friendly with our friends.”

C.F.—Correctional Facilities. Committee members carry the A.A. message behind prison walls to help alcoholic inmates prepare for sober, more contented lives after release. They also serve as correspondents and as contact sponsors when the A.A. inmates are freed.

D.C.M.—District Committee Member. A former G.S.R. (general service representative) who is available for support and service in sponsoring current G.S.R.s. As leader of the district committee, which is made up of all the G.S.R.s in the district, the D.C.M. is exposed to the group conscience of that district. As a member of the area committee, he or she is able to pass on this thinking to the area delegate and the area committee. The D.C.M. also acts as a “safety valve” for the Fellowship; in this period of rapid growth, committee members are added to take care of new groups as A.A. expands, thus keeping the General Service Conference from becoming unwieldy.

G.S.B.—General Service Board (the trustees of A.A.).

The chief service arm of the General Service Conference, it is essentially custodial in character. As the Conference Charter states, "Excepting for decisions upon matters of policy, finance, or A.A. Tradition liable to seriously affect A.A. as a whole, the General Service Board has entire freedom of action in the routine conduct of the policy and business affairs of the A.A. service corporations." At any given time, there are 21 trustees on the board: 14 A.A.s and seven nonalcoholics. Their term of office is four years for A.A.s and three three-year terms for nonalcoholic trustees.

G.S.O.—The General Service Office. As the New York-based "headquarters" for A.A. in the U.S. and Canada, G.S.O. provides a forum for sharing A.A. experience and reveals the group conscience to the Fellowship. (The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., a separate corporation with its own board, is under the guidance of the trustees.) Services provided by G.S.O. fall into about 17 categories, including: help with groups, old and new, and their problems; work with groups in treatment and correctional facilities; dissemination of public information at local and national levels; maintaining the central U.S./Canada Archives; cooperation with the professional community; and coordinating the General Service Conference, International Conventions and Regional Forums. G.S.O. also edits, publishes and distributes all A.A. Conference-approved literature and audiovisual materials, much of it available in other languages.

G.S.R.—General Service Representative. Often called "the guardians of the Traditions," G.S.R.s represent their groups at area general service assemblies, sharing experiences with neighboring G.S.R.s in caucuses and "sharing sessions," and helping to choose their area's delegate to the General Service Conference.

Gv and GvR—The A.A. Grapevine (Gv), a monthly magazine frequently called "a meeting in print," publishes articles written by A.A. members and based on their personal experiences in recovery, along with a calendar of special A.A. events. The job of the group GvR (the Grapevine representative) is to make sure that members are aware of the Fellowship's international journal and the enhancements to sobriety it offers.

H.A.L.T.—An acronym for (don't get too) Hungry, Angry, Lonely or Tired.

H&I—Hospitals and Institutions. Please see T.F. and C.F.

K.I.S.S.—An acronym for Keep It Simple, Stupid.

LIMs—*Loners-Internationalists Meeting* is a newsletter composed of sharing with Lone members, seagoing A.A.s and others who cannot attend regular meetings.

Mocus—When you're "not all here because you're not all there." A term A.A.s often use to describe themselves as foggy (if not soggy) newcomers.

P.I.—Public Information. Committees around the country handle relations locally with the written and electronic media; G.S.O. takes the responsibility for

making contact on national levels. P.I. committee members find speakers within the Fellowship to describe the A.A. program to schools, the general public and others interested in approaches to recovery from alcoholism.

T.F.—Treatment Facilities (known in some areas as H&I, or Hospitals and Institutions). Committee members work to further the acceptance of A.A. in hospitals, treatment facilities and rehabilitation centers, and to bring additional help to alcoholics in treatment there. The members also serve as correspondents and as contact sponsors when alcoholic patients are released.

WHO—Willingness, Honesty, Openness. Sometimes cited by A.A.s as requisites to getting and staying sober.

I.C.Y.P.A.A.—International Conference of Young People in A.A.

Do you have a favorite A.A. acronym or abbreviated slogan that we've missed? If so, why not share it with *Box 4-5-9* readers—A.S.A.P., of course.

Resumes for Trustees Election Due by Jan. 1

Two new Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees—from the Pacific U.S. and Eastern Canada—will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 1990. Resumes must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new Pacific U.S. trustee will succeed Ruth J., of Las Vegas, Nevada; the new Eastern Canada trustee will fill the post presently held by Tom H., of Scarborough, Ontario.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety are 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.

New from G.S.O.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is now available in a soft-cover edition. The result of a suggestion from the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee, this new edition will meet the needs of inmates who are not permitted to have hard-cover books. (B-15) \$2.50.

"A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" is a new recovery pamphlet which contains excerpts from the experiences of gay and lesbian alcoholics who are sober in A.A. (P-32) 25¢.

Two New Cassettes Available from Grapevine

Two new cassette tapes on the Twelve Traditions are now available from the A.A. Grapevine.

"Our Experience Has Taught Us" begins with Bill W.'s landmark article introducing the long form of the Traditions, and includes individual articles on each of the Twelve Traditions.

"Practice These Principles" is a collection of articles on the Traditions at work—what they mean to the continuing life of A.A. groups, and how they operate as part of the sobriety of individual members.

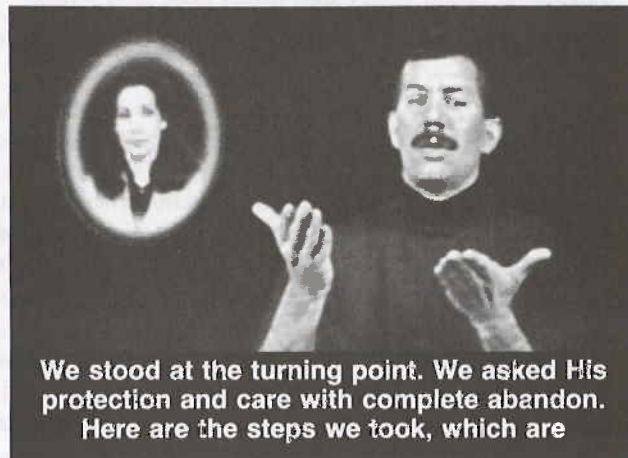
Other Gv tapes are: "Classics" (3 vols.); "Not for Newcomers Only" (2 vols.); "Attitudes"; "Character Defects"; "Pathways to Spirituality"; and "Maintaining Spirituality."

Tapes are \$5.50 each; two or more \$5.00 each. Available from: The Grapevine, P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-1980.

Video of 'How It Works' Now in Sign Language For the Hearing-Impaired Alcoholic

A specially designed video film of "How It Works," the Big Book's well-loved Chapter Five, is now available in American sign language for deaf and hearing-impaired alcoholics.

The 48-minute color cassette maintains total accuracy and integrity to Chapter Five. In a reversal of the usual procedure, the sign occupies the main part of the screen, with the voice translator positioned in the "magic window" at the top. The exact text is clearly



captioned below.

Close to a year in the making, the video film was authorized by the A.A. World Services Board as part of an overall effort to reach out more fully to the hearing-impaired population.

Selecting a signer for the project was not simple. Eileen G., the General Service Office staff member assigned to the Group Services desk, worked closely with non-A.A. consultant Anne Pictet, who has signed at many A.A. meetings, along with several A.A.s familiar with sign language and the needs of hearing-impaired members.

Since signing involves not just the hands but facial and body language, it was determined that having an A.A. signer appear on-screen would violate our Anonymity Tradition. After a thorough search, two "performers" were selected: Alan R. Barwiolek, internationally respected as an A.S.L. signer; and another non-A.A., Katherine Diamond, who is well-known in the theater arts, to act as the voice translator. The functions of both experts were deemed essential to the film—his, for the profoundly deaf; hers, for those with some degree of hearing.

The task of creating the video film was handled by Unitel Studios in New York City. When they saw "How It Works," several of the production people involved said they had never seen so much text fitted into a 48-minute product.

The ½-inch cassette costs \$20.00 and is available from G.S.O.

A.A. Service Pieces At Your Service

Because they see them displayed at meetings everywhere, most A.A.s realize early in sobriety that the familiar Big Book, Twelve and Twelve, and other books and pamphlets are available from the General Service Office. But what appears to be a well-kept *nonsecret* is the storehouse of informative service material that has been compiled for groups and individual members.

Unlike A.A. Conference-approved literature, which is produced as the result of General Service Conference Advisory Actions, service material is created in response to members' expressed needs for clear, concise information on subjects ranging from the "A.A. Birthday Plan" and "Shared Experience on Self-Support" to a map of A.A. regions in the U.S. and Canada. In the interest of timeliness, service material is updated constantly to reflect current group experience as well as Conference sharing and Advisory Actions.

Would you like to have a condensed version of A.A.'s

"Twelve Concepts for World Service"? Or a listing of A.A. groups and contacts available to the hearing impaired? Or information on books and pamphlets available in Braille and on cassette? These and more are yours for the asking.

Among the most requested service pieces are suggested Guidelines, presently available on 16 topics, including: A.A. answering services; central or intergroup offices; clubs; the relationship between A.A. and Al-Anon; cooperating with court, A.S.A.P., and similar programs; current usage of A.A. Directories; and forming local committees on service in both correctional and treatment facilities, public information, and cooperation with the professional community. Like so many other service pieces, a number of the Guidelines are available in French, Spanish or both.

In addition to individual service materials, G.S.O. offers a Service Packet containing frequently requested information on eight aspects of the Fellowship: "What Is an A.A. Group?"; "Structure of the Fellowship (U.S. and Canada)"; "Sponsorship"; "Conference-approved Literature"; "Suggested Topics for Discussion Meetings"; "How to Conduct a Sharing Session"; "Origin of the Serenity Prayer"; and "Who Makes Up the General Service Conference"? The complete Packet (M-52) is available at a cost of \$3.00.

To order a Service Packet, individual information sheets, or a listing of all service pieces available, write: the General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Service Sponsorship Is An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The concept of sponsorship is as old as A.A. itself. Co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob sponsored each other and, ever since, countless A.A.s have passed the message on to newcomers as their sponsors passed it to them—face to face. For most of them, however, Twelfth-Step work seldom extends beyond interpersonal sharing with a fellow alcoholic.

As the Fellowship grows, there is an increasing need for another kind of sponsor—one who introduces the new member to the broad world of service in A.A. To further awareness of this need, Peter R., general service representative of Group 1 in Sacramento, California, prepared a "Service Sponsorship" guideline for presentation at a district committee meeting.

The guideline explains that service sponsors are to service work what a personal recovery sponsor is to the Steps. They show sponsees that both the Steps and the Traditions can be applied to all areas of their lives; and

share their own experience, strength and hope in relation to service participation. Specifically, they explain how each aspect of service—from the home group to the district level on to the area assembly and the General Service Conference—affects A.A. as a whole and is vital to our unity and survival. They also encourage their sponsees, after an appropriate length of sobriety, to hold home group office; volunteer for service at their local intergroup or central office; and attend area workshops, forums and roundups.

Some A.A.s are guided into service by their recovery sponsors. However, the guideline suggests, others may need a separate sponsor if the recovery sponsor has no experience in service.

The guideline reminds us of Dr. Bob's four stated reasons for serving as a sponsor: "(1) sense of duty; (2) it is a pleasure; (3) because in doing so, I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me; and (4) because every time I do it, I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

Like Dr. Bob, the guideline concludes, "service sponsors can show their sponsees the pleasure of involvement in the work of A.A. This is best done by stressing the spiritual nature of service work and by pointing out the usefulness of footwork and faith."

Correctional Facilities

Letters Make a Difference To A.A.s 'Inside' and Out

Almost since A.A. began, correspondence between A.A.s in correctional facilities and those on the outside has provided a two-way bridge of experience, strength and hope. Reg R., of Queensland, Australia, treasures memories of the letters he received, both in prison and after his release, from A.A. co-founder Bill W. back in the 1960s. "Bill's workload never prevented him from sharing a few lines from time to time," Reg recalls, "and I consider myself fortunate to have exchanged a portion of our lives."

The Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) of the General Service Office helps many an inmate and outside correspondent to establish contact, with the understanding that each will honor the other's anonymity. Judging from the following excerpts of letters sent to the Correctional Facilities desk, these A.A.s of diverse backgrounds have no trouble communicating on paper,

which shows us once again that the language of the heart knows no barriers.

Outside correspondent Al M., of Ontario, Canada, says, "You write to a fellow and his first responses are bitter, negative and full of 'stinkin' thinkin'." Gradually, with each exchange of letters, he seems to be increasingly hopeful and positive about his life. The feeling you get is indescribable." Al relates that when he first became an outside correspondent, "it gave me an abundance of hope to know that, as sick as I was, I was needed—that someone actually wanted to hear from me. If the rewards of this service were known, I'm sure that more A.A.s would become involved."

Writing from Springville, Alabama, John R. says, "I've been receiving mail from all over the country. For one to be imprisoned as I am and to experience what I have over the last five years, these letters are the bright spot in life. Like the literature G.S.O. recently sent. I carried the box of Big Books and Twelve and Twelves into our A.A. meeting as if I were handling gold (better than gold!). Our 20 regulars went for them like hot cakes and, because of their reading, more sharing and good feelings have resulted."

Daryl U., of Hodgen, Oklahoma, has met one of his three outside correspondents face-to-face. "Last Christmas," he explains, "my A.A. friend from San Jose, California, visited me here at prison while spending the holidays with his family. He also spoke at our A.A. meeting, which was a thrill. He and my other A.A. correspondents are very special to me, and I am thankful to C.C.S. for putting them in my life."

"Not long ago, I applied to C.C.S. for an outside correspondent," writes Robert F. of San Francisco, California. "Then, unexpectedly, I was released from the county jail. I am an alcoholic with two years of continuous sobriety, and very grateful to A.A. Needless to say, I no longer need an outside correspondent, but I'd like to volunteer as one myself. It took seven years to get where I am now, and I'd welcome the chance to share what I have with others. I stay very involved in our local A.A. Fellowship and am willing to do whatever is necessary to keep my sobriety."

Reports Ron E., of Lancaster, Ohio: "I have been corresponding on a fairly regular basis with two great A.A. members, one in New York, the other in Wisconsin. Both are very much into recovery and have given me new insights. Looking forward to my release from prison within a year, I too would like to become an outside correspondent. That way I can perhaps give another alcoholic the wonderful support that has been given to me."

Writing from Brooklyn, New York, Robert ("Duke") E. acknowledges that his service work as an outside correspondent was temporarily interrupted by "my old 'stinking thinking.' No drinking, but no A.A. meetings either. Trying to get my mind together was a job I should

have turned over at once to my Higher Power." Duke says that he has now returned to his meetings and to his letter writing. "They both help me stay sober one day at a time."

At present, many inmates are waiting for an outside correspondent. If you are interested in participating in the C.C.S. program, please write to the Correctional Facilities Desk, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. You can use your home address or, with its consent, your group's P.O. box.

T.F.

Early Sponsorship Keeps Newcomers from Falling 'Through the Cracks'

"Many returnees to treatment facilities tell stories about why they failed to stay sober in A.A. the first time around. Their experiences indicate that a critical factor in early recovery is making a solid connection with A.A. sponsors at their very first meeting—or, better yet, before it. In fact, experienced counselors have stated that the greatest losses occur in the first 72 hours after treatment."

So reports Bert J., an A.A. veteran of some 30 years and a counselor at a treatment facility in New York state. In a paper entitled "Through the Cracks," he explores various reasons why some alcoholics fail to arrive at A.A., or else fail to stay sober once they arrive. "Obviously," he observes, "a great many never come back. They continue to drink and die as active alcoholics. I believe that some of these tragedies are preventable if counselors and A.A.s better understand what they can do to help."

In talking to treatment center returnees, Bert found a common thread running through their stories: lack of early A.A. sponsorship. Said one: "I found the meeting place and walked in, but nobody spoke to me. I stayed for the meeting and left. All that stuff I had heard about A.A. helping newcomers was bunk. I went home angry but gave it one more try, with the same results. Two weeks later, I was drunk." Recounted another: "I found the church and went up to the main entrance, but the church was dark and the doors were locked. I gave up and got a bottle."

In contrast, says Bert, the stories from sober A.A.s out of treatment were quite different. Some had been well-oriented toward A.A. before their first meeting by their treatment center counselors or by visiting A.A.s.

They were assigned temporary sponsors at their first meeting. Others arrived at groups with newcomer spotters or greeters. They were introduced to oldtimers and thus to the group and the A.A. program, and given temporary sponsors.

Bert notes that A.A.'s General Service Board has long recognized the importance of sponsorship in bridging the gap from treatment centers and jails, and has made detailed recommendations for a Temporary Contact Program to intergroups and central offices throughout the world. Yet a large gap remains.

"The attitudes of well-intentioned A.A.s, and counselors, are a major factor in the recovery process," Bert points out, "and some of their attitudes may contribute to the problem rather than the solution, as follows: 'He wasn't ready . . . ,' 'If they want my help, all they have to do is ask . . . ,' 'You can carry the message but not the alcoholic.' These assessments may, in some cases, be accurate, but we are concerned with that initial good contact here. Blaming the alcoholic at this point would seem to be counterproductive."

Visits to groups where he was not known gave Bert "further insight into the problem. Unlike less populated parts of the country, where I have attended small A.A. meetings, the metropolitan areas and their suburbs frequently hold very large meetings. Newcomers often are hard to spot, especially after a length of time in a treatment facility, without alcohol."

Eight of the ten meetings Bert attended "had no system for identifying newcomers. Only one group had greeters. When I asked how newcomers were identified, I was basically told, 'When you've been in A.A. as long as I have, you can always spot someone coming off a drunk.' When I asked, 'What about people coming from rehab or detox,' the usual reply in one form or another was, 'Well, they know they have to introduce themselves.'"

After talking to both experienced A.A.s and professionals in treatment facilities who also are A.A. members, Bert came up with some practical Twelfth-Step suggestions for A.A. groups to follow in carrying the message:

1. Place an A.A. sign outside the meeting entrance.
2. Adopt the Temporary Contact Sponsorship Program recommended by the General Service Board. Guidelines are available from the General Service Office.
3. Have greeters by the door to intercept all the people they don't recognize.
4. Hold "sponsorship meetings" on a regular basis in order to emphasize the importance of sponsorship and to encourage volunteers.
5. Assign temporary sponsors to all newcomers until they can select their own, permanent sponsors.
6. Stress Bill W.'s message: "I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that I am responsible."

In conclusion, Bert says, "Bridging the gap between treatment and a solid A.A. connection will prevent a large number of alcoholics from falling through the cracks. Building this bridge is the joint responsibility of the professionals, A.A.s and newly recovering alcoholics working together."

P.I.

Do A.A.-style Trinkets or Bumper Stickers Violate the Spirit of Anonymity?

The use of bumper stickers, mugs, t-shirts and trinkets imprinted with A.A. slogans or logos were the focus of animated discussion at last spring's General Service Conference workshop on "Anonymity—Living Our Traditions."

Participants were divided in their views. Some felt the decision to be an individual matter; others considered public displays of such items to be a form of promotion. Generally, however, opinions varied from item to item, and were based on the probable use of each one.

Bumper stickers bearing such slogans as "Easy Does It," "One Day at a Time" or "Keep It Simple" passed with flying colors. Most non-A.A.s, it was agreed, don't seem to associate such expressions with the Fellowship, so preserving anonymity is not a problem. Public wearing of a ring or a pin bearing the "A.A." logo, however, was almost unanimously frowned on as an anonymity giveaway.

Because the sale and purchase of "A.A."-inscribed jewelry and sundries cannot be curtailed, a number of the delegates present advocated wider distribution of A.A. Conference-approved literature on anonymity in the interest of an aware membership. Most frequently mentioned were the pamphlet on "Understanding Anonymity" and the anonymity wallet card, which provides a clear statement on Traditions Eleven and Twelve.

A related topic under scrutiny concerned taping and selling cassettes of A.A. talks. While the workshop attendees generally agreed that tapes help to carry the message, several of them stressed that ongoing vigilance should be exercised (1) to protect the anonymity of speakers and (2) "to keep commercialism away from A.A.'s door." Consequently, there was decided objection to local issuance of tape catalogues using full names,

“sales” lists or a “tape of the month.”

Acknowledging that tapes are “here to stay,” most of the participants nonetheless advocated careful monitoring of any and all advertising. They further recommended that the identities of taped speakers be restricted to first names only, and should never include mention of their professional status or A.A. service title, if they have one.

When prepared and disseminated with care, it was noted, taped talks can be beneficial to countless Loners, travelers and confined persons. But, as some delegates observed, requests for such tapes are increasing markedly—making the need to protect A.A.’s Anonymity Tradition all the more urgent.

C.P.C.

Court Referrals: How Communication Eases Their Way into A.A.

A.A. experience shows that numerous alcoholics referred by the courts over the past decade are comfortably sober in the Fellowship today. This has occurred with consistency mainly in areas where communication between C.P.C. committees and court officials has been open, clear and sustained.

How have these areas handled the problems that occur—ranging from too many newcomers sent to one group to the “signing” of attendance slips and consequent anonymity breaks? Some groups report that many of the court (and treatment facility) referrals attend meetings unwillingly, do not have “a desire to stop drinking” and are disruptive. Others have sought ways to stop local referrals altogether. And groups in one state were so inundated by referrals that the area assembly voted not to sign court slips.

These and other concerns have posed significant challenges to area C.P.C. committees. Following are several approaches that seem to be working for a number of the committees, which have written to the General Service Office in the interest of sharing.

1. Furnish the judge and court officials with a list of all A.A. meetings within the court’s jurisdiction and request that clients be rotated to avoid overcrowding at one or two meetings.

2. Ask D.W.I. program officials to send clients only to open meetings, where they are more apt to “take the

cotton out of their ears and put it in their mouths” and less apt to be disruptive. Once they know how A.A. works, they can decide to participate in closed meetings on their own.

3. Hold weekly A.A. orientation meetings at the court site, with speakers from all district groups represented on a rotating basis. Or, work with the courts and probation officers to take meetings to the D.W.I. “schools.”

4. Where the court has mandated clients to have attendance slips signed at A.A. meetings, some groups sign slips only at the end of meetings to help control those leaving early. Others have a rubber stamp imprinted with the group’s name to protect individual anonymity. One group presents referrals with “desire chips” for an additional 24 hours of sobriety and considers the court card a “gift certificate” to A.A. rather than a “sentence.”

5. Above all, communicate with the court officials. Tell them that we stand ready to cooperate with them; at the same time, do not comment on their programs or tell them how they should do their jobs. If certain of the court’s programs are creating problems for A.A. groups in the area, explore possible solutions and work with the officials to effect them. Two C.P.C. committee guidelines available from G.S.O., one on “Cooperating With Court, A.S.A.P. and Similar Programs,” and the other on “Forming Local Committees on Cooperation With the Professional Community,” have been helpful to both C.P.C. committees and individual A.A.s working with the courts and their referrals.

Writing in *The Link*, the Southeast New York Area newsletter, Sue J. of Westchester described her C.P.C. committee’s recent visit to a local probation office, where “we were received not only warmly but enthusiastically.” Told in advance to keep their A.A. presentation “under one hour,” the committee members wound up staying closer to two. “The probation officers were most responsive,” Sue noted, “and all the pamphlets and other literature we’d brought were gratefully accepted.”

Similarly, says Richard B., the G.S.O. staff member assigned to the C.P.C. desk, “mutual understanding and cooperation have resulted in other areas where C.P.C. committee members have sat down and talked face-to-face with local court officials and other concerned professionals. With an increasing number of A.A.s being referred by professionals, open communication in a spirit of friendly cooperation is more important than ever. There will be misunderstandings, but they need not divert us from ‘making the seeds of A.A. freely available,’ as the guidelines state—being mindful of our Tradition of nonaffiliation and remembering that the only inventory we need to take is our own.”

If you or your group has experience in carrying the message to and through court program professionals, Box 4-5-9 would welcome your sharing.

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.

October

- 5-8 — *Denver, Colorado.* Rocky Mtn. Round-up IV (hosted by gays and lesbians). Write: Ch., Box 9659, Denver, CO 80209
- 5-8 — *Gainesville, Georgia.* 36th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5701, Gainesville, GA 30501
- 5-8 — *Honolulu, Hawaii.* 28th Annual State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96822
- 6-8 — *Montgomery, Alabama.* Al/NW Fl. Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 362, Camden, AL 36726-0362
- 6-8 — *Prescott, Arizona.* 39th Arizona Conv. Write: Ch., Box 253, Prescott, AZ 86302
- 6-8 — *Fort Collins, Colorado.* Second Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 990, Ft. Collins, CO 80522
- 6-8 — *Phoenicia, New York.* First Fall Women's 11th Step Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 263, Little Falls, NJ 07424
- 6-8 — *Monroe, Louisiana.* Second Northeast La. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 14832, Monroe, LA 71207
- 6-8 — *Somerset, New Jersey.* 19th Northeast Regional Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1010, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
- 6-8 — *Rochester, New York.* Ninth RAACC. Write: Ch., 10 Manhattan Sq. Dr., Rochester, NY 14601
- 6-8 — *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.* Freedom Roundup (hosted by gay men and lesbians). Write: Ch., Box 15978, Philadelphia, PA 19103
- 6-8 — *Rapid City, South Dakota.* State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2953, Rapid City, SD 57709
- 6-8 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia.* Jackson's Mill Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 6-8 — *Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada.* Inter-Tribal Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1164, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M1
- 6-8 — *Chatham, New Brunswick, Canada.* NB/PEI Area Assembly Business/Roundup. Write: Sec., 7 MacLean St., Chatham, NB E1N 1C8
- 6-8 — *Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.* NS/NFLD/LAB Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 3, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3Y2
- 6-8 — *Montreal, Quebec, Canada.* 30th Montreal Bilingual Conv. Write: Ch., 5780 d'Iberville, Montreal, PQ H2G 2B8
- 6-8 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 841, Station F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2N7
- 6-8 — *Montego Bay, Jamaica.* Seventh An-

- nual Discovery Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 138, Reading P.O., Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 10-11 — *Lahaina, Hawaii.* 14th Annual Maui Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1208, Wailuku, HI 96793
- 12-15 — *Everglades City, Florida.* 15th AGAPE Weekend. Write: Ch., 710 N. 20th Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33020
- 12-15 — *Brainerd, Minnesota.* Second MNYP Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 24713, Minneapolis, MN 55424
- 13-15 — *Stockton, California.* N.C.C. 42nd Annual Fall Conf. Write: Tr., 1046 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-2290
- 13-15 — *Columbus, Indiana.* Seventh Men's Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 644, Columbus, IN 47202
- 13-15 — *Waterloo, Iowa.* State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3172, Waterloo, IA 50707
- 13-15 — *Lafayette, Louisiana.* Sixth Annual Cajun Country Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3160, Lafayette, LA 70502
- 13-15 — *Novi, Michigan.* Tri-County Conf. Write: Ch., Box 505, Union Lake, MI 48085
- 13-15 — *Grenada, Mississippi.* 14th Annual North Mississippi Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 219A, Pittsboro, MS 38951
- 13-15 — *Missoula, Montana.* Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 7062, Missoula, MT 59807
- 13-15 — *Carolina Beach, North Carolina.* Carolina Beach Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 101, Wilmington, NC 28401
- 13-15 — *Ogden, Utah.* Rocky Mountain Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 747, Ogden, UT 84402
- 13-15 — *Cheyenne, Wyoming.* State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 213, 515 Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82003
- 13-15 — *Claresholm, Alberta, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 45, Claresholm, AB T0L 0T0
- 13-15 — *Lunteren, Netherlands.* Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Postbus 9680, 3506 GR Utrecht, Netherlands

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

October (page 30): Step Ten; Recovery; Unity; Service.

November (page 12): Our primary purpose; helping newcomers; Traditions in action; Step Eleven.

- 14-15 — *Bastrop, Texas.* Fellowship in the Pines Conv. Write: Ch., Rt. 2, Box 190, Bastrop, TX 78602
- 14-15 — *Melfort, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2221, Melfort, SK S0E 1A0
- 14-15 — *Ponteix, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 321, Ponteix, SK S0N 1Z0
- 20-22 — *Sun Valley, Idaho.* Fall Assembly & Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1108, Ketchum, ID 83340
- 20-22 — *Hays, Kansas.* NW Kansas Conf. Write: Ch., Box 326, Hays, KS 67601
- 20-22 — *Pittsfield, Massachusetts.* 38th Annual H.M.B. Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 322, Stephentown, NY 12168
- 20-22 — *Sund Rapids, Michigan.* Big Book Study. Write: Ch., 2122 Dewberry Drive N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505
- 20-22 — *Rochester, Minnesota.* Hiawathaland Get-Together. Write: Tr., Box 5792, Rochester, MN 55903
- 20-22 — *Columbia, Missouri.* MSCYP. Write: Ch., Box 16155, Kansas City, MO 64112
- 20-22 — *Fallon, Nevada.* Sobriety Harvest. Write: Ch., Box 2274, Fallon, NV 89406

Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on December, January or February events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by *October 10*, the calendar deadline for the Holiday 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 — more events listed on reverse side

October (cont.)

- 20-22 — *Tarrytown, New York*. First Woman to Woman NE Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 509, New York, NY 10035
- 20-22 — *Whitney, Texas*. Brazos Riverside Conf. Write: Ch., Box 221, Tyler, TX 75701
- 21-22 — *New Haven, Connecticut*. Connecticut 50th Anniv. Fellowship Day and Banquet. Write: Ch., Box 2971, New Britain, CT 06050-2971
- 26-29 — *Rogersville, Alabama*. Riverside Roundup VI. Write: Ch., 7801 Benton St., Huntsville, AL 35802
- 26-29 — *Memphis, Tennessee*. Memphis Bluff City Fellowship. Write: Ch., Box 240831, Memphis, TN 38124-0831
- 27-29 — *Oahu, Hawaii*. Fall Roundup '89. Write: Ch., Box 2384, Honolulu, HI 96804
- 27-29 — *Provincetown, Massachusetts*. Second Annual "Serenity by the Sea" Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 227, Provincetown, MA 02657
- 27-29 — *Thief River Falls, Minnesota*. 14th Harvest Festival. Write: Ch., Star Route Box 295, Warroad, MN 56763
- 27-29 — *Lincoln, New Hampshire*. 12-Step Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 586, Salem, NH 03079
- 27-29 — *Portland, Oregon*. 14th CRYPR. Write: Ch., Box 1594, Portland, OR 97207
- 27-29 — *Pughtown, Pennsylvania*. Downingtown Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., 401 W. State St., Media, PA 19063
- 27-29 — *Corpus Christi, Texas*. SW Texas Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3128, Corpus Christi, TX 78463-3128
- 27-29 — *Mt. Vernon, Washington*. Second Annual Mt. Baker Roundup. Write: Ch., 3212 Northwest Ave., Suite C 323, Bellingham, WA 98225
- 27-29 — *Duncan, British Columbia, Canada*. Rally. Write: Ch., 460 Whistler St., Duncan, BC V9L 3W6
- 27-29 — *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. Manitoba Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., 505-365 Hargrave St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2K3
- 27-29 — *London, Ontario, Canada*. 36th Annual Western Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., Box 725, London, ON N6A 4Y8

November

- 2-4 — *Ocracoke, North Carolina*. 17th Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 355, Ocracoke, NC 27960
- 2-5 — *Ft. Walton Beach, Florida*. 21st Annual Gulf Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 397, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549
- 3-5 — *Springfield, Missouri*. W. Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 28421, Gladstone, MO 64118
- 3-5 — *Shreveport, Louisiana*. 44th Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 495, Shreveport, LA 71162
- 3-5 — *Bloomington, Minnesota*. 49th Annual Founder's Day. Write: Ch., 2218 1st Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55404
- 3-5 — *St. Cloud, Minnesota*. St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302
- 3-5 — *Fond du Lac, Wisconsin*. 38th Annual S. Wisconsin Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1663, Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1663
- 3-5 — *Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada*. Seventh Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6896, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 2G5
- 9-12 — *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*. Third Annual Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 95, Noble, OK 73068
- 10-12 — *Greeley, Colorado*. Winter Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 356, Greeley, CO 80631
- 10-12 — *Ocean Shores, Washington*. Third Annual Wash. Coast Ocean Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 995, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
- 10-12 — *Okoboji, Iowa*. Sixth Annual Pre-Winter Rally. Write: Ch., Box 42, Sheldon, IA 51201
- 10-12 — *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 11th Annual Lighthouse Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1, Saulnierville, Digby Co., NS B0W 2Z0
- 10-12 — *Saulte Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. 34th Annual Northeastern Area Conf. Write: Ch., 403-551 Cooper St., Saulte Ste. Marie, ON P6C 4W3
- 11-12 — *Ft. Smith, Arkansas*. Fifth Annual Ft. Smith Conv. Write: Ch., 8311 Meadow Drive, Ft. Smith, AR 72903

- 12-15 — *Helen, Georgia*. 10th Chattahoochie Forest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 363, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 17-19 — *Jonesboro, Arkansas*. 35th Annual Thanksgiving Program. Write: Ch., Box 755, Jonesboro, AR 72403
- 17-19 — *Santa Barbara, California*. Fifth Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 91731, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1731
- 18-19 — *Albuquerque, New Mexico*. Southwest Sobriety Bash. Write: Ch., Box 205, Corrales, NM 87048
- 23-26 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 43177, Las Vegas, NV 89116
- 23-26 — *New York, New York*. 10th Big Apple Roundup. Write: Ch., Village Station, Box 451, New York, NY 10014
- 24-26 — *Cromwell, Connecticut*. Fourth Annual State Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3424, Danbury, CT 06813-3424
- 24-26 — *Lansing, Michigan*. 11th MYCPAA. Write: Ch., Box 2174, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
- 24-26 — *Omaha, Nebraska*. Great Plains Roundup VII. Write: Ch., Box 34192, Omaha, NE 68134
- 24-26 — *Everett, Washington*. Everett Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1703, Everett, WA 98206
- 24-26 — *Hamilton, Bermuda*. Conv. Write: Ch., Box WK 178, Warwick, Bermuda WKBX
- 25-26 — *Neosho, Missouri*. Winter Holiday IX. Write: Ch., 315 W. Coler St., Neosho, MO 64850

December

- 1-3 — *Wichita, Kansas*. Southwest Regional Forum. Write: Secretary, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 1-3 — *Nagpur, Maharashtra State, India*. Sixth General Service Conf. Write: Ch., 5/4 S.E. Railway Colony, Wanjari Nagar, Ajni, Nagpur-440 003, India.
- 8-10 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. 1989 B.C./Yukon Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 76887, Station "S", Vancouver, BC V5R 5T3