

AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

Volume 6 Published by General Service Office of A.A., P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 Number 7

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR

July, 1961

INTRODUCING KLEINA JONES



The girl with the nice smile is Miss Kleina Jones, our new (non-alcoholic) Supervisor of the GSO Stenographic/Records Department.

Kleina (this childhood nickname has become her formal name) has come to us from the New York Shakespeare Festival where she has been in charge of the Audience Sponsor Campaign.

She has been an Office Administrator for ANTA; a Supervisor for the Air Transport Command; a Studio Supervisor for DuMont. And more recently, a partner in an outfit that provides props and special effects for TV shows.

Now after only two weeks at GSO, we wonder how we got along without her.

Here also are the girls in Kleina's department -- all non-alcoholics. They do general clerical work -- typing letters for the GSO Staff, keeping records and mailing lists up-to-date and helping to prepare the annual World Directory. They tackle special projects with enthusiasm and a keen interest in the growth of AA.



SMALL WORLD

The following is from a letter recently received at GSO: "Thanks for your kind letter and particularly for the address of the Group in Paris. This is a small world. After receiving your letter I looked up this group in the World Directory and saw that its secretary was a youngster I had known since he was born. His Father was my boss for years and we were good friends. You couldn't get away from AA now even if you wanted to."

GSO LITERATURE

For the benefit of new group secretaries and other who are not familiar with Conference approved literature available from GSO, we are listing three "discount" packages:

- PACKAGE #1 - 67 assorted pamphlets, worth \$8.67 \$ 7.50
- PACKAGE #2 - 4 books, worth \$14. (2 Alcoholics Anonymous,
1 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, 1 AA
Comes of Age.) 13.00
- PACKAGE #3 - Combination of #1 and #2 - 67 pamphlets,
4 books, worth \$22.67 20.00

(Order forms listing all GSO literature are available. Let us know how many you want.)

"INTERNATIONALISTS MEETING"
in HOUSTON, TEXAS

News of this new group for seamen comes from our friend Red R., who spent the month of May in Texas. He writes: "Along with the sunshine here in the gulf area there are many groups to visit and the folks sure put out the welcome mat. An Internationalist doesn't have to be lonesome here. Just use the phone via the World Directory and these people go all out to see that you make a meeting. Along with their fine hospitality they also offer splendid AA philosophy.

"On Monday night, May 22, we held a seamen's meeting in Houston at the 24 Hour Club. We called it the Internationalists Meeting and to me it was the first of its type. We had seven seamen, all sober and doing fine. It was very impressive. The first three men who spoke represented over 40 years of sobriety. Houston is a large seaport and needs a regular group for seamen. We broke the ice that night. There will now be regular Internationalists meetings at the 24 Hour Club the first and fourth Mondays of every month. The club will answer any questions about these meetings and will help in all ways to put this group over. A message in the AA Exchange Bulletin would help seamen find this new AA facility. The welcome mat is out for all seafarers in this area and we hope the group will grow and offer help to others."

INVITATION from KWAJALEIN

Wally T., an Internationalist, has gone ashore and is listed at GSO as the AA Contact at Kwajalein. He will be there for the next two years and hopes that all Internationalists and traveling AA's making his port will get in touch with him.

"I work in the Executive-Mess Officers Club from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m.", Wally writes, "and therefore have the rest of the afternoon and the night off. So if anyone does hit this island I'll have plenty of time to sit around and talk and show him what sights there are to see.

"On our flight out to Kwajalein", Wally reports, "we stopped overnight in Hawaii. I called AA in Honolulu and talked with Jim C., a T/Sgt stationed at Hickam Air Force Base. Jim invited me to a meeting which I had to miss because our flight was leaving. But it was good to talk with another member and Jim said he would tell any AA's in the military that were headed for Kwajalein where they could find me.

"Here in Kwajalein there are about 2800 men. Top military and civilian brass have their families with them and rate private quarters. The rest of us sleep in "barracks" -- three stores high, made of concrete, and painted pale green.

"But this place is really a paradise. There are tennis courts, baseball diamonds and a swimming pool that would knock your eye out; it must be 250 feet long and 100 feet wide. Nobody swims in the ocean because of sharks. Last week I caught two myself. Special Services will furnish any type fishing tackle you may wish -- for surf casting, still fishing on the local pier, or trolling from a special sea-going boat which is also at our disposal.

"We have three movies with the latest Hollywood films -- all free, barber shops, air-conditioned mess halls and library. Seven hundred volumes but no "Big Book". I'm ordering several to correct this mistake right off.

"There are a number of gin mills here and there must be other alcoholics who need help with their problem. I am going to check with the chaplain and get his ideas.

"I'm going to need lots of help here from GSO and other Internationalists. Several ships put in to Kwajalein every week and I hope it can be mentioned in the next Internationalists Bulletin that yours truly will be pleased to hear from AA's or see any of them who may be on ships arriving here."

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SURVEY OF INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

A questionnaire has been mailed to Institutional Committees -- to sponsors of groups in correctional facilities and hospitals -- to Intergroup and Central Offices -- and to Area Delegates and Committee Members. It is hoped that this survey will increase the information that GSO can share with new Institutional Committees and AA's who are interested in sponsoring AA groups in institutions.

Any group engaged in this specialized service is invited to write Eve of the GSO Staff for a questionnaire, if one hasn't been received already.

1961 DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

We're sorry to report these additional errors in the 1961 World Directory:

Page 20 - Coronado, California. \$30 from the CORONADO GROUP was listed under the Corcoran Group.

Page 168 - White Plains, N. Y. \$75 from the WHITE PLAINS GROUP was listed under the North White Plains Group.

Page 175 - Ohio, Special Contributions. \$1,000 from OHIO STATE CONFERENCE was listed as from S. W. Ohio Area Open Meeting.

Page 240 - Charleston, West Virginia. \$15 from the WOMEN'S GROUP was listed under Individual Contributions, West Va.

Page 318 - SUOMEN AA KERHOJEN LITTO, r. y., Pohjois Haaga, Finland. Due to printer's error, their \$71.25 contribution was omitted.

Page 329 - VALLADOLID, Spain, is incorrectly listed as Valladoid.

Page 340 - GREENLAND should have been listed on page 336, under North America.

ORIGIN OF THE SERENITY PRAYER

*God grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

This prayer has been credited to almost every theologian, philosopher and saint known to man. It was actually written around 1932 by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City, as the ending to a longer prayer. In 1934 the doctor's friend and neighbor, Dr. Howard Robbins, asked permission to use this part of the longer prayer in a compilation he was making at the time. It was published in that year in Dr. Robbins' book of prayers.

The prayer came to the attention of an early member of AA in 1939. He read it in an obituary in the New York Times. He liked it so much he brought it to GSO, then on Vesey Street, for Bill W. to read. When Bill and the staff read the little prayer they felt that it particularly suited the needs of AA. Cards were printed and passed around. Thus has this simple little prayer become a part of the AA literature.

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FROM THE AA GRAPEVINE - A year ago this month the Grapevine published "AA TODAY", a book commemorating AA's 25th Anniversary. Thirty thousand copies were printed. Some 26,000 have been sold to AA's and others - doctors, psychiatrists, clergymen, judges, institutional officials.

No more copies of this book will be printed. If you wish to place an order write to The AA Grapevine, P. O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GSO from SPECIAL AA MEETINGS
and AA COMMITTEES - 5/23/61 to 6/15/61

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|------------------|---|----------|
| ARIZONA | Tucson Meetings | \$ 12.00 |
| CALIFORNIA | Hi Desert Round Up | 9.25 |
| MAINE | District 1 | 10.00 |
| NEBRASKA | All the Nebraska Groups | 50.00 |
| NEW YORK | General Service Council of the
Western New York Area | 134.00 |
| TENNESSEE | State Convention | 215.00 |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA | Central & Upper Vancouver
Island Rally | 17.00 |

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The New York Intergroup's annual dinner to celebrate Bill W.'s Anniversary will be held early this year. The date has been set for Saturday, September 30th.

For details write the New York AA Intergroup Association, 133 East 39th Street, New York 16, N. Y.