

# BOX 4-5-9

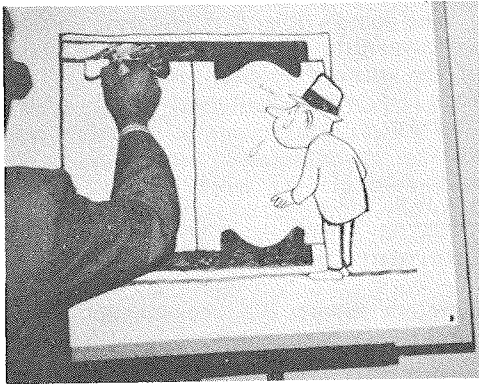
1977  
General Service  
Conference Issue

Theme: The A.A. Group – Where It Begins

Vol. 22, No. 3

Early Bird Edition

June-July 1977



## Famous A.A. to Celebrate His 15th Anniversary

“Although you can’t say he ever ‘got the program,’” according to the Grapevine editor, “in the pages of our magazine, some greater power has somehow enabled Victor E. to avoid that first drink, and he’ll be celebrating his 15th anniversary in July.”

Speaking as he sketched, Jack M. (GV editor and the artist who created Victor in July 1962) gave Conference members a behind-the-scenes peek at how one popular feature of A.A.’s monthly journal starts its journey to over 90,000 Grapevine subscribers every month.

Bud G. (North Dakota), delegate chairman of the Conference GV Committee, shared several personal experiences at getting more A.A.’s to read the magazine. He encouraged delegates to join him in greatly increasing circulation of this “valuable tool for strengthening sobriety.”

## Six Trustees Chosen for General Service Board

One nonalcoholic and five A.A. trustees were named for the General Service Board at the 1977 meeting of the A.A. (U.S.-Canada) General Service Conference.

W. J. Estelle Jr., Huntsville, Tex., director of the Texas Department of Corrections, is the nonalcoholic selected to succeed Austin MacCormick, who retired in November.

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## Quality of Local A.A. Group Studied by 1977 Conference

NEW YORK, N.Y., April 23—Folks back in their hometown A.A. groups dominated the thinking and actions of members of the 27th meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (U.S. and Canada) ending here today.

Theme of the annual gathering was “The A.A. Group—Where It Begins,” as 91 delegates from the states and provinces joined trustees of the General Service Board, A.A. World Services and Grapevine corporate directors, and the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and Grapevine staffs for six days and evenings of work at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

In workshops, committee meetings, committee and staff reports, discussions, regional lunches, Ask-It-Basket periods, and the more formal presentations made before the entire Conference, concerns of local groups were clearly uppermost in deliberations of all 133 voting Conference members entrusted with the guidance of A.A.’s world affairs.

In the opening keynote address, retiring trustee Margaret C., Agawam, Mass., suggest-

ed group inventories, noting that the quality of A.A. groups determines the quality of A.A. growth. Five sessions were devoted to reports by Panel 27 delegates on highlights of service activities in their home areas.

The principle of rotation in hometown groups, as well as throughout the rest of the Fellowship, was subject of both the first formal presentation and small workshops Monday.

Responding to delegates’ 1976 suggestion, for the first time Conference committee meetings this year began on the first day. As a result, committee reports, on which most Conference Advisory Actions are based, were available Wednesday evening, in ample time for discussion and voting the last working day of the Conference.

Other topics of the week included how the group conscience operates, the Conference Charter and Warranties, *Box 4-5-9*, selling of non-A.A. literature by A.A. groups, the 1977 membership survey, the Fourth World Service Meeting, the feasibility of relocating G.S.O. and of producing a facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book, role of the regional trustee, cooperation and communication among all levels of service, and the Grapevine.

(continued on p. 8)



W. J. Estelle Jr., new nonalcoholic trustee

### Groups and Members Spring 1977

	Groups	Members
United States	16,557	320,913
Canada	2,683	47,843
Overseas	7,597	134,537
Hospitals	1,285	30,792
Prisons	1,230	39,323
Lone Members		300
Internationalists		610
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29,352</b>	<b>574,318</b>

(Including nonreported groups and members, it is estimated that there are nearly 30,000 groups and more than 1,000,000 members, in 92 countries.)

Box 4-5-9 is published bimonthly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 468 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

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Mail address: P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Subscriptions: Individual, \$1.50 per yr.; group, \$3.50 for each unit of 10 per yr. Check—payable to A.A.W.S., Inc.—must accompany order.

# Reports From G.S.O., the

## General Service Board

### Our numbers keep rising, but costs are held down

**Trustees' report:** The problems of A.A. seem few and minor. Brought up most at regional forums are those of internal communications and external relations—with professionals, treatment centers, court programs, and problems other than alcohol. The important thing is to keep from pushing the panic button.

We have made great progress. We must keep the doors of A.A. open, keep our own minds open, and "be friendly with our friends." There is a great deal of Fellowship experience to be shared, in the literature, in the Guidelines, and in day-to-day experience

in one area that may be helpful to another. A.A. is protected from the ills that plague other segments of society—protected by our indisputable success (the sick *do* get well here!), by our Traditions, and by the spiritual basis of our program.

All indicators in A.A. are up. Number of groups, estimated membership, literature sales, contributions, and Grapevine circulation all reached record high levels in 1976. One reason for A.A.'s financial health is that G.S.O. and the Grapevine have kept operating costs down. Despite steady A.A. growth, the G.S.O. staff is no larger than it was three years ago, and the total of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine employees has increased only slightly.

Austin MacCormick, our beloved Class A trustee, resigned in November. The board asked him to continue as a "trustee emeritus." I indicated my own intention to step down as chairman of the board following the 1978 Conference. Bob H., chairman of General Services, will retire at the end of this year: Bob's contributions to the Fellowship have been many. I shall particularly remember his meticulous determination and patience, when chairing the Conference, to

make sure the rights of the minority were scrupulously observed.

The board approved a report from the A.A.W.S. Office Relocation Study Committee, and forwarded it to this Conference with the recommendation that it is not in the Fellowship's best interest to relocate G.S.O. at this time.

The board's other actions during the year are covered in the reports of A.A.W.S. and of the trustees' committees, which follow. *John L. Norris, M.D. (nonalcoholic), chairman*

## A.A.W.S.

### Literature prices reduced

**Directors' report:** We recommended reducing the price of the Big Book by 60¢, liberalizing the discount structure, and increasing the distribution of no-charge literature. Increased group participation through increased contributions is necessary if the reduced cost of literature to the Fellowship is to be maintained.

We agreed to finance the printing of our

## Archives

### Memoirs of A.A.'s early days by Ruth Hock

**Trustees' committee:** Nell Wing has reported progress in microfilming, compatible taping, cataloging, and interviewing. Special event: taping of the "early times" of Ruth Hock, Bill W.'s first secretary, a nonalcoholic.

Interest in A.A. archival material is growing; local centers are being started. At G.S.O., an additional workroom now houses memorabilia and provides more space for staff, researchers, and visitors.

The committee reviewed classifications of archival material, to remain as open as possible to serious researchers and allow A.A. members free access to their historical legacy, while protecting the material and assuring the privacy of all individuals.

*Milton Maxwell (nonalcoholic), chairman*

## Conference

### Correspondence, answers to questionnaires affect agenda

**Staff report:** The Conference secretary, a point of contact among Conference members, corresponds with past delegates and all those serving on area committees. Our mailing list now totals nearly 3,000.

Any A.A. can send in suggestions for the Conference agenda, usually through the delegate. Suggestions are presented to the trustees' Conference and Conference Agenda Committees for approval, then shared with everyone (in Box 4-5-9, for instance).

The Conference secretary is secretary of those two committees; collects items for the theme and agenda; corresponds with all delegates; works with the general manager, the office manager, and the staff in planning and coordination of the Conference; schedules and routes all material for Conference Manuals, Early Bird edition of Box 4-5-9, and the *Final Conference Report*; prepares Advisory Actions and summaries of Ask-It Basket questions.

*Mary Ellen W.*

**Trustees' committee:** As a result of the 1976 Conference questionnaire, we agreed that Area Service Highlights be cut to two minutes each, and the number of workshops and presentations be reduced.

The 1977 agenda has been arranged to allow for: (1) committee reports Thursday and Friday; (2) opening dinner and A.A. meeting Sunday; (3) delegates' dinner and meeting Tuesday; (4) midweek A.A. meeting; (5) more time for regional luncheons.

The delegates' meeting had requested that no restrictions be placed on discussion topics at this meeting. A letter to the delegate chairman pointed out that matters to be brought before the Conference should be dis-

cussed by *all* Conference members, not just by delegates, who comprise only two-thirds of the Conference membership.

*John W., chairman*

## Cooperation with the professional community

### Professionals' interest in A.A. steadily increases

**Staff report:** Over the past year, staff and committee members have participated in seven professional events. Our Professional Exhibit was shown at 12 national professional meetings. As a result, we received 2,094 requests for literature.

During the World Service Meeting, we arranged for several delegates, at their request, to visit local treatment facilities and an industry program.

An International Lawyers Group in A.A., listing some 70 members, now meets annually.

The A.A. Guidelines on Industry Programs have been updated.

*Phyllis M.*

**Trustees' committee:** Our participation in the 1976 N.C.A. Annual Forum was integrated into specific programs. We also had two mini-workshops. At the annual meeting of the Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America, we participated in

# General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

literature (up to \$18,000) for a new literature distribution center for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. We hope El Salvador will join.

We approved: the printing in Brazil of \$8,000 worth of Portuguese literature, inventory to be owned by A.A.W.S.; expenditure of \$5,000 for research on Dr. Bob; publication of a G.S.O. salary table.

Literature sales for 1976: \$2,244,200, an increase of \$320,600 over 1975—mostly reflecting retail price adjustments May 1, 1975, less offset due to a decrease in the Big Book price and further liberalization of bulk discounts Sept. 15, 1976. To help defray costs of other services that contributions could not meet, A.A.W.S. donated \$500,000 to the General Fund.

In 1976, distribution of books, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items reached 5,167,900 units. Free literature sent to service groups and to inform the public amounted to 433,000 pieces; inventory value, \$20,700.

A.A.W.S. is also responsible for the operation of the following departments at G.S.O.: Accounting, Files, Mail, Records, Shipping, and Stenographic/Clerical.  
*Walter M., chairman*

"A.A. and the Private Service Deliverers—examples of effective cooperation."

At the recommendation of the Conference, a paper for prospective members from, and administrators of, court programs and other referral agencies and treatment facilities has been prepared.

A chapter on A.A. by Dr. John L. Norris and a committee member will appear in an encyclopedia on alcoholism in 1977. Dr. Norris has also written "Management of the Chronic Alcoholic" for a publication entitled "Controversy in Psychiatry."  
*Robert M., chairman*

## Finance

### Hopes rest on the A.A. group

**Trustees' committee:** A.A. growth continued to be reflected at G.S.O. Contributions in 1976 (see p. 7) showed a 17% increase over 1975. But the *percentage of groups* contributing was dangerously low—56%. Total G.S.O. income—publishing gross profit, contributions, and interest—was over 1975 by \$348,100 and 6% over budget. Total G.S.O. expenses were over 1975 by \$196,700, almost 1% *under* budget. To sum up: net expense of the General Fund of G.S.O., \$249,800; publishing net income, \$776,700; net G.S.O. income, \$526,900.

The committee reviewed and approved the 1977 budget (see p. 6).

If we all keep our eyes on our goal, we can continue to reduce our reliance on literature income and further expand our base of group support.

*Arthur Miles (nonalcoholic), chairman*

## Group services coordinator

### Guidelines, films, handbooks, directories useful to groups

**Staff report:** The group services coordinator supervises production of service materials, updating of listings and the 12 Guidelines, and distribution of films, literature displays, handbooks, and other material. She conducts monthly staff meetings.

Our three handbooks are all newly revised: Group Handbook, Prison Group Handbook, and Hospital Group Handbook. Each new group in the U.S. and Canada receives a Group Handbook, complimentary literature, *Box 4-5-9*, and the appropriate directory.

The four A.A. directories are now published annually; the two directories of A.A. groups in institutions, biennially.

Also available: "Bill's Own Story" and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions," 16mm. color films; "P.O. Box 459," the new filmstrip about G.S.O.

The group services coordinator is secretary of A.A.W.S., Inc. All our Conference-approved literature is copyrighted. Permission for any of it to be quoted can be granted only by A.A.W.S.

*Waneta N.*

## Group services assistant

### Bulletins, reports, updated literature serve growing A.A.

**Staff report:** New projects are a filmstrip about A.A. structure, "Circles of Love and Service," and a literature survey mailed to 1,000 groups.

We sent out over 325,548 bulletins and reports in 1976. Our mailing lists can be more accurate when they are computerized. Bulletins were mailed in the following quantities: *Box 4-5-9* (English), 40,000; *Box 4-5-9* (French), 1,141; *Box 4-5-9* (Spanish), 5,883; *Loners-Internationalists Meeting*, 2,228; *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*, 1,643; *Institutions Bulletin*, 4,510; *Quarterly Report*, 2,919; *About A.A.*, 3,177.

We update old pamphlets and prepare new ones, displays, leaflets, and other service materials. Two pamphlets completely rewritten are "Your A.A. General Service Office" and "G.S.R." "As Bill Sees It" and "Came to Believe" have new covers.  
*Susan D.*

## Internationalists

### 610 seagoing messengers

**Staff report:** In the past year, Internationalists have started new groups in Italy and Turkey. About 610 of these seagoing A.A.'s carry the message around the world. We help them keep in touch with one another and G.S.O.

A package of A.A. material is sent to all who join this service. Every other month, Internationalists, Port Contacts, and Internationalists groups receive *Loners-Internationalists Meeting*, our newsletter sharing correspondence received at G.S.O. *Box 4-5-9* is sent them bimonthly.

*Yolanda L.*

## Literature

### Third edition of Big Book leads off busy year

**Trustees' committee:** Cooperating with the Conference Literature Committee, we have worked on the following: "Alcoholics Anonymous," third edition (completed May 1976); "Do You Think You're Different?" (sold almost 150,000); "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" (sold almost 150,000); "Too Young?" (teenage cartoon pamphlet), now ready for production.

We recommended that: "A.A. Comes of Age" be left as it is, but compiling a history of A.A.'s first 50 years for distribution in 1985 should be considered; A.A.W.S. allocate funds to begin compiling material for this history and to gather material on Dr. Bob while it is still available from those who knew him; a subcommittee be established to explore audiovisual material.

*Gordon Patrick (nonalcoholic), chairman*

## Loners

### Loners start A.A. groups

**Staff report:** During the past year, Loners started new groups in Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Spain. About 300 Loners, with no access to meetings, stay sober by sharing experiences through correspondence.

They receive complimentary literature and lists of Loners and Internationalists. *Box 4-5-9* and *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* are sent in alternate months. New Loners receive the appropriate directory and a sheet of ideas on how to stay sober, drawn from the experience of other Loners. Over 700 Loner Sponsors correspond with Loners.  
*Yolanda L.*

## Nominating

### **Qualifications of trustees, directors screened carefully**

**Trustees' committee:** For the general service trustee—U.S. to be elected in 1977, we felt the board should indicate qualifications needed to provide balance in business experience, profession, age, sex, etc.

We reviewed trustee replacements for Austin MacCormick. Since the correctional field should continue to be represented, W. J. Estelle Jr., director of the Texas Department of Corrections, was nominated.

We approved: Don D. and Kitty K. as directors of the Grapevine; Jerry D. and Martin L. as nominees for general service trustee (New York); all candidates for general service trustee—U.S. and for Southeast and East Central regional trustees; John B. as a director of A.A.W.S.

We discussed the duties of the chairman of the board and what steps should be taken to replace Dr. John L. Norris, who will step down as chairman in April 1978.

*Charles H., chairman*

## Overseas

### **A.A. mushrooms globally**

**Staff report:** Response to our directory information mailing to overseas G.S.O.'s, central offices, and groups indicates a 23% increase (see p. 1) over last year's figures on the number of groups.

Outside the U.S. and Canada, 28 literature distribution centers provide new groups with complimentary literature. G.S.O. has established guidelines for these centers, and we work closely with them.

We also work with A.A.'s where there are not yet boards or literature centers. Icelandic Intergroup has completed translation and publication of the Big Book. In Tokyo, 26 Japanese-speaking groups have sprung up; members there have translated pamphlets.

Highlights of A.A. growth the past year: *Argentina*—issues Conference-approved literature, except "The A.A. Service Manual" (being adapted to their service structure). Their G.S.O. has had to reduce services, due to 600% inflation. But they have begun to provide services to Uruguay and Paraguay. *Brazil*—has acquired over 250 new groups in the last year. Their publishing company tries to publish one new Conference-approved pamphlet every two months.

*Colombia*—inflation has caused a 50% increase in literature prices. They have added "A.A. Comes of Age" and "A.A. in Prisons" and are translating "The A.A. Service Manual," with an appendix describing their structure.

*Finland*—reports 10% yearly membership growth; will host the Fifth World Service Meeting in 1978, in Helsinki.

*France*—groups outside Paris now outnumber Paris groups, indicating French A.A. is growing. They meet with French-speaking A.A.'s in Belgium and Switzerland, hoping for an International Committee of European French-Speaking A.A.

*Mexico*—had to increase literature prices 25%; may start a monthly magazine in 1977.

*South Africa*—literature sales continue to increase. "What Happened to Joe" is produced in English, Zulu, and Sesoto.

*United Kingdom*—A.A. growth rate is accelerating; literature sales are increasing. Their monthly magazine, *Share*, has a circulation over 3,500.

*Betty L., Yolanda L.*

## Policy

### **Spirituality, anonymity, and A.A. 'spokesmen' considered**

**Trustees' committee:** Since the 1976 Conference, the committee has looked into these subjects:

- Is there as much talk in A.A. today about spirituality as there used to be? Opinions were divided.

- Anonymity within the Fellowship—some sense a trend toward a more rigid interpretation. Perhaps this represents a basic misunderstanding of Tradition Eleven.

- Who speaks for A.A.? People who call A.A. or interview an A.A. do feel the person is speaking for A.A. Since there is no cut-and-dried answer to the question, we should continue to be guided by the concept that there are no official A.A. spokesmen.

- It was agreed to continue using the term "Conference-approved" on A.A. material.

*Margaret C., chairman*

## Public information

### **Media interested in A.A.**

**Staff report:** In 1976, we answered 9,809 requests for information about A.A. from newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV, processed 5,484 press clippings, distributed 98 radio and 256 TV spots, sent 43 "A.A.—a Community Resource" displays to health fairs and county and state meetings, and learned of 96 anonymity breaks.

We now list 232 P.I. committees and 306 P.I. contacts. They receive the *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin* and much other material.

When the "Brief Guide" pamphlet is re-run, it will be revised to avoid the exclusive use of masculine pronouns.

*June R.*

**Trustees' committee:** We mailed 500 copies of the January 1976 Grapevine (featuring a symposium on doctors) to medical directors and science writers; sent offset copies to large newspapers and news services.

The A.A.W.S. board approved an expendi-

ture of \$1,000 for sending TV spots to 55 stations in the ten largest cities. We wrote local P.I. committees and intergroup offices about this plan.

A press release on the third edition of the Big Book was sent to wire services, book trade magazines, book editors of major dailies in the U.S. and Canada, and local P.I. committees.

One of our biggest projects is the 1977 survey. The last was done in 1974.

We are updating audiovisual material. A tag line will be added to radio spots, stating how to contact A.A.

Working with the C.P.C. Committee, we are exploring ways of carrying the message to the medical profession, such as: (1) informing P.I. committees that a town doctor helpful to drunks might be a starting point in carrying the A.A. message to others in the medical field; (2) preparing guidelines on "How to Carry the Message to the Medical Profession in Your Community"; (3) making up a package of helpful hints to intergroups and P.I. committees.

We are preparing a question-and-answer sheet about A.A., to be sent in response to requests from non-A.A.'s.

*Walter M., chairman*

## Staff coordinator

### **Over 24,000 letters answered**

**Staff report:** During 1976, over 24,000 letters received at G.S.O. were answered individually. Each of the ten staff members handles mail from a specifically assigned area. All have specific assignments; some carry responsibility for specific bulletins. Staff members are also secretaries to board and Conference committees.

A rewarding part of staff work is the invitations from A.A. conventions, assemblies, and state and provincial get-togethers. There, staff members acquaint A.A.'s with services provided by G.S.O., and obtain information on local problems and activities.

In 1976, more than 1,400 visitors came to G.S.O., met staff members, and chatted about A.A. in their home areas.

Weekly folders of answers to correspondence are circulated to the staff and the Grapevine, also a folder of publications and newspaper clippings mentioning A.A. Staff meetings are held three times a month; minutes go to all concerned.

*Beth K.*

## World Service Meeting

### **A.A. problems are universal**

**Trustees' report:** The Fourth World Service Meeting was held in New York in October 1976, with Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Central America (Northern and Southern Zones), Colombia, Finland, France, Ger-

many, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States/Canada represented.

The theme was "Working With Others." Workshops were held on "How A.A. Works in Institutions Around the World" and "Building a Service Structure Around the World."

The W.S.M. has four committees: Agenda, Finance, Literature/Publishing, and Policy/Admissions.

Following are some recommendations and suggestions made by the meeting: (1)

Maintain the English-language requirement; defer consideration of instantaneous translation till the meeting is self-supporting; (2) that the sixth meeting be held in New York City in July 1980, rather than October, so delegates may attend the International Convention in New Orleans; (3) that "Recovery, Unity, and Service — Worldwide" be the theme for the fifth meeting, with sponsorship and Traditions workshops and discussions on "Money in A.A. (the Spiritual Value of Giving)" and P.I. work; (4) that the W.S.M. delegate fee be increased from \$400

to \$500; (5) on literature — that drafts for new literature continue to be sent to the W.S.M. Literature/Publishing Committee; individual countries be encouraged to originate new ideas; as translations are made in each country, they be sent to A.A.W.S. for copyright permission immediately, so the production process will not be held up; more communications between countries speaking the same language take place, to avoid duplication.

*N. M. (Mac) C., Fourth World Service Meeting delegate (U.S./Canada)*

## New Names and Functions for Trustees' Committees

### Institutions

#### **A.A. helps more and more patients and prisoners**

**Staff report:** We provide services to 1,285 groups in treatment facilities and 1,230 in correctional facilities. There are over 147 institutions committees.

G.S.O. helps to carry the message to those in such facilities in the following ways: (1) Correspondence is carried on by the institutions staff member and through the institutions correspondence service; (2) a Group Handbook, the Big Book, and literature are sent to new groups; (3) we provide the appropriate updated institutions directories every two years; (4) each institution group receives *Box 4-5-9* and the *Institutions Bulletin*; (5) discount literature packages are available to inside groups and institutions committees; (6) there are two Guidelines for A.A.'s interested in institutions work; (7) our two films and the G.S.O. film-strip are lent free to institutions groups.

After a 1976 Conference recommendation, we surveyed institutions committees on the contents of discount packages. Results indicated contents should remain about the same, with more copies of some pamphlets. *Sarah P.*

*Trustees' committee: See the two following reports.*

### Correctional Facilities

#### **Subcommittee now a committee**

**Trustees' committee:** Following a 1976 Conference recommendation, the trustees' Institutions Committee divided into two subcommittees, for correctional facilities and for treatment facilities. In January 1977, it was recommended that they be made into two full trustee committees, and that the Institutions Committee be discontinued. This recommendation was referred to the board and passed Feb. 1, 1977.

A new illustrated pamphlet, tentatively

called "It Sure Beats Hell Out of Sitting in a Cell," will be written. For "A.A. in Prisons," eight corrections officers sent evaluations of A.A. at their facilities, to replace current testimonials.

Ways to inform A.A. members and groups of the spiritual rewards of carrying the message behind the walls, and thus to increase their interest, were discussed. These suggestions have proved successful: (1) Institutions committee members inform "outside" groups, at closed meetings, about the rewards of speaking to "inside" groups, and the purpose and needs of inside groups; (2) outside groups elect institutions representatives and book speakers for inside meetings; (3) A.A.'s formerly on the inside are encouraged to speak at institutions; (4) institutions special events meetings and/or workshops are held at conferences.

We recommended a leaflet of suggestions for members speaking in prisons.

We plan to review Austin MacCormick's survey data to find out where A.A. is working best, and why.

*Bill D., chairman*

### Treatment Facilities

#### **Trustee attention focused on A.A. in treatment centers**

**Trustees' committee:** Meeting as a subcommittee of Institutions in October, we discussed the importance of A.A. members' sponsoring A.A.'s in treatment facilities and after release.

One ad hoc committee recommended consideration of replacing "A.A. in Hospitals" with two new pamphlets, directed to professionals working in hospitals and to A.A.'s twelfth-stepping in treatment facilities. Another will explore the current hospital discount package and the possibility of a giveaway sheet explaining exactly what A.A. does and does not do.

We recommended that the Spanish package be included on the institutions discount package form.

*Ed S., chairman*

### International Convention/ A.A. regional forums

#### **Convention committee given new forum responsibilities**

**Staff report:** Two regional forums have been held since the 1976 Conference—in Western Canada (September) and Northeast U.S. (March).

So far, four or five trustees and some staff members (G.S.O. and Grapevine) have attended. Hotel, meal, and travel expenses of board personnel are paid by the board; expenses of people in the region, either by themselves or by area committees.

The coordinator plans meetings with the regional trustee, delegates, and the general manager of G.S.O.; makes arrangements with host-city contact and hotels; makes travel and hotel arrangements for trustees and G.S.O. staff; sends mailings to service people in the region; arranges for conference boards and sample literature; mails reports of the forum to all participants, trustees, and current delegates.

*Cora Louise B.*

**Trustees' committee:** In 1976, the committee name was changed; its function, expanded. *International Convention*—we recommended that the board approve New Orleans as site for 1980 and appoint the Host Committee chairman in July 1978.

*Regional forums*—we recommended that: (1) forums be held on the invitation of a region; regional trustee and current delegates help in planning; (2) invitations be sent to G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, area committee officers, past/present delegates and trustees, and central offices (any A.A. is welcome to attend); (3) the regional trustee with whom planning has been done chair the forum; a newly elected trustee would not act as chairman till after his or her second board meeting; (4) no A.A. meetings or talks be on the forum agenda, but participants may schedule midnight meetings if they wish; (5) we continue unstructured programs and questionnaires to delegates for planning.

*Dave C., chairman*

## 1977 G.S.O. Budget

### A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC. – PUBLISHING

**Income:** Sales income has been budgeted at \$2,420,200, allowing for a 60¢ reduction in the Big Book price and liberalization of the bulk discount structure. Taking A.A. growth into consideration, the net increase in sales over 1976 is expected to be 7.8%. During 1977, it is anticipated that A.A.W.S., Inc., will distribute 199,000 copies of "Alcoholics Anonymous," 102,600 "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" – regular edition, 24,300 "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" – pocket edition, 14,800 "A.A. Comes of Age," 24,600 "As Bill Sees It," 136,500 booklets, and 5,500,000 pamphlets and miscellaneous items. After deducting \$1,040,800 – the cost of producing the literature and the royalties paid on book sales – the gross profit from sales is estimated to be \$1,379,400.

**Expenses:** Expenses charged against the publishing operation are budgeted at \$786,200. Excluding the cost of one-time electronic data processing expense, such as the systems design, programming, consultant's fee, and peripheral equipment, all other expenses are budgeted to be 13.7% over 1976. Net publishing income after operating expenses is expected to be \$593,200.

### GENERAL FUND – GROUP SERVICES

**Income:** Against the cost of servicing groups, contributions have been budgeted at \$1,060,500. This is a 12% increase over the year 1976 and anticipates a broader base of group support in line with reduced sales income.

**Expenses:** Total expenses, representing the cost of group services that are charged against group contributions, are expected to be \$1,144,100. Included in this portion of the G.S.O. budget is the cost of the General Service Conference, totaling \$73,400. Total service expenses are budgeted to be \$83,600 greater than contribution income. This deficit will be funded out of the net income of the publishing operation.

### GENERAL FUND – OTHER EXPENSES

Other expenses of the General Service Board are budgeted at \$116,400, less interest earned on day-of-deposit-to-day-of-withdrawal account. These expenses represent the cost of the quarterly trustee meetings, the expenses of the Public Information Committee and the Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, the cost of regional forums, and legal and auditing expenses, plus other special board projects such as filmstrips. The net expense, totaling \$107,400, will also be paid out of the income from the publishing operation.

After budgeted deficits in the amount of \$191,000, the total net income for the General Service Office is anticipated to be \$402,200.

## 1977 Grapevine Budget

**Total income:** Estimated income, from subscriptions and other sales, is budgeted at \$513,600, an increase of \$30,100 or 6.2%.

**Total expenses:** Editing and printing expense is budgeted \$26,700 higher than 1976; circulation and business expense, \$28,000 higher; and general and administration expenses, \$14,200 lower than 1976. All expenses totaled are expected to be \$478,500, an increase of 9.5%.

**Income from operations** is budgeted at \$35,100, and **net income** (which includes interest), at \$60,100.

## 1977 G.S.O. Budget

The budget for 1977 operations of G.S.O. activities is as follows:

BUDGET

### A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC. – PUBLISHING

#### INCOME

Sales	\$2,420,200*
Less: Cost of products	1,040,800
Gross profit from sales	1,379,400

#### TOTAL EXPENSES

Excess of income (expense)	593,200
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\*Based upon the sale of:

199,000 books – "Alcoholics Anonymous"
102,600 books – "Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions" (Reg.)
24,300 books – "Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions" (Pocket)
14,800 books – "A.A. Comes of Age"
24,600 books – "As Bill Sees It"
and
Pamphlets, booklets, and miscellaneous items

### GENERAL FUND – GROUP SERVICES

#### INCOME

Contributions	\$1,060,500
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#### TOTAL EXPENSES

Excess of income (expense)	1,144,100**
	(83,600)

\*\*Includes cost of General Service Conference – \$73,400

### GENERAL FUND – OTHER EXPENSES

#### INCOME

Interest	\$ 9,000
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#### TOTAL EXPENSE

Excess of income (expense)	116,400***
	(107,400)

\*\*\*Board meetings, P.I.C. expense, C.P.C. expense, legal and auditing fees, regional forums, special projects

The publishing activity will contribute \$191,000 to offset the budgeted deficits.

## 1977 Grapevine Budget

Estimated income from subscription and other sales	\$513,600
Estimated expense	478,500
Net income from operations	35,100
Interest from investments	25,000
Net income	60,100



# 1976 Group Contributions

U.S.	# Gps. re-ported	# Gps. contrib.	% of Gps. contrib.	# of Gps. on R.C.P.	% of Gps. on R.C.P.	Amount of contrib.	Member-ship	Contrib. per capita	CANADA	# Gps. re-ported	# Gps. contrib.	% of Gps. contrib.	# of Gps. on R.C.P.	% of Gps. on R.C.P.	Amount of contrib.	Member-ship	Contrib. per capita
	Alabama	127	70	55.1%	10	14.3%	\$ 4,905.73	1,888		\$2.59	Alberta	220	116	52.7%	11	9.5%	\$ 13,981.93
Alaska	58	36	62.1	5	13.9	2,832.80	618	4.58	Atlantic Provinces								
Arizona	232	113	48.7	26	23.0	10,447.69	3,035	3.44	New Brunswick	88	45	51.1	5	11.1	3,373.75	967	3.48
Arkansas	133	72	54.1	12	16.7	4,411.39	1,882	2.34	Nfld. & Lab.	35	17	48.5	2	11.7	748.24	351	2.13
California	2,454	1,227	50.0	416	33.9	92,202.90	66,533	1.38	Nova Scotia	90	67	74.4	4	6.0	4,339.17	1,080	4.01
Colorado	291	158	54.3	38	24.1	14,306.16	4,104	3.48	Prince Ed. Island	26	17	65.4	-0-	-0-	1,034.04	407	2.54
Connecticut	467	230	49.3	35	15.2	16,767.50	8,667	1.93	British Columbia	364	206	56.6	27	13.1	20,939.47	5,080	4.12
Delaware	73	49	67.1	7	14.3	3,771.60	1,115	3.38	Manitoba	110	62	56.4	8	12.9	6,523.68	2,347	2.77
Dist. of Columbia	76	56	73.7	19	33.9	6,612.10	2,299	2.87	N.W. Territories	9	5	55.5	-0-	-0-	203.25	70	2.90
Florida	652	380	58.3	122	32.1	55,485.14	11,846	4.68	Ontario	711	435	61.2	111	25.5	79,810.94	10,751	7.42
Georgia	273	195	71.4	66	33.8	14,230.69	4,128	3.44	Quebec	834	333	39.9	76	22.8	27,403.80	21,608	1.26
Hawaii	82	45	54.8	5	11.1	4,887.06	1,435	3.40	Saskatchewan	193	115	59.6	8	7.0	8,917.98	2,624	3.39
Idaho	76	31	40.7	2	6.4	1,268.90	767	1.65	Yukon Territory	3	1	33.3	-0-	-0-	303.00	83	3.65
Illinois	870	493	56.6	114	23.1	31,832.09	21,720	1.46	TOTAL for CANADA	2,683	1,419	52.9%	252	17.7%	\$167,579.25	47,843	\$3.50
Indiana	339	214	63.1	49	22.9	16,492.03	5,072	3.25	TOTAL for U.S. and CANADA	19,240	10,815	56.2%	2,694	24.7%	\$932,089.72	368,756	\$2.53
Iowa	200	122	61.0	11	9.0	11,040.75	3,606	3.06	FOREIGN AND OTHER								
Kansas	185	115	62.2	20	17.4	9,143.59	3,514	2.60	Foreign						5,456.00		
Kentucky	208	120	57.6	19	15.8	12,626.57	2,595	4.86	International Doctors in A.A.						250.00		
Louisiana	166	112	67.5	22	19.6	7,028.17	2,435	2.88	International Advisory Council of Young People in A.A.						600.00		
Maine	103	68	66.0	8	11.8	3,241.68	1,382	2.34	Hospital groups						7,119.10		
Maryland	441	258	58.5	70	27.1	19,062.63	6,204	3.07	Prison groups						229.75		
Massachusetts	589	292	49.5	96	32.9	24,965.30	13,672	1.82	World Hello						112.55		
Michigan	628	341	54.3	89	26.1	33,591.76	13,167	2.55	Internationalists						452.37		
Minnesota	556	329	59.2	60	18.2	32,103.54	15,769	2.03	Internationalist groups						243.65		
Mississippi	86	50	58.1	4	8.0	3,097.87	1,143	2.71	GRAND TOTAL						\$946,553.14		
Missouri	333	196	58.8	47	24.0	12,248.93	4,747	2.58									
Montana	107	63	58.8	2	3.2	3,696.40	1,198	3.08									
Nebraska	176	124	70.5	35	28.2	10,385.99	2,715	3.82									
Nevada	86	50	58.1	19	38.0	2,882.52	1,181	2.44									
New Hampshire	103	62	60.2	18	29.0	3,751.96	1,643	2.28									
New Jersey	518	312	60.2	97	31.1	25,680.28	8,923	2.87									
New Mexico	86	58	67.4	9	15.5	2,823.27	1,046	2.69									
New York	1,147	604	52.7	208	34.4	53,854.38	23,228	2.31									
North Carolina	275	196	71.3	32	16.3	14,653.71	4,041	3.62									
North Dakota	94	61	64.8	5	8.2	4,538.06	1,360	3.33									
Ohio	725	349	48.1	52	14.9	21,173.79	14,065	1.50									
Oklahoma	179	142	79.3	65	45.8	10,075.37	2,292	4.39									
Oregon	188	108	57.4	33	30.6	10,937.23	2,292	4.77									
Pennsylvania	628	396	63.1	118	29.8	33,310.83	11,145	2.98									
Rhode Island	78	46	58.9	14	30.4	3,015.12	1,136	2.65									
South Carolina	115	70	60.8	14	20.0	4,861.61	1,743	2.78									
South Dakota	89	60	67.4	7	11.7	4,056.78	1,434	2.82									
Tennessee	160	90	56.3	11	12.2	5,487.41	2,187	2.50									
Texas	598	325	54.3	99	30.5	35,420.22	14,688	2.41									
Utah	88	52	59.1	15	28.8	2,703.37	1,017	2.65									
Vermont	60	38	63.3	4	10.5	2,296.65	683	3.36									
Virginia	309	216	69.9	56	25.9	16,378.83	4,891	3.34									
Washington	390	220	56.4	76	34.5	20,744.41	5,685	3.64									
West Virginia	90	53	58.8	13	24.5	3,361.25	1,149	2.92									
Wisconsin	440	251	57.0	54	21.5	15,321.19	5,982	2.56									
Wyoming	46	28	60.8	3	10.7	1,353.15	510	2.65									
Commonwealth of P.R.	72	46	63.8	10	21.7	2,515.12	1,174	2.14									
Canal Zone	3	2	66.6	-0-	-0-	257.00	70	3.67									
Bahama Islands	6	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	72	-0-									
Virgin Islands of U.S.	3	2	66.6	1	50.0	370.00	20	18.50									
TOTAL for U.S.	16,577	9,396	56.7%	2,442	26.0%	\$764,510.47	320,913	\$2.38									

## CONTRIBUTION COMPARISON - 1976-1975

	# Gps. re-ported	# Gps. contrib.	% of Gps. contrib.	# of Gps. on R.C.P.	% of Gps. on R.C.P.	Amount of contrib.	Member-ship	Contrib. per capita
U.S. 1976	16,557	9,396	56.7%	2,442	26.0%	\$764,510.47	320,913	\$2.38
U.S. 1975	15,308	8,583	56.1	2,481	28.9	683,158.04	292,646	2.33
Increase (Decrease)	1,249	813	.6%	(39)	(2.9%)	\$ 81,352.43	28,267	\$ .05
Canada 1976	2,683	1,419	52.9%	252	17.7%	\$167,579.25	47,843	\$3.50
Canada 1975	2,511	1,327	52.8	228	17.2	112,044.87	43,903	2.55
Increase (Decrease)	172	92	.1%	24	.5%	\$ 55,534.38	3,940	\$ .95
U.S. and Canada 1976	19,240	10,815	56.2%	2,694	24.7%	\$932,089.72	368,756	\$2.53
U.S. and Canada 1975	17,819	9,910	55.6	2,709	27.3	795,202.91	336,549	2.36
Increase (Decrease)	1,421	905	.6%	(15)	(2.6%)	\$136,886.81	32,207	\$ .17

## 1977 CONFERENCE

(continued from p. 1)

Highlights of Conference proceedings include:

**G.S.O. Relocation**—agreed with A.A.W.S., after reviewing independent feasibility study, that relocation is inadvisable now.

**Directories**—approved listing of groups by states and provinces alphabetically, not by A.A. regions, plus continuation of listing of groups' contributions to G.S.O. Further approved continued publication of addresses and listing the group service number along with other group information.

**Institutions**—agreed that the Conference Institutions Committee should be divided into two separate committees, one on Correctional Facilities and one on Treatment Facilities, and approved outline for a new pamphlet for inmates titled "It Sure Beats Hell Out of Sitting in a Cell."

**Report and Charter**—recommended that this committee study first 11 articles of Conference Charter with possibility of updating several next year.

**Policy**—approved admission of some overseas (nonparticipating) observers at future General Service Conferences (U.S.—Canada), on request, one per country, at their own expense.

**Cooperation With The Professional Community**—recommended that, in the spirit of cooperation, we should respond to all calls for help with information about A.A., whether the call comes from an alcoholic or from a professional calling for his patient or client.

**Grapevine**—recommended groups be encouraged to name as a trusted servant a group Grapevine representative (GvR).

**Literature**—recommended adding a language-barrier story to "Do You Think You're Different?" and authorized A.A.W.S. to proceed with writing a joint biography of Dr. Bob and Bill W., to be published by A.A.W.S.

**Public Information**—recommended showing of all P.I. TV spots at future Conferences.

**Finance**—agreed that a "prudent reserve" for the board should consist of the preceding year's operating expenses of the board, A.A.W.S., and the Grapevine combined.

**Agenda**—recommended for the 1978 Conference that the theme be built around the individual and the group—growth through participation; and that there be a discussion on "Who Sets Policy in A.A.? You, That's Who!"

**Delegates Meeting**—suggested establishment of published qualifications for nontrustee members of trustee committees.

**Trustees**—established a Jan. 1 deadline for receipt at G.S.O. of trustee candidate resumes, and agreed that a Conference delegate not be eligible as a trustee candidate until *one year after* his or her last Conference, beginning in 1978.

**Facsimile Big Book**—approved A.A.W.S. recommendation that reproduction of first edition is not presently desirable.

## SIX TRUSTEES CHOSEN

(continued from p. 1)

Virginia H., Shorewood, Wis., was elected East Central U.S. regional trustee, succeeding Bruce W., Waukegan, Ill. For the Southeast U.S., Samuel S., Miami, Fla., was elected to fill the vacancy left by Dave C., Raleigh, N.C. Chosen general service trustee—U.S. was Ruth H. Hollis, N.Y., who fills the slot vacated by Margaret C., Agawam, Mass.

Election of these A.A.'s followed Third Legacy election procedure described in "The A.A. Service Manual." No trustees are paid for A.A. service.

Also named at the Conference for election to the board were two general service "in-town" trustees: Jerry D., New York, succeeding Walter M., Tomkins Cove, N.Y.; and Martin L., New York, successor to Robert M., Pleasant Valley, Conn.

Estelle, the new nonalcoholic trustee, was born in Indiana, but educated in the public schools of California, where he also studied at Sacramento State College and the University of California at Berkeley. He did graduate work at both Berkeley and Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Tex.

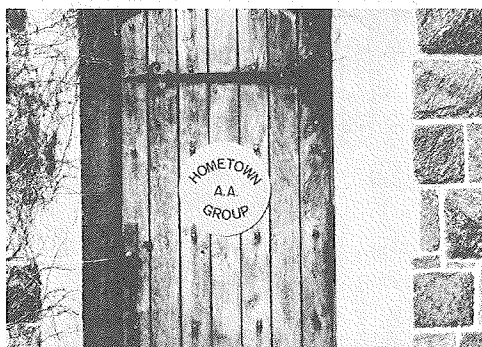
For 18 years, he was employed by the California Department of Corrections, and was warden of Montana State Prison two years.

He has taught courses in corrections in California at Lassen College, Susanville, and College of the Redwoods, Eureka. He is a member of seven professional societies concerned with criminal justice, corrections, and services to children and youth.

## NEW FILMSTRIP TELLS STORY OF SERVICE

"Circles of Love and Service," a new 15-minute filmstrip premiered at the Conference, tells the story of how one small A.A. group performs a service for the entire Fellowship through its G.S.R.

Professionally produced by Guidance Associates, Inc., under the close supervision of G.S.O., the filmstrip is in full color, with sound track on either cassette or record.



The new filmstrip shows how your group fits into A.A. "Circles of Love and Service."

Write to G.S.O. for information on purchase of the filmstrip.

In photographic scenes, a fictional hometown group is portrayed by nonalcoholic actors. Color sketches depict workings of an area assembly and the General Service Conference, and colorful graphics show how the parts of A.A. all fit and work together—from the home group to the G.S. Board.

## Digest of Agenda

### Sunday, April 17

Opening dinner and A.A. meeting

### Monday, April 18

Welcome and highlights of past Conferences  
Roll call of all Conference members  
Conference committee chairmen  
Keynote  
Area delegate chairman  
G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs  
General Service Board report  
Members of General Service Board (trustees)  
Reports of A.A.W.S. and trustees' committees  
Presentation, discussion: "Importance of Rotation Throughout the Fellowship"  
Joint trustees' and Conference committee meetings  
Workshop: "Importance of Rotation"

### Tuesday, April 19

Report on 1977 A.A. membership survey  
Report on 1976 World Service Meeting  
Conference committee meetings  
Presentation: "The A.A. Grapevine"  
Workshop report-back: "Importance of Rotation"  
Presentation, discussion: "Cooperation and Communication Among All Levels of Service"  
Presentation: "The Role of the Regional Trustee"  
Report on estimated cost of facsimile of the first edition of the Big Book  
Delegates' meeting

### Wednesday, April 20

Conference committee meetings  
Trustee elections  
Tour of G.S.O. and Grapevine offices  
Distribution of Conference committee reports

### Thursday, April 21

Ask-It Basket  
Report, discussion on A.A. directories  
Delegates' meeting report  
Conference committee reports, discussion  
Report on feasibility study of relocation of G.S.O.  
Presentation, workshop: "The Conference Charter and Warranties"

### Friday, April 22

Conference committee reports, discussion  
Workshop report-back: "Charter and Warranties"  
Discussion topics:  
"Box 4-5-9"  
"Should A.A. Groups Sell Non-A.A. Literature?"  
Sharing session: "How the A.A. Group Conscience Operates"  
Workshop: "The A.A. Group"

### Saturday, April 23

Closing brunch and A.A. meeting  
Closing talk

Reports on Area Service Highlights: At intervals, Panel 27 delegates shared area experiences.





# THE BULLETIN BOARD

June-July 1977

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

## JUNE

- 3-5 - *Columbus, Nebraska*. 18th Annual State Reunion. Write: Reunion Chm., P.O. Box 402, Columbus, NE 68601
- 3-5 - *Lake Yale, Florida*. First Spring Meeting. Write: Lake Yale Baptist Assembly, Rte. 1, #2, Box 263C, Leesburg, FL 32748
- 3-5 - *Snow Lake, Manitoba, Canada*. Northern Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 159, Snow Lake, Man., Canada R0B 1M0
- 3-5 - *Huntington, West Virginia*. 25th Annual State Conf. Write: State Conf. Comm., P.O. Box 802, Huntington, WV 25712
- 3-5 - *Palm Springs, California*. Palm Springs Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 1317, Palm Desert, CA 92260
- 3-5 - *Albuquerque, New Mexico*. 20th Annual N.M. Area Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., P.O. Box 1086, Corrales, NM 87048
- 3-5 - *Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada*. 20th Annual Dawson Creek Roundup. Write: Intergroup Secty.-Treas., 928 - 112 Ave., Dawson Creek, B.C., Canada
- 4-5 - *Winchester, Virginia*. Four-State & D.C. Get-Together. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 651, Winchester, VA 22601
- 9-12 - *St. Simons Island, Georgia*. 13th Golden Isles Family Weekend. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 508, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 10-12 - *Lubbock, Texas*. Third Annual Hub of the Plains Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79413
- 10-12 - *San Mateo, California*. N. Calif. Summer Conf. Write: Chm., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- 10-12 - *Cherokee, Iowa*. State Spring Conf. Write: Chm., Box 41, Cherokee, IA 51012
- 10-12 - *Vernon, British Columbia, Canada*. Fourth Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm. Chm., P.O. Box 15, Vernon, B.C., Canada
- 10-12 - *Grand Rapids, Minnesota*. Seventh Annual Upper Minn. Get-Together. Write: Banquet Comm., P.O. Box 661, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- 10-12 - *Sedona, Arizona*. 23rd Sedona Roundup. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 3070, West Sedona, AZ 86340
- 10-12 - *Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 12th Annual N.S. Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 1711, Antigonish, N.S., Canada
- 17-19 - *Grand Junction, Colorado*. Colo. Summer Conf. Write: Conf. Secty., 1204 E. Country Rd. - 30, Ft. Collins, CO 80521
- 17-19 - *Stony Point, New York*. New York City Young People's Conf. Write: N.Y.C. Y.P.C., P.O. Box 3759, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017
- 23-26 - *Dallas, Texas*. 32nd Annual Tex. Conv. Write: Chm., Box 6063, Dallas, TX 75221

## A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 24-26 - *Akron, Ohio*. Founders Day. Write: Founders Day Comm., P.O. Box 12, Akron, OH 44309
- 24-26 - *North Conway, New Hampshire*. 12th Annual Conv. Write: Function Comm., P.O. Box 500, Derry, NH 03038
- 24-26 - *Presque Isle, Maine*. District IV Roundup. Write: Comm. I, 21 Lenfest St., Presque Isle, ME 04769
- 24-26 - *Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*. 16th Kawartha Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 944 Oriole Dr., Peterborough, Ont., Canada K9B 6K5

## JULY

- 1-3 - *Portland, Oregon*. Pacific N.W. Conf. Write: Reserv. Chm., Pacific N.W. Conf., 17605 S.E. Roethe Pl., Milwaukie, OR 97222
- 1-3 - *San Francisco, California*. Second Annual Gay A.A.'s Western Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 31474, San Francisco, CA 94141
- 1-3 - *St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada*. Young People's Conf. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 1601, Sta. H, Montreal, Que., Canada
- 1-3 - *Chicopee, Massachusetts*. First Annual W. New England Conf. of Young People. Write: W.N.E.Y.P.C., P.O. Box 375, Suffield, CT 06078
- 2-3 - *Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Chm. 329 Reid St., Quesnel, B.C., Canada V2J 2M5
- 2-4 - *Biloxi, Mississippi*. 1977 State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 37, Gulfport, MS 39501
- 6-10 - *Palm Beach, Florida*. 21st Annual State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 10495, Riviera Beach, FL 33404
- 15-17 - *Columbus, Ohio*. Third E. Cent. Five-State Regional Conf. Write: Chm., 27 Custer Rd., Heath, OH 43055
- 15-17 - *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. 20th Annual State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., 2125 Shirley Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809
- 15-17 - *Madison, New Jersey*. 21st Annual North Jersey Gen. Serv. Conv. Write: N.J.G.S., Box 1205, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
- 15-17 - *Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. Fifth Annual Lakeshore Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 1092, Sta. B, Oshawa, Ont., Canada
- 15-17 - *Albany, New York*. 14th Annual State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 1861, Albany, NY 12201
- 16 - *Mendham, New Jersey*. Morris Co. Young People's All-Day Picnic. Write: Picnic Chm., A.A. Young People, c/o Loyola Retreat House, 161 James St., Morristown, NJ 07960

- 22-24 - *Columbia, Missouri*. State Conv. Write: Area Treas., P.O. Box G, Urich, MO 64788
- 22-24 - *Edson, Alberta, Canada*. 17th Annual Dist. Five Roundup. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 15, Edson, Alta., Canada
- 22-24 - *Winston-Salem, North Carolina*. 30th State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27609
- 24-26 - *Alcoa, Tennessee*. 19th Blount Co. Anniv. Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Maryville, TN 37801
- 29-30 - *Dallas, Texas*. Sixth Lone Star Roundup. Write: Reg. Chm., P.O. Box 1395, Richardson, TX 75090
- 29-31 - *Odessa, Texas*. Third Annual W. Tex. Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., Box 1854, Odessa, TX 79760
- 29-31 - *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. B.C./Yukon Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., P.O. Box 2041, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 3R6
- 29-31 - *Hagerstown, Maryland*. Seventh Annual State Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., P.O. Box 7774, Baltimore, MD 21221
- 29-31 - *Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada*. Third Annual Rally. Write: Chm., 917 Island Hwy., Campbell River, B.C., Canada

## AUGUST

- 4-7 - *New York, New York*. Annual Meeting of International Doctors in A.A. Write: Information Secty., I.D.A.A., 1950 Volney Road, Youngstown, OH 44551
- 5-7 - *Bristol, Rhode Island*. Newport Young People Conf. Write: Conf., Box 612, Newport, RI 02840
- 5-7 - *Camp Tama, Japan*. Second S.E. Asia Step Seminar. Write: Chm., N.R.M.C. - A.R.U., Box 65-1895, FPO Seattle, WA 98765
- 7 - *Fitchburg, Massachusetts*. Annual Roundup. Write: Dist. 26, P.O. Box 306, Leominster, MA 01453
- 12-14 - *Hawkesbury, Ontario, Canada*. Fourth Annual (French) Conv. of Outaouais Valley. Write: Publicity Comm., C.P. 31, Gatineau, Que., Canada

## CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

*June*: what to do when we can't get to meetings (p. 2); Tradition Twelve and the spiritual value of anonymity (p. 12); dealing with resentments (p. 30); when, how, and how often to take the Third Step (p. 37).

*July*: how A.A. sets us free (pp. 2-6); defects that make us balk at Steps Six and Seven (p. 20); benefits we can gain through helping prison A.A. groups (pp. 26-35).