



## 46th General Service Conference “Preserving Our Fellowship—Our Challenge”

When the 1995 Conference Agenda Committee selected the theme for the 1996 Conference—“Preserving Our Fellowship—Our Challenge”—it was met with some skepticism. “Preserving,” to many, conjured up images of pickling and canning, or shelves of specimens in jars of formaldehyde (images that were mentioned in several presentations throughout the Conference).

One of those who felt the strongest about this theme was Gerry F., Western Canada regional trustee. However, Gerry was invited to deliver the keynote address on Sunday morning, at the opening of the 46th General Service Conference, and when he started to write the keynote, he said, the word in the theme that struck him was *Our*. Interestingly enough (although not so surprising in A.A.), this was the concept that took hold and echoed throughout the Conference. The themes of “we,” “our” and “Unity” were addressed in various ways and from many different angles—in presentations and committee discussions, and was reflected in such A.A. basics as carrying the message, Twelfth Step work, self-support, and the Declaration of Responsibility.

A.A.’s annual “business meeting” is made up of 135 voting members: 92 area delegates, 21 trustees; and directors and staff of the two corporations, A.A. World Services and the A.A. Grapevine.

This year’s Conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan, New York City, April 21-27. Chairing the Conference was Jim Estelle, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairman of the General Service Board; assisted by George D., G.S.O.’s general manager; Doug M., Southern Minnesota, this year’s delegate chairperson; and John Chappel, M.D., Class A trustee.

Beginning with the roll call on Sunday morning and moving along to Saturday morning’s closing brunch and farewell talks by rotating trustees, Conference week is long, often arduous, but ultimately rewarding.

Following the opening dinner Sunday evening, attended by Conference members and their friends and spouses, there was a five-speaker open A.A. meeting. Monday morning began the busy week of area service highlights, sharing sessions, presentations and committee meetings and reports. From the deliberations of the

11 standing Conference Committees came recommendations and suggestions that were presented for discussion and vote to the entire Conference. Many of these items became Conference Advisory Actions, highlights of which are on the opposite page.

Some highlights of this year’s Conference:

- As we approach the 21st century, A.A. is moving into cyberspace. Several Conference committees had agenda items relating to the new technology. The Report and Charter Committee discussed listing online meetings in A.A. Directories, and the Public Information Committee explored ways of using the A.A. Web-site on the Internet as a P.I. tool. Three presentations addressed “A.A. and Cyberspace.”
- The International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums



*Sunday evening, Jim Estelle, chairman of the General Service Board, presented the 15 millionth copy of the Big Book to Ellie Norris, widow of A.A.’s “Dr. Jack,” “with our deepest appreciation for your friendship and continuing commitment to the work of Alcoholics Anonymous; and in recognition of the pioneering and towering service of your husband, former chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, our beloved Dr. Jack Norris. Your steadfast dedication to our Fellowship is a striking witness of extending the hand of A.A. to others. With love and many grateful memories.”*

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Committee heard presentations from seven cities that want to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2005.

- For the first time in 23 years, the Conference welcomed a new delegate area, Washington State East (Area 92), represented by Ben B.
- Delegates, family and friends visited G.S.O. Tuesday afternoon for a tour of G.S.O. and Grapevine offices and to view demonstrations at various computer sites.
- Friday afternoon saw farewell talks from two retiring longtime employees: Ann W., Grapevine's executive editor; and Helen T., G.S.O. staff member.
- The self-supporting G.S.C. Serenity Group met each morning at 7:30 for an open A.A. meeting, with a format based on readings from A.A. literature.
- A wonderful climax to Conference week was a visit to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois W., on Saturday afternoon.

At the Wednesday afternoon regional trustee elections, Carl B., of Rock Springs, Wyoming, was elected the new West Central trustee, replacing Les L., of Nebraska; the new Western Canada trustee will be Garry McA. of Stettler, Alberta, filling the position now held by Gerry F., of Saskatchewan.

At the Delegates Only Dinner on Tuesday evening, Jack S., Manitoba, was elected delegate chair for the 1997 Conference; Linda F., NW Ohio/SE Michigan, will be the alternate chairperson.

The problem of "preserving" and "pickling" was soon forgotten. The 1996 General Service Conference was about "We" — the word we often hear is the most important one in the Twelve Steps. Perhaps it was best summoned up by Alex P. (BC/Yukon delegate) in his presentation "Preserving Our Fellowship—Let it Begin With Me." "I need to remind myself," Alex told the Conference on Monday morning, "that we are like pieces of coal: Heaped together, they can burn warmly and brightly, but push them to one side and they grow cold and black and no longer give light. I might be the only Big Book that someone reads, and if it is to begin with me, I must be the best example I can. There's no end to what I can do to help preserve what we have."

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## Applications for G.S.O. Staff Positions

The General Service Office expects retirements among its A.A. staff in the near future. Interested A.A. members with at least six years of sobriety are asked to send resumés. Among the qualifications: active A.A. membership; good communications skills, both written and verbal; ability to work as part of a team; and availability to travel to, and speak at, A.A. events. Please send resumés to: Staff Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

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## Resumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 1997

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees —from the East Central U.S. and Southeast U.S. Regions, as well as trustee-at-large/U.S. will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 1997. Resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 1997, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new Southeast regional trustee will succeed Gay G., of Decatur, Georgia; the new East Central trustee will fill the position presently held by Don W., of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The new trustee-at-large/U.S., chosen from one of the U.S. areas, will replace Larry N., of Imperial Beach, California.

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

It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the General Service Conference, which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Please submit your candidate's resumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

## 1996 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some significant Advisory Actions appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

**Agenda**—that the theme for the 1997 General Service Conference be: “Spirituality—Our Foundation”; that the following be Workshop topics for the 1997 General Service Conference: “Spirituality — Our Foundation”: a. Spirit of Rotation; b. Working with Faith, Serving with Love; c. Unity — We Are Responsible.

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**—no recommendations.

**Correctional Facilities**—that a one-page newsletter be published quarterly for A.A. members on the inside, containing sharing from inmates’ letters to G.S.O.; that a sample video be made, focusing on encouraging more A.A. participation in carrying the message into correctional facilities, and brought back to the 1997 Conference for review.

**Finance**—that the pamphlet, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix,” be revised to include only two pie charts; that “beginning with fiscal year 1996, the interest income earned from the unfulfilled subscription investment with the General Service Board Reserve Fund, after adjustment to ensure that the liability is appropriately funded, be transferred to the Grapevine’s operating cash on an annual basis.”

**Grapevine**—that a manuscript be developed for a pamphlet providing basic information on the A.A. Grapevine magazine and its place in Alcoholics Anonymous.

**International Convention/Regional Forums**—that the following cities (listed in alphabetical order) be given equal consideration as a site for the International Convention in the year 2005: Atlanta, St. Louis, San Antonio and Toronto.

**Literature**—no recommendations.

**Policy/Admissions**—that any sitting delegate on the Conference International Convention/Regional Forums Committee whose area is presenting at the General Service Conference as a possible International Convention site city withdraw from that committee and

a replacement be selected; that “Washington State East, Area 92” and “Western Washington State, Area 72” be approved as the new names for these areas.

**Public Information**—that the 1996 Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 1992 Membership Survey.

**Report and Charter**—that a description of the qualifications and responsibilities of an area registrar be added to the *A.A. Service Manual*; that Article Two of the Conference Charter remain as is.

**Treatment Facilities**—that a soft-cover Treatment Facilities Handbook be developed; that a concise, streamlined version of the existing T.F. Workbook (3-ring binder) be produced; that the “Treatment Facilities Newsletter” be discontinued, as the expressed need appears to have diminished.

**Trustees**—that the suggested guidelines, developed by the trustees’ Nominating Committee, for changing regional boundaries be accepted; that a reference regarding the existence of these guidelines be added to the *A.A. Service Manual*.

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## Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 1996<sup>1</sup>

	Groups	Members
United States	50,671	1,153,795
Canada	5,259	97,397
Correctional facilities	2,154	56,133
Internationalists		145
Lone members		333
Total	58,084	1,307,803
Outside U.S. and Canada <sup>2</sup>		

<sup>1</sup> U.S. and Canada only.

<sup>2</sup> There is A.A. activity in approximately 140 countries, including more than 40 which have general service offices. Although there is every indication that A.A. is experiencing considerable growth overseas, based on responses from those countries which replied to our request for such information, as well as reports from staff who have recently visited several overseas countries, the information as to the number of groups and members overseas is incomplete, at present. As soon as we have collected sufficient data, we will publish the results.

# Reports From G.S.O., the General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

## General Service Board

**Trustees' report:** As has been the custom over the last few years, Conference Committee chairpersons were invited to attend the trustees' January board meeting. All chairpersons were encouraged to attend their corresponding trustees' committees, as well as other meetings of the trustees, including the whole meeting of the board. This practice, we feel, helps our Conference run in a smoother fashion due to better communication between staff, trustees and delegates.

In July A.A. celebrated its 60th Anniversary with the International Convention. There were 56,000 in attendance and it was a huge success by all reports from those who attended. However, we lost approximately \$500,000 on the Convention as we had projected an attendance of 60,000. The next International Convention, in the year 2000, will be held in Minneapolis. And, believe it or not, work has already started on 2005.

The 14th World Service Meeting will be held this year in New York City, October 27-31, and we look forward to hosting the delegates from countries around the world. The board has invited the delegates to also attend our General Service Board meeting, the weekend following the World Service Meeting.

There is still much work to do in carrying our message internationally, and in the past year visits by trustees or staff have been made to Cuba, Japan, Uruguay, Venezuela, Australia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Many of our books and some of our service material has been translated into several languages and the Big Book was published in Armenian, Tagalog and Nepali. Our literature now has the capability of reaching two billion people worldwide.

The board held a Long-Range Planning Weekend in Salt Lake City, Utah, this past September to review the board's relationship to the Fellowship as a whole and to explore how the board as a body can assist the Fellowship in carrying the A.A. message.

At the October board meeting, we approved the recommendation of the trustees' P.I. Committee that G.S.O. implement an A.A. Web Site, which became available at: <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org> on December 22, 1995. The current A.A. Web Site includes the A.A. Fact File and addresses to contact general service offices worldwide. In the future, the pamphlet "Is A.A. For You?," including twelve questions about drinking, will be added to the Web Site and a memo requesting permission to link to international general service office Web Sites, when created, will be

sent from G.S.O. to general service offices worldwide. In January, an Ad Hoc Web-Site Committee of the General Service Board was created to determine the approach to and content of the A.A. Web Site in the future.

During 1995 the board also approved the business plan regarding publication of the Spanish Grapevine, which will need strong financial support from A.A. members in order to survive and will also be dependant on articles from Spanish-speaking A.A. members.

We are now on the threshold of a new Conference year and our commitment to carrying A.A.'s lifesaving message remains resolute, as it must. Our predecessors have handed us this gift and, as their successors, it is our responsibility to be sure that the hand of A.A. will always be extended to any alcoholic, anywhere, reaching out for help.

W.J. (Jim) Estelle, Jr.  
(nonalcoholic) chairperson

## A.A. World Service, Inc.

**Directors' report:** A.A.W.S., Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the General Service Board with the delegated responsibility to maintain oversight of group services, including printing and distribution of Conference-approved and other service literature. The board met eight times since the last Conference to hear G.S.O. management and staff reports; review group services activity and progress on compliance with Conference and board recommendations; review budgets, expenditures, and salary policy; establish prices for literature and other materials; discuss publishing operations and matters of G.S.O. administration; consider requests for permission to reprint A.A. copyrighted literature; and address other matters as they arise.

The committees of the A.A.W.S. Board are: Publishing; Finance and Administration; Services and Nominating. Long-range planning is done within each committee and by the board as a whole. The following significant items are noted:

**Finance:** Contributions finished the year 1995 approximately \$225,000 (6.14%) below budget. However, contributions for January and February 1996 were \$36,000 ahead of budget. At the July 1995 meeting, we recommended revisions to the trustees' Finance Committee and, through our Salary and Budget Committee, we prepared, reviewed and recommended the 1996 G.S.O. budget to the trustees' Finance Committee.

**Publishing:** Due to price reductions of some items during the summer of 1995 and a full year of higher discounts, A.A. sales income was down 7%. Non-A.A. sales were

down 7.4%; their purchases represented 26.6% of our total sales - the same as in 1994. For the first two months of 1996, sales are on budget. A.A. sales are flat compared to 1995, while non-A.A. sales are down 13%. We priced 18 new items, most of them foreign translations. Prices of six items, including the pocket-sized Big Book, were reduced. Foreign language books and pamphlets printed by G.S.O. were also reduced to the price of the English equivalent, although manufacturing costs are higher. We agreed to produce a soft-cover *As Bill Sees It* and Braille format for *Daily Reflections*; we granted permission/did not object to 130 requests to reprint from A.A. literature; 13 requests were denied. For the first three months of 1996, 16 requests were granted and three were denied.

**Services:** The committee continued deliberations on ways to encourage contributions to G.S.O. The consensus was that a service piece, possibly entitled, "What a Treasurer Needs to Know," should be developed. Although this material already exists in various places, it needs to be pulled together. Information Services started producing a monthly report on registration activity. We are now able to monitor, monthly, the year to year increase or decrease in group, G.S.R., D.C.M., etc. registration activity. After discussion (and consultation with the trustees' P.I. Committee), a Home Page for G.S.O. was placed on the Worldwide Web. The board authorized G.S.O. to explore "hyper-links" with other G.S.O.s, where possible. G.S.O. maintains a list, available to A.A. members, of "online" meetings, but deferred a decision as to listing the groups in the directories until after the 1996 Conference.

**International:** Preliminary work is on schedule for the 14th World Service Meeting, in New York City, October 27-31; George D. and Danny M. attended the IX Ibero-American Zonal Meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Joanie M. attended the Eighth European Service Meeting, in Frankfurt, with 39 delegates, representing 19 countries. Portugal's General Service Assembly (similar to our Conference) has established a General Service Board, as well as a G.S.O. in Lisbon. George D. participated in the 50th Anniversary Celebration of A.A. in New Zealand, attended by 700, and also was the guest of the Australian General Service Board at its quarterly board meeting.

**G.S.O./Staff Operations:** G.S.O.'s employee count was 86 at year-end 1995, compared to 89 in 1994. At year-end 1995, G.S.O. had nine temporary and student workers, the same as in 1994; we recommended a modification of the retirement plan to the trustees' Finance

Committee to permit early retirement at age 55, with 10 years service, or age 60, with eight years service, and to lower the early retirement penalty from 6% to 4% per year; we also approved, for recommendation to the trustees' Finance Committee, a single, voluntary, nonrenewable early retirement offer for 22 employees who meet a rule of 64, i.e., age and service equal 64. The option became available for the six months period, March 31 through September 30, 1996.

**Regional Forums:** A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. staff members coordinated and attended the following Regional Forums: Northeast (West Springfield, Mass.); West Central (Sioux City, Iowa); East Central (Milwaukee, Wisc.); Southwest (San Antonio, Tex.); and Western Canada (Calgary, Alberta). A Special Forum for the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean District took place in Alma, Quebec.

**Intergroup Seminar:** The Tenth Annual Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S. Seminar was held in Atlanta, Georgia, with representation from 130 central intergroup offices.

**Native American Convention:** Staff member Sarah P. and West Central regional trustee, Les L. attended the Fifth Annual National/International Native American Indian A.A. Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota. There were close to 400 attendees from all over the U.S. and Canada.

*Gay G., chairperson*

## Archives

**Trustees' committee:** Our Timeline Exhibit and brochure were well received at the International Convention, and A.A. members reported they found it useful in presenting the historical development of our Fellowship. Also well received in San Diego were our twin Archival Workshops: "Archives: A Collective Vision I & II." Well over half of our 92 areas have a designated archivist and many have completed area histories. Most recently, histories have been received from Idaho, Utah and Georgia. A subcommittee on Classification of Archival Material was formed to study our present procedures and to make recommendations for possible simplification. Another exploration is being made on reissuing "Markings On The Journey," our 38-minute video-filmstrip on the history of our Fellowship. We continue processing many of our ancient documents into a scanner. This new system will make retrieval vastly more efficient and will protect our collection from damage.

*William B., chairperson*

**Archivist's report:** Interest in our Prepublication Manuscript of the Big Book continues to be high. In response to a mailing to all area delegates, we've been able to partially update our listing of area archivists. We'd appreciate any additions or corrections to this list. Finally, maybe one of you can help us locate the

source of this alleged quote by Bill W.: "A.A. is not a success story; rather it is a chronicle of our colossal human failure turned to usefulness by the divine alchemy of a loving God."

*Frank M., archivist*

## Conference

**Trustees' committee:** The committee reviewed the 1995 Advisory Actions and approved the theme for the 46th Conference, "Preserving Our Fellowship — Our Challenge." We discussed the summaries of the Conference Evaluation Questionnaires and the G.S.O. post-Conference sharing session, and asked the Conference Agenda Planning subcommittee to consider these suggestions in preparation of the 1996 Agenda. We also approved presentation/discussion topics for the 1996 Conference. Proposed Conference agenda items were reviewed and referred to the appropriate committee or board, and we accepted a report on order of business and floor actions, that will be in place for this year's Conference, and passed the matter on to the Policy/Admissions Committee for discussion in connection with future Conferences.

*Michael McP., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Conference coordinator is the contact for Conference members and area and district committee members of the 92 areas throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Conference coordinator assumes responsibility for: assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; serving as secretary of the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference; working with the general manager and G.S.O. staff in planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and all material for the Conference Manual, Early Bird edition of *Box 4-5-9* and the Conference *Final Report*.

*Richard B.*

## Cooperation With the Professional Community

**Trustees' committee:** Following the 1995 Conference a subcommittee to review C.P.C. literature and service material was established; the review has been completed, and an interim report has been forwarded to the 1996 Conference C.P.C. Committee. We also discussed and approved the updated lists of the C.P.C. exhibit at national professional meetings in 1995/1996. The committee recommended that a sharing session be scheduled each board weekend for the appointed committee members of the trustees' C.P.C., P.I., T.F. and C.F. Committees, with all others welcome, to provide an opportunity to discuss overlapping service matters.

*Fran P., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The purpose of C.P.C. is to provide information about A.A. to those who may be in contact with the still-suffering alcoholic through their professional work. The staff member serves as a link to C.P.C. committees in the U.S. and Canada. Currently there are more than 550 area, district and intergroup/central office C.P.C. committees.

*Eileen G.*

## Correctional Facilities

**Trustees' committee:** The committee discussed the 1995 Conference C.F. Committee's suggestion to study ways to get more A.A. members involved in the Correctional Correspondence Service (CCS); some of these ideas have been implemented. The committee discussed and forwarded two items to the Conference Committee: Discuss additional ways to encourage more A.A. participation in carrying the message into correctional facilities; consider a suggestion to publish a one-page newsletter with inmate sharing for those inside.

*Les L., chairperson*

**Staff report:** This assignment is responsible for carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics confined in correctional institutions. Over 400 letters a month arrive from inmates, most asking for free literature, some asking for names of outside A.A. members with whom to correspond, or for help in making contact with A.A. upon release. We try to facilitate these requests, primarily through our network of area, district and local C.F. committees. The Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), coordinated by this desk, is one of our most valuable efforts. Many inmates hunger for outside support from experienced A.A.s with whom they can share. To reach more men on the "outside," a service piece about our CCS has been prepared for inclusion in new group packages and for group literature stands.

*Sarah P.*

## Finance

**Trustees' committee:** This year I am able to report that we are well on track with the plan which began in 1994 to reduce the Reserve Fund. Last year I mentioned that we had reduced prices on certain recovery pieces and increased discounts on literature sales across the board; I also reported that the slight increase in contributions reversed a three year downtrend. This year I am disappointed to report that 1995 contributions were \$3,664,861, approximately \$190,000 (5%) less than 1994. Of the 55,930 listed groups at the end of 1995, we received contributions from approximately 24,800, or 44%. Literature sales were \$9,444,500 before discounts—approximately \$190,000 less than 1994 and almost \$109,000 more than budgeted.

Operating expenses were approximately \$83,000 below the original budget and \$222,000 below the adjusted budget. Two large projects (the Twelve and Twelve ASL and service video), approved last year and provided for at mid-year, were slow in starting and most of that expense is budgeted for 1996. Net loss from operations was \$1,158,000, compared with a budgeted net loss which was revised at mid-year to \$869,600, and also revised to include new projects. This difference is composed of gross profit from literature sales being \$287,000 below budget, contributions \$225,000 below, and operating expenses \$222,000 less than the revised mid-year budget, and approximately \$8,000 of additional interest. The cost of services to the Fellowship, excluding publishing activities, was \$5,679,500 in 1995, \$314,000 (5.8%), higher than in 1994. (Combined operating expenses were only up 3.7%.) This amount exceeded contributions by approximately \$2,000,000, \$854,000 of which was made up from literature profits and \$1,150,000 by drawing down the Reserve Fund. The \$5,679,500 incurred for services represents approximately \$102 for each listed group compared with \$98 in 1994. In contrast, contributions per listed group averaged \$66 as compared with \$71 in 1994. The 1995 service dollar was spent on the following: Group Services, 46.0%; Public Information, 3.5%; C.P.C., 4.6%; Treatment Facilities, 1.3%; Correctional Facilities, 3.5%; Loners, Internationalists and Overseas, 9.6%; the General Service Conference, 11.0%; Regional Forums 4.5%; Archives, 6.0%; trustees' and directors' expenses, 7.1%; and Convention staff expense, 2.8%.

The G.S.O. budget for 1996 assumes that gross sales will be down only 0.6%. In October 1994, an overall discount of 5% on literature orders was put in place and the 20% discount on pamphlets and miscellaneous items was increased to 30%. The 5% discount will be taken back August 1, 1996, and the discount on pamphlets and miscellaneous items will return to 20%. Gross margin is projected to increase approximately 5%. Contributions for the year are budgeted to increase 2% to \$3,737,000. Operating expenses have been budgeted \$324,000 (4%) higher than 1995 actual expenses; \$194,400 of the increase is directly related to nonrecurring expenses not present in 1995: G.S.O.'s direct net costs of the World Service Meeting, expenses for the ASL project, the service video, and new equipment to upgrade our data storage for all of G.S.O. Normal operating expenses are budgeted to increase 1.6% over 1995.

The Reserve Fund was \$8,528,000 at the end of 1995, equal to 11.1 months of combined G.S.O. and Grapevine operating expenses. During 1995, A.A.W.S. contributed \$600,000 from 1994 net income. During 1995 the Reserve Fund transferred the fol-

lowing amounts to fund operations: \$1,146,973 to G.S.O. for operating losses; \$632,027 for the International Convention; \$100,500 for the Grapevine; and \$29,500 for the Spanish Grapevine. The Reserve Fund earned \$555,000. Based on G.S.O. and Grapevine budgets, the Reserve Fund would equal about 9.5 months of operating expense at the end of 1996. The International Convention lost a total of \$632,027, largely due to lower than budgeted attendance.

In 1995, the Grapevine realized slightly lower revenue than expected on the magazine; however, this was more than offset by other publishing revenue. Circulation at the end of 1995 was 130,500 copies compared with 126,000 budgeted and 120,300 at the end of 1994. Total costs and expenses were \$1,243,300, less than both 1994 and the 1995 budget, primarily due to lower payroll costs. The Grapevine lost only \$3,295, considerably better than its budgeted loss of \$110,000, before the Spanish Grapevine.

The 1996 Grapevine budget assumes average circulation of 130,000 copies, and an increase of 25% in subscription price effective April 1, 1996; 1996 budget calls for a loss of \$93,000 despite the price increase. Since the price increase only takes effect as subscriptions are renewed, the loss will diminish over time. The Grapevine should be profitable in 1997. The Spanish Grapevine incurred start-up costs of \$29,500 in 1995 and has budgeted a loss of \$96,000 in 1996, in line with the business plan approved by the trustees' Finance Committee. Approval by the trustees' Finance Committee was requested before the Spanish Grapevine could proceed according to the Conference Advisory Action.

*Gary Glynn, (nonalcoholic) chairperson*

## General Sharing Session

**Trustees' report:** The topic for the first sharing session was "Carrying the Message — Our International Commitment," where presenters outlined the scope of the Overseas assignment and translations of A.A. literature. In July the topic was "The Minority Voice and its Importance in the A.A. Group Process." This topic was chosen because of its importance as an element in our development of a group conscience. The topic for October was "A.A. in the Computer World." Many attendees felt this offered a great opportunity to have material available to millions of people worldwide.

*Peter B., chairperson*

## Group Services

**Staff report:** The Group Services coordinator is responsible for service material, which provides information and shared experience not found in Conference-approved literature. Current ongoing projects: Coordination and

production of three A.A. Directories; supervision of service files; supervision/production of A.A. Guidelines, Group Handbooks, and G.S.R. kits. The staff member on Group Services is liaison with intergroup/central offices, and serves as secretary for the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees.

*Helen T.*

## International/ World Service Meeting

**Trustees' report:** This committee is responsible for suggesting policies and actions to help carry the message internationally, especially in areas where there is no established service structure, and serves as a link between the international A.A. community and the General Service Board. Translations of A.A. literature are made possible through contributions from U.S./Canadian groups, and by groups around the world that contribute to the World Service Meeting International Literature Fund. The 14th World Service Meeting will be held October 27-31, in New York City, with the theme of "Love and Gratitude in Action." Over 40 delegates representing 25 countries plan to attend. We continue to be encouraged and inspired by members of the international A.A. community who carry our message to countless thousands in new regions and across most difficult linguistic, cultural and economic barriers.

*Larry N., chairperson*

**Staff report:** Letters from around the world come to the Overseas staff person, who responds to each letter, often accompanied by A.A. literature. The staff member is also in contact with 41 overseas general service offices. Coordinating the biennial World Service Meeting is part of this assignment. Between World Service Meetings, the European Service Meeting, Meeting of the Americas, and Asian-Oceania Meeting are held, and our board is invited to send one or two observers to each zonal meeting. Requests to translate our literature come to the overseas secretary and are forwarded to the Publications Department; where A.A. is not yet strong, A.A.W.S. undertakes the new publication when funds are available. The Big Book has been translated into 30 foreign languages, with other translations pending approval and/or funding.

*Joanie M.*

## International Convention/ A.A. Regional Forums

**Trustees' committee:**  
**International Convention**—A.A.'s 60th International Convention was a wonderful experience for the approximately 56,000 participants; the Convention coordinator, other

G.S.O. personnel, the Convention consultant and an incredibly supportive San Diego Host Committee combined to provide a truly International celebration of sobriety. Suggestions and recommendations of the subcommittee evaluating the 1995 Convention will be incorporated into planning for the 2000 International in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Four potential sites for the International in 2005 will be recommended at the 1996 Conference. Final selection of the 2005 site will be made by the board in late 1996, following site-inspection trips.

**Regional Forums**—Since the last Conference, four regions have held Forums, plus one Special Forum. A subcommittee examined the purpose of Special Forums and the needs and goals of these events. The subcommittee was also asked to clarify the goals of Special Forums. The outcome was a paper titled "Regional Forums and Special Forums," which will replace the paper "What Are Regional Forums?"

*Elaine Johnson, Ph.D.,  
(nonalcoholic) chairperson*

#### **Staff reports:**

**International Convention**—This assignment involves coordinating every aspect of the many processes and plans that go to make up our International Conventions.

*Valerie O'N.*

**Regional Forums**—This assignment involves coordinating all arrangements necessary for Regional Forums in the U.S. and Canada. Forums are held at the region's invitation every two years. In addition, Special Forums are held upon request. Working with the regional trustee, area delegates and host committee, the Forums coordinator prepares the agenda, works with the hotel, and sends invitations to area service people. Following the Forums, a report is sent to all who attended.

*Lois F.*

## **Literature**

**Trustees' committee:** A summary of projects since the 1995 Conference;

*Projects Completed:* Changes made in "The A.A. Group;" publication of the pocket edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

*Projects forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee:* Recommended that the "Landmarks in A.A." section of *A.A. Comes of Age* be returned to its original 1957 form; draft outline of proposed content of a Fourth Edition of the Big Book, for further guidance; the A.A. history book project, with reviews, seeking guidance for closure; request to publish material regarding confidentiality within A.A.; that a story of a bisexual alcoholic be included in "Do You Think You're Different?"; request for a pamphlet directed to the concerns of the nonbeliever.

*Julian R., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The literature coordinator works closely with the Publications Department on preparing all new recovery pamphlets, books, displays and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the Conference. The literature desk receives and responds to correspondence from A.A. members and groups about literature, and maintains contact with area, district, central offices and group literature chairpersons. Additionally, the literature coordinator is the liaison with the French Literature Service in Montreal, and serves as editor of *Box 4-5-9*, published bimonthly.

*Pat R.*

## **Loners/Internationalists**

**Staff report:** Loners are A.A.s who are unable to attend meetings because there are no groups nearby. There are about 341 Loners in 80 countries. Seagoing A.A.s are known as Internationalists. There are about 150 Internationalists and 38 Port Contacts. Thirteen Internationalist Groups meet aboard ships or in ports. There are 125 Homers, A.A.s who are housebound due to illness or disability. Loners, Homers and Internationalists stay sober reading A.A. literature and sharing A.A. experience, strength and hope with other A.A.s around the world through letters and tapes. Each new Loner, Homer or Internationalist receives a directory of members, a subscription to *Box 4-5-9* and *Loners-Internationalist Meeting (LIM)*, a bimonthly meeting-in-print, sharing excerpts of letters received at G.S.O. from LIM members. About 929 A.A.s serve as Loner Sponsors, sharing group activities and personal experience.

*Susan U.*

## **Nominating**

**Trustees' committee:** A draft of suggested guidelines for changing regional boundaries was forwarded to the 1996 Conference Committee on Trustees for their consideration. A draft of revised Nominating Procedures was reviewed as a work in progress, with the aim of simplification, a common language throughout, and flexibility in meeting the needs of the Fellowship. The proposed slates of General Service Board members, officers of the board, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine directors were forwarded to the 1996 Conference Committee on Trustees for disapproval, if any.

*Gerry F., chairperson*

## **Public Information**

**Trustees' committee:** Work of the committee during the past year included: research for the 1996 Membership Survey regarding the statistical, financial and procedural feasibility of surveying selected groups and the use of

machine scoring to tabulate the results; implementation of the A.A. Web-Site, available in English, French and Spanish, containing the A.A. Fact File and information about the general service offices worldwide; reviewed minor editorial changes to the A.A. Fact File. The following items were referred for consideration to the 1996 Conference P.I. Committee: implementation of the 1996 Membership Survey; a review of Public Information pamphlets and the P.I. Workbook.

*Jane S., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The goal of the P.I. assignment is to help carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic, potential alcoholic and the general public through the media, health fairs, schools and A.A. Web-Site. The staff member responds to hundreds of written and telephone inquiries from the public and the Fellowship. The staff person communicates with approximately 500 P.I. committees at the area, district, intergroup/central office and group level, and is responsible for handling interviews with media researchers and the public. Literature is provided for local health and community fairs. In many cases, local P.I. committees provide this literature and participate in these events. This assignment is involved in planning for the 1996 Membership Survey, coordinating mailings to delegates who, in turn, distribute Survey Questionnaires to the groups. The 1995 International Convention was covered by local as well as national media, to provide information about A.A. and sobriety.

*Valerie O'N.*

## **Spanish Services**

**Staff report:** There are more than 35,000 Spanish-speaking A.A. members, meeting in 1,200 groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. The Spanish Services staff person coordinates Spanish translations and assists other staff members in providing services to the Spanish-speaking community. All Spanish-speaking groups receive *Box 4-5-9* in Spanish. The *Quarterly Report* is also in Spanish. Communication between Spanish- and English-speaking groups is improving; groups are represented by G.S.R.s at district meetings, where they elect bilingual D.C.M.s who represent Spanish-speaking districts at area assemblies. The staff member helps answer correspondence received in Spanish by other assignments. This staff member, who does not rotate, represents G.S.O. at the Ibero-American Commission for Translation and Adaptation of A.A. Literature and attends conventions, Regional Forums, the World Service Meeting and the International Convention, as well as greeting Spanish-speaking visitors to G.S.O.

*Danny M.*

## Staff Coordinator

**Staff report:** Services to A.A. groups and members are provided through 12 staff assignments; in addition staff members correspond with groups and A.A. members in a specific geographic area. Staff assignments are monitored by the coordinator. G.S.O. staff receives approximately 14,281 pieces of mail a year. The staff coordinator coordinates the staff activities and chairs the weekly staff meeting. As assistant secretary of the General Service Board the coordinator is responsible for scheduling committee meetings, distributing advance material, preparing the minutes of the board meeting, and serves as editor of the *Quarterly Report*. The coordinator is secretary of the General Sharing Session, and the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, and is a director and vice-president of A.A.W.S. During the past year, approximately 1,538 visitors from all over the world visited G.S.O.

John G.

## Treatment Facilities

**Trustees' committee:** We reviewed current treatment facilities concerns, as well as some history of the path that treatment facilities has taken, and felt that current circumstances regarding the closing of many treatment facilities make it apparent that A.A. members need to meet alcoholics as they enter treatment as well as when they are leaving. The committee urged that the videos: *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Young People and A.A.* and *A.A.: Rap With Us* be noted as available on the T.F. Discount Package Order Form. We continue discussion on how much of a need there is for the "Treatment Facilities Newsletter," when it is so difficult to get ideas for articles, and forwarded this item to the Conference T.F. Committee to consider. We supported the idea of a soft-cover booklet (workbook) for T.F. committees and forwarded this idea to the Conference committee.

John N. Chappel, M.D.,  
(nonalcoholic) chairperson

**Staff report:** The primary purpose of the Treatment Facilities assignment is to assist local A.A. members carry the message to alcoholics in treatment. We now have about 92 area T.F. chairpersons, 389 district, 59 "other" T.F. chairs and 62 meeting contacts on computer. We try to keep an up-to-date list of the chairs of these committees and to provide them with information and literature. Mail comes to the T.F. desk from: newly sober alcoholics in treatment facilities; local A.A.s who have become or are interested in becoming active on treatment facilities committees; treatment facilities administrators or personnel requesting information about A.A. and assistance in setting up meetings, and area T.F. committees' meeting minutes and reports.

Susan U.

## Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

**Directors' report:** The year since the 45th Conference has seen significant change and growth in every aspect of the Grapevine's life. Circulation rose by about 10,000; sales of related materials were very strong; the year ended well ahead of budget; the groundwork was laid for launching a Spanish edition in mid-1996; and a new management structure was put in place, to take effect at the end of this Conference.

**Finances & Magazine Price Increase:** The 1995 budget called for a net loss of \$109,000, and we ended the year with a net loss of only \$32,790 - \$3,290 on operations, and \$29,500 on the Spanish Grapevine project. In January the board approved and forwarded to the trustees' Finance Committee a 1996 budget that called for a magazine price increase of 25 percent, effective April 1, 1996. Even with the price increase, the 1996 budget anticipates a \$93,000 deficit; by 1997, when the effect of the increase will be felt more strongly, management expects a net income in the neighborhood of \$71,000.

**Related Materials:** The board took a look at some related materials that showed minimal sales or had an extremely low gross profit margin and voted to discontinue several items.

Overall, sales of *The Language of the Heart* were especially high. Other books and booklets, and the cassette tapes also came in better than budgeted. The board voted to produce the Wall Calendar in full color for the first time, and sales of the calendar, and its companion Pocket Planner, were strong enough to make it necessary to go back to press on both.

**Spanish Magazine and Other Materials:** The 45th Conference approved the development of a Spanish edition of the magazine, to be funded for up to five years by the General Service Board Reserve Fund, subject to approval of a business plan by the trustees' Finance Committee. The business plan assumes a starting circulation of 6,000, and was approved by both the Grapevine Board and the trustees' Finance Committee in October 1995. The plan is based on a bimonthly magazine, to be launched with the July-August issue, and the pricing structure is comparable to that of the English magazine.

The Spanish translation of *The Language of the Heart*, was published in June 1995 and introduced in San Diego.

**Board and Management Structure:** The board forwarded the name of Chuck C. to the Nominating Committee as candidate for general service trustee. In July directors accepted the request of executive editor Ann W. to retire effective April 30, 1996. Ames S. was named the new executive editor.

**General Service Conference Business:** The board forwarded to the Conference

Committee on Grapevine: a proposal for a Conference-approved pamphlet on the Grapevine; several suggestions for new related materials that might be produced in 1998; and a suggestion that the committee discuss the use of industry mailings lists by the Grapevine.

The board voted to forward to the trustees' Finance Committee and the Conference Finance Committee a request that "beginning with fiscal year 1996, the interest income earned from the unfulfilled subscription investment with the General Service Board Reserve Fund, after adjustment to ensure that the liability is fully funded, be transferred to the Grapevine's operating cash on an annual basis."

Donald W., chairperson

**Staff report:** In June 1944, the Grapevine "office" consisted of a half dozen volunteers working out of an apartment in New York City; in 1945, the Grapevine hired its first paid employee and it wasn't until 1962 that it became possible to pay an editor. Today, the corporation has 20 paid employees, a budget of nearly two million dollars, and is about to embark on a Spanish-language edition of the magazine.

Occupying a quarter of the space of the General Service Office, the Grapevine office is arranged around four departments, each with their own focus and function: accounting/bookkeeping, circulation, shipping and editorial. Currently, the office is managed by an executive editor and a managing editor (both members of A.A.), and a nonalcoholic controller/business administrator. The executive editor has oversight responsibility as chief executive for the Grapevine operation and reports directly to the Grapevine Corporate Board. The managing editor is responsible for all magazine editorial and production functions and supervises the GvR program. The controller/business administrator manages all business aspects of the corporation and handles all financial planning.

Recently the Grapevine hired an executive secretary and Jaime M. who will serve as editor of Spanish resources. Cynthia K., who has been at the Grapevine for many years as copyeditor and editorial assistant, was promoted to the position of senior editor, and Bob Slotterback, formerly the Grapevine's bookkeeper, was promoted to the position of assistant controller.

With a welcome increase in magazine circulation and higher-than-anticipated related items sales, not to mention all the preparatory work associated with launching the new Spanish edition, the Grapevine office has enjoyed a busy and fulfilling year.

Ames S., managing editor



# Budget Highlights

## 1996 G.S.O. Budget

This budget describes the "OPERATIONS" of the General Service Office. It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund or the Capital Projects Fund.

**Income:** The 1996 sales budget of \$9,384,000 is essentially flat when compared with the actual results for 1995 of \$9,445,000 and the 1995 budget of \$9,336,000.

Discounts allowed on sales for 1996 has been budgeted at \$756,000 approximately \$260,000 less than those taken in 1995 and \$230,000 less than budgeted for 1995. The 1996 budget has been prepared with adjustments in the discounts effective August 1, 1996. The overall bottom line discount of 5% will be discontinued and the 30% discounts allowed on miscellaneous and other items will be reinstated to 20%. When these additional discounts were implemented, in the Fall of 1994, it was for the primary purpose of reducing the Reserve Fund below its ceiling, using a method (discounts) to allow for greater distribution of items throughout the Fellowship to help carry the message.

Manufacturing costs are budgeted relatively flat. While there may be some increases in costs on certain items, we are expecting a reduction in the cost of several of our major publications that had risen with the large increase in paper prices from late 1994 through late 1995. A 5% increase has been budgeted for shipping and warehousing costs, anticipating increases in postage and freight.

Gross profit from literature, is budgeted at approximately \$3,276,000 or 5.4% increase over 1995. This is due primarily to the easing of the discounts allowed.

**Contributions** for 1996 have been budgeted at \$3,737,000, approximately 2% higher than 1995.

**Total Revenue** for the period after interest income from operations is anticipated at \$7,015,200, approximately 3.4% higher than 1995 total revenue of \$6,781,700.

**Total Operating Expenses** for 1996 have been budgeted at \$8,264,400, approximately 4% above the 1995 operating level. Included in the overall 4% increases are some nonrecurring type costs for such items as the Twelve and Twelve ASL Project, the Service Video, upgrades to the records/files systems for CD ROM storage technology, as well as the net cost to G.S.O. of the World Service Meeting. These costs aggregate approximately \$194,000. Excluding these items, operating expense increased approximately 1.6%.

An operating loss of \$1,249,000 is budgeted prior to the drawdown from the Reserve Fund. This drawdown allows for an orderly, prudent use of the Reserve Fund at a time when the Reserve Fund is near its upper limit.

## 1996 Grapevine Budget

The 1996 Budget was prepared with an increase in subscription prices of 25 percent, effective April 1, 1996 (the May issue).

Circulation is budgeted at an average of 130,000. The price increase of April 1, 1996 would normally decrease circulation by about 10 percent; however, in 1995 we have experienced a continuous pattern of growth and do not expect a decline in 1996, rather the decline may materialize in 1997 as renewals come due.

**Income:** Magazine income of \$1,623,000 is 6.1% higher than the \$1,528,800 in 1995, due to the increased circulation and the price increase. Other publishing income from books, cassette tapes and miscellaneous items, is budgeted at \$544,800, or 2% lower than 1995. This is due to an aging product line and the fact that we have no new items budgeted for 1996.

**Direct Costs:** Magazine direct costs are budgeted at 48.4% of income, as compared to 45.7% of income in 1995.

**Total Gross Profit:** Combining the magazine and other publishing items the gross profit of \$1,152,400 is 53.1% of budgeted income as compared to \$1,160,700 or 55.7% in 1995.

**Total Operating Expenses:** Changes in corporate structure and the need to reprint all price lists, catalogs, and flyers resulted in a net budget increase of 6.7%, or \$83,500.

**Net Income:** For 1996 net income is budgeted as a \$93,100 loss, as compared to a \$3,300 loss in 1995. The full impact of the price increase will not be realized in 1996, as there are over 1,250,000 copies of the magazine that were paid for before the price increase became effective.

## 1996 Spanish Grapevine Budget

Following the 1995 General Service Conference Advisory Action #7, the publication of the Grapevine magazine in Spanish was approved by the Grapevine Board of Directors and the trustees' Finance Committee of the General Service Board. Recognizing this publication as a new venture, both boards will review the financial impact on the Fellowship and the progress of circulation and continue to monitor the viability of this venture.

The magazine will be bimonthly and is budgeted to begin in July/August. Circulation is budgeted at 6,000 copies for a total sale of 18,000 copies in 1996.

Income of \$22,500 less direct costs to produce and distribute of \$15,500, leaves a gross profit of \$7,000, or 31%. Operating expenses of \$103,000 include the salary and benefits of a Spanish editor, printing of order forms and the purchase of circulation and desktop publishing equipment. This leaves a net loss of \$96,000 for the year.

# 1995 Contributions From Groups — by Delegate Area

(in U.S. dollars)

AREA #	GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AREA	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA	AREA #	GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AREA	#GPS. RE-PORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIB. PER CAPITA
1	Ala./N.W.Fla	414	205	49.5%	\$26,826.36	7,828	\$3.43	59	Pennsylvania East	1,408	745	52.9	111,882.82	33,637	3.32
2	Alaska	245	84	34.2	8,191.64	3,760	2.17	60	West	752	359	47.7	36,755.78	11,099	3.31
3	Arizona	816	343	42.0	57,843.18	16,556	3.49	61	Rhode Island	244	101	41.3	11,294.74	5,694	1.98
4	Arkansas	233	104	44.6	11,320.35	3,916	2.89	62	South Carolina	299	183	61.2	28,973.43	6,123	4.73
5	California							63	South Dakota	159	54	33.9	4,881.02	3,513	1.38
5	Southern	1,931	701	36.3	96,210.19	63,356	1.51	64	Tennessee	488	211	43.2	35,721.77	9,813	3.64
6	N. Coastal	1,967	1,009	51.2	158,773.84	62,078	2.55	65	Texas Northeast	431	191	44.3	49,149.65	16,791	2.92
7	N. Interior	674	324	48.0	40,305.70	19,101	2.11	66	Northwest	231	85	36.7	11,895.28	6,082	1.95
8	San Diego/Imp.	836	336	40.1	50,348.79	25,824	1.94	67	Southwest	526	246	46.7	35,744.53	16,847	2.12
9	Mid-South	1,741	709	40.7	84,916.09	34,127	1.56	68	Utah	278	151	54.3	23,726.84	5,009	4.73
10	Colorado	616	351	56.9	49,822.22	15,911	3.13	69	Vermont	230	108	46.9	10,516.42	4,524	2.32
11	Connecticut	1,362	544	39.9	60,508.05	33,014	1.83	70	Virginia	1,153	639	55.4	77,206.45	22,483	3.43
12	Delaware	196	110	56.1	19,349.27	3,206	6.03	71	Washington	1,428	622	43.5	91,975.34	28,917	3.18
13	D.C.	449	214	47.6	38,994.67	14,799	2.63	72	West Virginia	301	118	39.2	8,779.24	3,494	2.51
14	Florida							73	Wisconsin						
14	North	627	355	56.6	55,507.59	14,295	3.88	74	N. Wis./Upper Pen. Mich.	619	261	42.1	19,487.18	9,941	1.96
15	South/Bahamas/ V.I.	1,497	776	51.8	118,465.58	30,688	3.86	75	South	913	427	46.7	43,050.90	17,803	2.41
16	Georgia	684	478	69.8	64,172.79	16,922	3.79	76	Wyoming	114	59	51.7	5,232.20	1,987	2.63
17	Hawaii	263	156	59.3	24,085.51	5,370	4.48	77	Puerto Rico	138	70	50.7	4,823.18	1,749	2.75
18	Idaho	195	100	51.2	8,779.75	3,051	2.87	78	Alberta/N.W.T.	592	234	39.5	25,535.24	7,980	3.19
19	Illinois							79	B.C./Yukon	738	376	50.9	51,365.40	13,520	3.79
19	Chicago	1,161	317	27.3	44,168.02	27,120	1.62	80	Manitoba	150	60	40.0	6,431.84	4,149	1.55
20	North	1,022	361	35.3	32,816.09	21,462	1.52	81	N.B./P.E.I.	220	95	43.1	6,866.34	3,537	1.94
21	South	462	192	41.5	21,437.53	7,687	2.78	82	N.S./Nfld./Lab.	264	110	41.6	9,439.00	3,630	2.22
22	Indiana							83	Ontario East	606	249	41.0	33,932.15	14,489	2.34
22	North	658	275	41.7	29,376.72	10,521	2.79	84	Northwest	170	64	37.6	7,808.82	2,259	3.45
23	South	539	276	51.2	29,593.93	10,661	2.77	85	West	92	16	17.3	2,178.02	1,511	1.44
24	Iowa	635	290	45.6	31,891.47	13,398	2.38	86	Quebec <sup>1</sup>	507	187	36.8	27,985.16	10,033	2.78
25	Kansas	376	191	50.7	24,853.64	9,569	2.59	87	Southwest	603	295	48.9	15,242.53	15,569	0.98
26	Kentucky	641	334	52.1	50,293.15	11,159	4.50	88	Southeast	232	139	60.0	8,359.39	3,306	2.52
27	Louisiana	548	204	37.2	28,047.44	10,833	2.57	89	Northwest	366	344	94.0	9,163.37	6,935	1.31
28	Maine	464	148	31.8	13,141.38	7,855	1.68	90	Southwest	406	357	87.9	22,027.82	8,095	2.71
29	Maryland	887	377	42.5	49,748.24	13,934	3.57	91	Saskatchewan	331	137	41.3	10,666.88	4,220	2.52
30	Massachusetts								Total U.S./ Canada	55,930	24,865	44.5	\$3,220,355.88	1,251,192	\$2.57
30	East	1,525	587	38.4	70,929.07	52,292	1.35		Individual, in memoriam, & special meetings				189,797.37		
31	West	248	116	46.7	14,636.43	5,322	2.75		Specials				225,845.34		
32	Michigan								Total for U.S. & Canada				\$3,635,998.59		
32	Central	563	210	37.3	32,332.66	12,842	2.51		<b>FOREIGN AND OTHER</b>						
33	Southwest	647	267	41.2	52,046.13	16,815	3.09		Birds of a Feather				267.00		
34	West	438	185	42.2	27,455.64	9,403	2.91		Correctional facility groups				1,040.39		
35	Minnesota								Foreign				26,381.42		
35	North	531	233	43.8	17,896.53	8,198	2.18		Internationalists				100.00		
36	South	1,003	400	39.8	48,688.97	21,865	2.22		Loners				974.00		
37	Mississippi	232	106	45.6	12,483.03	4,029	3.09		Treatment facility meetings				80.00		
38	Missouri								World Hello				20.00		
38	East	558	279	50.0	37,603.24	8,643	4.35		Grand Total				\$3,664,861.40		
39	West	207	103	49.7	12,604.00	6,164	2.04								
40	Montana	309	123	39.8	14,812.41	4,594	3.22								
41	Nebraska	707	356	50.3	45,188.80	15,193	2.97								
42	Nevada	371	157	42.3	15,060.22	8,258	1.82								
43	New Hampshire	551	207	37.5	19,983.55	9,019	2.21								
44	New Jersey														
44	North	1,273	447	35.1	61,350.95	31,684	1.93								
45	South	473	251	53.0	40,487.27	8,807	4.59								
46	New Mexico	358	160	44.6	17,467.16	5,885	2.96								
47	New York														
47	Central	706	267	37.8	38,064.11	11,063	3.44								
48	H./M./B.	770	271	35.1	24,419.07	11,719	2.08								
49	Southeast	1,816	776	42.7	154,507.46	56,132	2.75								
50	West	310	99	31.9	9,981.36	5,691	1.75								
51	North Carolina	830	446	53.7	74,298.82	12,989	5.72								
52	North Dakota	170	80	47.0	9,612.90	3,325	2.89								
53	Ohio														
53	Cent. & S.E.	602	175	29.0	16,415.67	8,620	1.90								
54	Northeast	1,231	304	24.6	33,758.70	24,496	1.37								
55	N.W. Ohio/ S.E. Mich.	281	118	41.9	11,105.48	3,841	2.89								
56	S.W. Ohio	534	218	40.8	27,075.83	10,680	2.53								
57	Oklahoma	381	240	62.9	30,598.25	6,503	4.70								
58	Oregon	730	353	48.3	40,492.31	14,096	2.87								

<sup>1</sup> Reflects not only those groups that contributed directly to G.S.O., but also those groups that contributed to G.S.O. through their Conference areas (per lists of percentages submitted by areas).

<sup>2</sup> Group contributions reported on this schedule do not include contributions received as special, individual, in-memoriam, and special meetings.

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s—Via G.S.O.

JUNE - JULY 1996

**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.

**June**

- 7-9—*Alberta Beach, Alberta, Canada.* Second Annual Campout Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 536, Alberta Beach, AB T0E 0A0
- 7-9—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada.* Fifteenth Annual Gratitude Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 954, Station M, Calgary, AB T2P 2K4
- 7-9—*Stellarton, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 31st Annual Provincial Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 418, Stellarton, NS B0K 1S0
- 7-9—*Las Cruces, New Mexico.* 39th State Conv. Write: Ch., 2916 Missouri, Las Cruces, NM 88011
- 7-9—*Binghamton, New York.* 45th Annual Central NY Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 837, Johnson City, NY 13790-0837
- 7-9—*Akron, Ohio.* 61st Founders Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309
- 13-15—*Akron, Ohio.* LIM (Loners-Internationalist Meeting) 14th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., LIM Conf., Box 360446, Columbus, OH 43236
- 13-16—*Hagerstown, Maryland.* 26th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 105, Phoenix, MD 21131
- 14-16—*Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada.* 21st Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache, Creek, BC V0K 1H0
- 14-16—*Blenheim, Ontario, Canada.* 18th Annual Midseason Campout. Write: Ch., Box C-1, Port Alma, ON N0P 2A0
- 14-16—*Cedar Rapids, Iowa.* Area 24 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 71, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0071
- 14-16—*Springfield, Missouri.* Heart of the Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- 14-16—*Akron, Ohio.* World Hello Meeting-by-Mail and Loners Internationalists. Write: Ch., Box 360446, Columbus, OH 43236
- 20-23—*Indian Wells, California.* Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255-0128
- 21-23—*Coombs, British Columbia, Canada.* 35th Parksville Qualicum Rally. Write: Ch., 715 Ermineskin Ave., Parksville, BC U9P 2L4
- 21-23—*Bronx, New York.* BOTWCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 243, Westchester Sq., Sta., Bronx, NY 10461
- 21-23—*Casper, Wyoming.* 21st June Jamboree. Write: Secy., 109 S. Huber, Casper, WY 82609
- 28-30—*Moodus, Connecticut.* Soberfest '96. Write: Secy., 46 Brookside, Ave., Naugatuck, CT 06770
- 28-30—*Salt Lake City, Utah.* Pacific Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

**July**

- 4-7—*New York, New York.* 10th NYSCY-PAA. Write: Ch., 331 West 57 St., Box 116, New York, NY 10019
- 5-7—*Cherokee, Iowa.* District 15 Campout. Write: Ch., 301 N. 2nd St., Cherokee, IA 51012
- 11-14—*Lubbock, Texas.* Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79413
- 12-14—*Edmonston, New Brunswick, Canada.* District 4 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 474, Fort Kent, ME 04743
- 12-14—*Eugene, Oregon.* Summerfest '96. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97440
- 12-14—*Somerset, Pennsylvania.* PENNSCY-PAA VII. Write: Ch., Box 47, Tire Hill, PA 15959-0047
- 12-14—*Spokane, Washington.* Pacific Northwest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 9607, Spokane, WA 99205-9607
- 19-21—*Edson, Alberta, Canada.* 36th Dist.5 Roundup. Write: Secy., #206, 5238-5th Ave., Edson, AB T7E 1R6
- 19-21—*Prescott, Arizona.* Shoestring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3813, Prescott, AZ 86302-3813
- 19-21—*Carrabassett Valley (Sugarloaf), Maine.* 19th Annual Maine Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 51, Waterville, ME 04903-0051
- 19-21—*Havre, Montana.* 15th Annual Havre Mini Conf. Write: Ch., 209 10th Ave., Havre, MT 59501
- 19-21—*Ithaca, New York.* 29th Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., NYSCAA 96, Box 4192, Ithaca, NY 14851-4192
- 19-21—*Martinsburg, West Virginia.* 44th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 560, Martinsburg, WV 25401
- 24-28—*Fl. Lauderdale, Florida.* 40th State Conv. Write: Ch., 275 W. McNab RD. #202, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
- 26-28—*Los Angeles, California.* Fourth Annual Foothill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 184, Montrose, CA 91021
- 27-28—*Victoria, Texas.* Southwest Texas Area Service Workshop. Write: Ch., 1025 E. Lewis, Sinton, TX 78387

**Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine**

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

June (page 15): Tolerance at meetings

July (page 51): Money and responsibility

**August**

- 2-4—*Elbow, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Family Campout. Write: Ch., Box 173, Elbow SK S0H 1J0
- 2-5—*Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia.* 1996 "Top End" Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 40760, Darwin NT 0801, Australia
- 2-4—*Hayti, Missouri.* Second Annual Bootheel Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 365, R#1, Caruthersville, MO 63830
- 2-4—*Richmond, Virginia.* 47th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1291, Midlothian, VA 23113
- 8-11—*Harrison, Arkansas.* "Old Grandad" Arkansas Conv. Write: Tr., Box 506, Harrison, AR 72601
- 9-11—*Katherine, Northern Territory, Australia.* 1996 "Top End" Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 40760, Darwin NT 0801, Australia
- 9-11—*Squamish, British Columbia, Canada.* 23rd Squamish Roundup. Write: Ch., 656 W. Keith Rd., N. Vancouver, BC V7M 1M6
- 9-11—*Tulameen, British Columbia, Canada.* 15th Annual Tulameen Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3C, C-3, Tulameen, BC V0X 2L0
- 9-11—*Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada.* 12th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

**Planning a Future Event?**

Please send your information on August, September, October events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by June 10, the calendar deadline for the August-September 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 - for events on reverse side

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board



- 9-11—*Rosemont, Illinois*. 23rd State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 81388, Chicago, IL 60681-0388
- 9-11—*Reading, Pennsylvania*. 11th Annual Reading Area Conv. Write: Ch., RAAAC, Box 12821, Reading, PA 19612-2821
- 14-18—*Biloxi, Mississippi*. 50th State Conv./52nd Southeastern Conf. Write: Ch., Box 684, Columbia, MS 39429
- 15-18—*Omaha, Nebraska*. Cornhusker Roundup XIX. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 16-18—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. 24th Annual Lakeshore Conf. Write: Ch., c/o Alano, 200 Thornton Rd. N., Oshawa, ON L1J 6T7
- 16-18—*Paso Robles, California*. 28th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis, Obispo, CA 93406
- 16-18—*Corning, New York*. The August Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 861, Corning, NY 14830-0861
- 23-25—*Orlando, Florida*. 16th FCYPAA State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 547414, Orlando, FL 32854-7414

- 23-25—*Chautauqua, New York*. 43rd Annual Tri-State and Canada Assembly. Write: Ch., 21 First Ave., Franklinville, NY 14737-1318
- 23-25—*Scranton, Pennsylvania*. Third Scranton Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 8, Nicholson, PA 18446-0008
- 30-September 1—*Sparks, Nevada*. 19th Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup. Write: Ch., 700 E. Peckham Lane #272, Reno, NV 89502
- 30-September 1—*Abilene, Texas*. Big Country Conf. Write: Ch., 2850 Southwest Dr., Abilene, TX 79605

### September

- 5-8—*Anaheim, California*. 39th Annual ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 775, Placentia, CA 92670
- 6-8—*Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada*. 37th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 165, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7E8
- 6-8—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada*. 30th Dunnville Conv. Write: Ch., Box 163, Dunnville, ON N1A 2X5

- 6-8—*Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada*. Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 6-8—*Snowmass Village, Colorado*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1234, Carbondale, CO 81623
- 13-15—*Natchez, Mississippi*. Southern Hospitality Hoopla. Write: Ch., Box 18242, Natchez, MS 39122
- 13-15—*Beachwood, Ohio*. 59th Punderson Park Conf. Write: Sec., Punderson Park Conf., Box 22440, Beachwood, OH 44122
- 13-15—*Columbus, Ohio*. 10th Annual Area 53 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2131, Columbus, OH 43216
- 20-22—*Lake Tahoe, California*. 21st Fall Festival. Write: Ch., Box 16885, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151
- 20-22—*Taos, New Mexico*. 13th Annual Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 253, El Prado, NM 87529
- 20-22—*Fort Worth, Texas*. NETA Fall Assembly/Conv. Write: NETA Ch., 1410 East Mitchell St., Arlington, TX 76010