

## Louisiana A.A. Shares 'Secrets' From the Big Book

The presentation was a joint labor of love. Louisiana past delegate Danie B. wrote it, and alternate delegate Clyde B. articulated it at the Southeast Regional Forum in Daytona Beach, Florida, last December 4-6.

"Within the past months," Danie wrote, "I've heard over and over about one or another of our fellow A.A.s who have drunk again—some with as little as eight months of sobriety and others with eight years or more. Some ran, some ran back, others ran out of time. From those who have made it back, the question is usually the same: 'Why did I drink again?'"

"When I first came to A.A., I was surprised that so many would 'slip.' This was before I knew that self-knowledge alone was not the solution to alcoholism. I have learned since that for an alcoholic to drink is normal; for an alcoholic to *not* drink is awesome. I am no longer surprised at the question. I'm now surprised at the answers. Just a few I hear are, 'I stopped going to meetings' . . . 'stopped calling my sponsor' . . . 'quit reading the Big Book.' The best was, 'I wanted a relationship, so I started going to barrooms to find someone.' Most frightening is that I know some who did none of these things, yet they too drank again."

Continued Danie: "Alcoholism is truly a subtle foe, always waiting to get me during an unguarded moment. I've heard much about the principles, the prayers and the promises in the Big Book, but what about the warnings?" Here are some of the examples offered by Danie, who notes that "all I know about staying sober comes from the Big Book, and I believe the answers are there."

—"Men and women drink essentially because they like the effect produced by alcohol." (p. xxvi)

—"We learned we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics. This is the first step in recovery." (p. 30)

—"In some circumstances we have gone out deliberately to get drunk, feeling ourselves justified by nervousness, anger, worry, depression, jealousy or the like." (p. 37)

—"The alcoholic at certain times has no effective

mental defense against the first drink.... His defense must come from a Higher Power." (p. 43)

—"So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making. They arise out of ourselves, and the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot.... Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness." (p. 62)

—"Though our decision [in Step Three, 'to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him'] was a vital and crucial step, it could have little permanent effect unless at once followed by a strenuous effort to face, and to be rid of, the things in ourselves which had been blocking us. Our liquor was but a symptom. So we had to get down to causes and conditions." (p. 64)

—"Suppose we fall short of the chosen ideal and stumble? Does this mean we are going to get drunk? . . . If we are not sorry, and our conduct continues to harm others, we are quite sure to drink." (p. 70)

—"Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics." (p. 89)

## Conference Unifies A.A.'s Many Voices, Views and Hopes

Mincing no words about the fate of A.A., co-founder Bill W. declared that "unified we live; disunited we shall perish" (*As Bill Sees It*, p. 229). Now, at the end of the century that saw the birth and phenomenal growth of the Fellowship across the world, it may seem that the theme of the 1999 General Service Conference—"Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility"—is an obvious choice. But think again: Selecting the theme and content of the Conference, which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan the week of April 18-24, is not a simple matter for the Conference Agenda Committee. As with almost everything that affects A.A. as a whole, the decision-making process is lengthy, painstaking and democratic.

Says Delaware delegate Dave M., who chairs the committee that will consider a Conference theme for the



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year 2000: "We are very aware that even as the 130-odd Conference participants are united by their kinship as members of A.A., they come from different backgrounds, different points of view. The diversity is enormous, and it's our job to choose a theme that reflects the spirit of the entire Conference—an umbrella, if you will, under which everyone is comfortable."

Southern California past delegate Joe V. is the immediate past chairperson of the committee, which is made up of eight delegate members serving two-year terms. "The bulk of our work for the 1999 Conference took place a year ago," Joe reports. "During our committee meetings at the '98 Conference, we looked at all the themes suggested by areas around the U.S. and Canada, eliminating any that had been used during the decade past. We further considered the feedback, both positive and negative, from previous Conference attendees. Then we engaged in a kind of spiritual think-tank to come up with a theme, a timely one if possible. For example, the choice of last year's theme, 'Our Twelfth Step Work,' was influenced by the fact that a lot of treatment facilities had been closing down, making A.A. Twelfth Stepping more urgent than ever."

Additionally, Joe continues, "we looked for presentation/discussion topics spinning off the main theme, making sure their appeal would be broad-based and inclusive. Trying to learn from past Conferences, we asked ourselves, 'Were there too many presentations?' 'Was quality maintained throughout?' 'What about the timing?' and much more. Our job was made easier because, the previous September, we'd sent off what is becoming an annual letter to all area delegates, trustees, directors and General Service Office staff. It stated, among other things, that 'we hope you will assist us by asking members in your area to offer suggestions for the theme and presentation and workshop topics' for the upcoming Conference. During our sessions we tossed numerous suggestions around. When we agreed to disagree, or reached an impasse, God showed up and we got the job done."

Among the presentation/discussion topics slated for this year's Conference are "Our Responsibility to A.A.

Unity," "Many Faces—One Fellowship" and "Our Future Together." Workshop subjects will include "Harmony in the A.A. Community," "The Principle of Rotation" and "The Spiritual Significance of Anonymity." Notes Joe: "The selection process was a neat spiritual experience that I for one got more out of than I put in. At the end of the week our recommendations came before the Conference for discussion and approval. Our final act was to elect a new chairperson—Dave M.—to head the '99 Conference Agenda Committee."

Contemplating this year's theme, Northwest Texas delegate Linda H., who serves as alternate committee chair, feels it emphasizes the importance of harmony in the A.A. community. "What it says to me," she explains, "is that unity comes through humility—putting aside our personal, group and area agendas in order to do what is best for A.A. everywhere. For instance, after time in recovery I became able to give some of the strength I'd been given to help another drunk. Then, after a while in service, I realized that this same concept applies to groups joining together to share what they have with the Fellowship worldwide. Bill W. put it well: 'All A.A. progress can be reckoned in terms of just two words: humility and responsibility.'" (*ibid.*, p. 271)

With A.A.'s future much on their minds during this last Conference of the century, the 133 voting members—delegates, trustees and directors, along with members of the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs—will go about the business of achieving consensus on matters vital to A.A. "Each person, each committee and element of the Conference structure," Dave points out, "is closely linked through our Primary Purpose—what we really are is A.A. in microcosm. Many viewpoints will be expressed, and they are welcome. When put together like the synchronized workings of a giant clock, the sharings will form a great group conscience—once again assuring A.A. the bulwark of unity essential to our survival and growth in the years to come."

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## Faithful Fivers Rate a High Five

And what are Faithful Fivers? They are A.A. members who pledge at least \$5 each month toward the support of their local intergroup or central office.

The idea is catching on. In Arizona, for instance, *Just for Today*, a publication of the Tucson Area Intergroup, listed 46 High Fivers in its January issue, including "Anonymous x 2." The story noted that "the plan is used in several other cities and came about when we remembered that many of us had spent more than \$5 every week on alcohol during our drinking days."



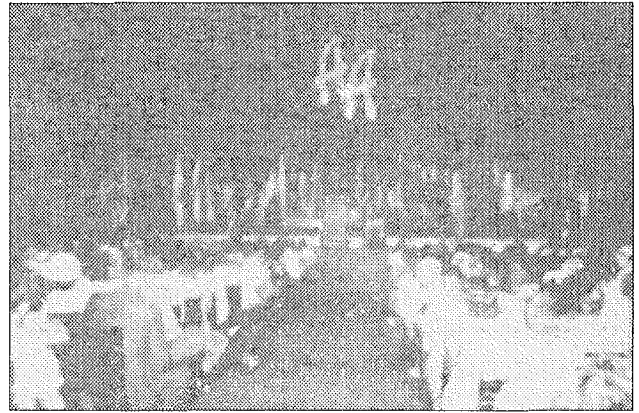
## The Glories of Conventions Past Color the One to Come

If past is but prelude, then A.A.'s Eleventh International Convention in the year 2000 will be the most glorious yet. Beginning with the first one in 1950, these conventions have served as touchstones in the Fellowship's growth, scope and commitment to carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics. They have been held every five years, as follows, to celebrate the anniversary of A.A.'s founding in 1935 and are now among the largest gatherings of their kind in the world. Originally termed "international" because Canadian A.A.s were present, the conventions today attract members from all over the world.

**Cleveland, Ohio, 1950.** A.A. held its first birthday party at age 15. The crowd of thousands (no accurate figure exists) voted to accept from the founders A.A.'s Legacy of Unity and the Twelve Traditions. Remarkably similar to today's, the program included workshops on A.A. for women, young people and those in correctional facilities. There was a spiritual meeting Sunday morning.

At a Big Book meeting Saturday night, co-founder Dr. Bob gave his final talk, just four months before his death on Nov. 16, 1950. Speaking with difficulty and holding his side in pain, he said, "There are two or three things that flash into my mind. . . . One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service.' We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind. . . ."

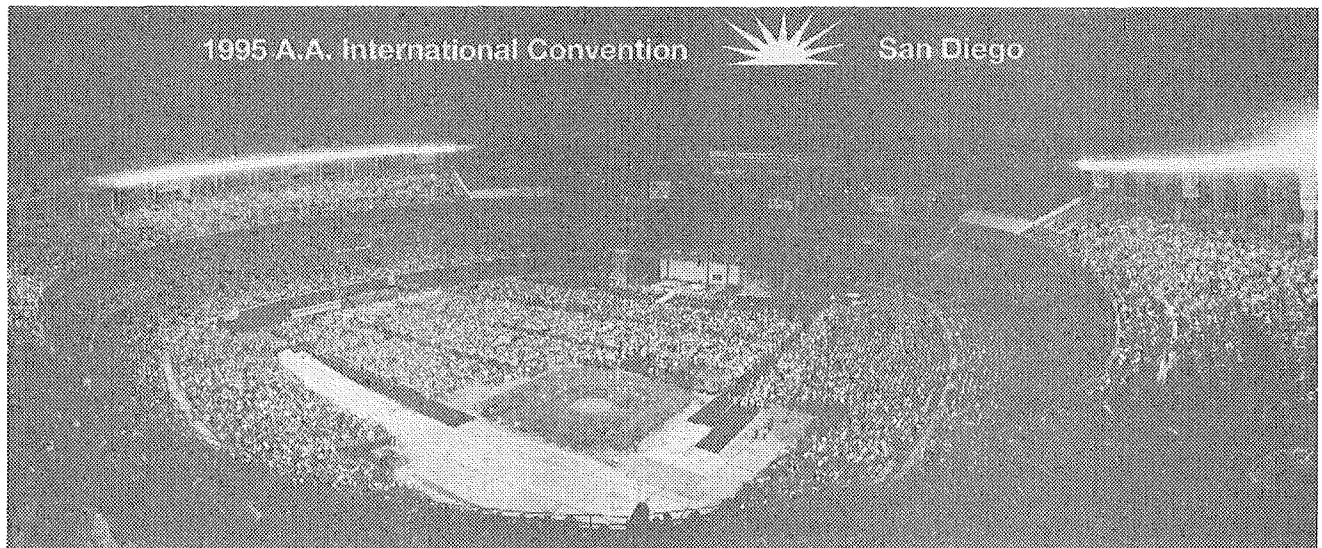
**St. Louis, Missouri, 1955.** The atmosphere was electric. At 20, A.A. "came of age" as the assemblage accepted the Third Legacy of Service (i.e., the service



*Long Beach, 1960*

structure and the General Service Conference). Declared co-founder Bill W.: "Above us floats a banner on which is inscribed the new symbol for A.A., a circle enclosing a triangle. The circle stands for the whole world of A.A., and the triangle stands for A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service." He emphasized that "A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of recovered alcoholics in action. We must carry A.A.'s message; otherwise we ourselves may fall into decay and those who have not yet been given the truth may die."

**Long Beach, California, 1960.** Notable at the 25th anniversary Convention was the number of historic figures present, from Bill and Lois W. to Marty M., one of the first women to achieve lasting sobriety in A.A. Bill gave a notable talk—notable especially because it seemed to go on forever. The meetings overflowed, thanks to a total of 8,700 registrants. No wonder Long Beach ran out of coffee.





**Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1965.** Who can forget the acceptance of the Responsibility Declaration by 10,000 A.A.s and their friends massed in the Maple Leaf Gardens! The film *Bill's Own Story* was introduced at this 30th anniversary celebration.

**Miami, Florida, 1970.** Mortally ill, Bill W. made a final, surprise appearance at the Sunday morning big meeting before a weeping, cheering audience of nearly 11,000 people (he would die five months later, on Jan. 24, 1971, in Miami). At the 35th, the coffee supply held. This time the ice cream ran out.

**Denver, Colorado, 1975.** A crowd of 19,800 surpassed wildest expectations. Workshops and panel discussions were so jammed that the fire department repeatedly closed down attendance. At this 40th birthday party, the stirring flag ceremony, now a beloved tradition, was held for the first time, with 29 countries represented, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. The theme "Let It Begin with Me" was articulated by all the flag bearers in their own language. The world's largest coffeemaker produced a half-million cups of brew daily sans mishap.

**New Orleans, Louisiana, 1980.** An elaborate Mardi Gras parade launched festivities marking A.A.'s 45th. More than 22,500 registrants, their families and friends filled the Superdome for the big meetings, which were translated simultaneously into French, Spanish, German and English. Celebrating the theme "The Joy of Living," 33 countries joined in the flag ceremony. At the first true marathon meeting, a nameless drunk off the street sobered up and then appeared at the Sunday spiritual meeting. An unforgettable moment came when a stranger told the assemblage, "I am probably the only person here who was present when Bill met Dr. Bob." He then introduced himself as Dr. Bob's only son, Robert "Smitty."

**Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 1985.** Hotels in the beautiful French-Canadian metropolis were so packed that some participants at the 50th roomed 75-90 miles out of town. Fifty-four countries marched in the flag ceremony, and Ruth Hock, Bill W.'s (nonalcoholic) secretary who had typed the original *Alcoholics Anonymous* manuscript, received the 5-millionth copy of the Big Book. The theme "Fifty Years with Gratitude" threaded through the meetings and workshops, which were enriched by the colorful anecdotes of oldtimers sharing their memories. Attendance: over 45,000.

**Seattle, Washington, 1990.** A.A.s came from 75 countries, some of them representing nations that had once been part of a closed-off U.S.S.R. Approximately 48,000 people participated in A.A.'s 55th Birthday party. A marathon candle, symbolically lighting the way to sobriety for the still-suffering alcoholic, burned from Thursday midnight to Sunday morning. Nell Wing, A.A.'s first (nonalcoholic) archivist, headed home with the 10-millionth copy of the Big Book.

**San Diego, California, 1995.** The theme "A.A. Everywhere—Anywhere" translated into A.A. sharing in a multitude of ways at the 60th anniversary, celebrated by 56,000 A.A.s with their families and friends. There were 87 countries represented in the flag ceremony, and the closing meeting concluded with the release of 10,000 balloons and dancing in the isles.

A.A.'s 65th Birthday—the first of the new century—will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 29-July 2, 2000. Information regarding registration, hotels, tourist attractions and more will be published in Box 4-5-9 as the date draws closer. As with past International Conventions, registration information will be mailed to groups and to intergroups/central offices in September 1999. In the meantime—don't drink, go to meetings and save your money.

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## Why Should We Pay To Go to A.A. Events?

Why, some members have asked, do A.A.s have to pay a fee to attend an A.A. conference, convention or other special event? As one Californian wrote to the General Service Office, "Some of us have difficulty when it comes to having the A.A. name attached to any gathering that requires payment to participate. What's more, some of the prices at many of these functions are not cheap." And, he adds, what about the payment of travel expenses and lodgings for certain 'select' speakers?"

It's true that A.A. membership is free, and meetings and most A.A. events are self-supporting in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. But conferences and conventions are A.A. get-togethers beyond the group-meeting level, generally ranging from special one- or two-hour meetings to banquets and weekend events—area, statewide, regional and international. These events require months of planning, preparation and money presented up-front to the hotel and other commercial facilities involved. Arrangements may also be made for A.A.s with special needs; providing wheelchair accessibility, sign-language interpreters for the deaf and, in some instances, programs in Braille for the blind.

Additional expenses include the printing of flyers, schedules, postage and supplies, not to mention renting meeting space, insurance coverage, travel and accommodations for the invited speakers, many of whom live a thousand miles or more from the convention site. As the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences and Conventions, available from G.S.O., state, "It should be made clear, when the speakers are booked, what terms are being made for expenses. Unless it's otherwise specified, speakers have a right to assume that all their travel, meal and hotel



expenses will be paid. Speakers will also expect hotel or motel accommodations as a matter of course; if they're to be guests in private homes, this should be explained well before their arrival."

How are the costs of a convention covered, and what can be done to ensure that the venture won't go deep in the red? According to the aforementioned Guidelines, "there's no substitute for common sense here; the committee must take a businesslike approach to finances and keep expenditures somewhere within a conservative estimate of anticipated revenues."

Among the sound methods that seem to be in general use: (1) underwriting of the event by area groups. Since the registration fees can be established at a level sufficient to cover the total costs, this should result in no actual out-of-pocket costs to the groups; and (2) building a convention fund to which the area groups contribute year-round. This method obviates the need to charge a registration fee except for visitors from out-of-state.

The criterion for using the A.A. name generally specifies that the event be put on by A.A.s for A.A.s about A.A.s. Although a golf tournament or a dance are beyond the purview of A.A.'s primary purpose, such events are often scheduled as social adjuncts to the main meetings and workshops scheduled.

When Al-Anon participates in an A.A. convention, the relationship and financial arrangements usually follow one of two patterns: When an A.A. convention committee invites Al-Anon to participate with its own program, A.A. may pay all expenses (for meeting rooms, coffee, etc.) and keep all income from registrations and such in a single fund earmarked to cover the convention bills, after which any excess income reverts back to A.A. Alternatively, Al-Anon may have a separate registration and cover its own expenses directly, besides assuming its share of common expenses. In this case, Al-Anon receives its own share of the registration income and also shares in any losses incurred.

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## G.S.O. and Y2K

As many are aware, a phenomenon exists in the Information industry because computer programs historically used dates whereby the year was represented by only two digits (for example 95 rather than 1995). Therefore, arithmetic operations, computations, comparisons, sorting, etc. will yield incorrect results when working with years outside the range of 1900-1999. The scope of the problem spans all industries and is the first problem to be truly global.

Since G.S.O. deals mostly in legacy applications our problem extends across all applications except for Records and Grapevine Subscriptions which have been rewritten more recently. Legacy applications were written when frugality was the rule and every byte of saved storage was important in order to minimize expensive storage space and lessen data entry time. Moreover, programs written in the '70s were never expected to still be in use 30 years later.

The planning and methodology necessary to effect the change from two to four digit years can be overwhelming and the magnitude of the project enormous. First our entire portfolio of software must be assessed and since all of our systems interact with one another it is not possible to change one system at a time. They must all be changed before major testing can begin.

To date our entire portfolio of hardware has been assessed; G.S.O.'s PC application software and hardware has been surveyed, tested and addressed; an impact assessment has been performed; and date alternatives have been evaluated and a solution selected. We expect to be completely ready for comprehensive testing in April 1999.

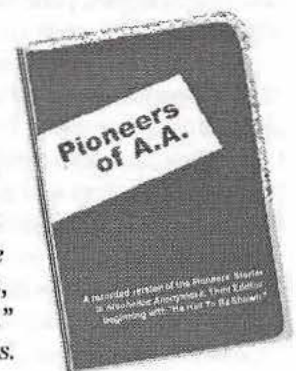
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## New Audio Cassettes



*Living Sober* (MB-7) four tapes in book-like binder. \$18.00; 20% discount applies.

**Pioneers in A.A.** (MB-4)  
Stories from the Pioneer section of Alcoholics Anonymous. Three tapes in book-like binder, begin with story #2, "He Had to Be Shown," through story 12, "The Keys of the Kingdom."  
\$18.00; 20% discount applies.





## Does Your Group Have a Tax ID Number?\*

"What is my group's ID number?" . . . "I was told we could use the A.A. ID number. What is it?" . . . "The bank told me to call and get your tax number to use! . . ." "Are my group contributions deductible?"

These are a few of the countless questions fielded by the controller and assistant controller at G.S.O. on an almost daily basis.

The fact is, today you must have a number to be in the game. Unfortunately, each A.A. entity, a group, intergroup, central office, area, district, etc. will at some point realize that it needs to comply with Federal and/or local laws.

The first step usually is to obtain a "Federal ID Number." This is like your personal Social Security number, it's your group's link with the world—not A.A. Each group must obtain its own number by filing form SS-4, "Application for Employer Identification Number." To obtain the form, call your local Social Security or IRS office listed in the phone book. For those Internet types you can access the IRS Web site and download the form.

One question on the form asks if there is one group exemption number that applies to all. However, because of the autonomous nature of A.A., each group must get its own individual number. G.S.O. does not direct the groups; the controller does not audit group activities. A.A. works in reverse; the Fellowship asks the office to do things via the General Service Conference.

Now you are in the system—but you are still not "Tax Exempt." To be Tax Exempt, there are a few more steps. Again, call or go online to the IRS and ask for various publications. Publication 557, "Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization," (perhaps 44 pages) discusses the rules and procedure for organizations that seek to obtain recognition of exemption from federal income tax. For example, your G.S.O. is exempt under section 501 (C) (3) of the code.

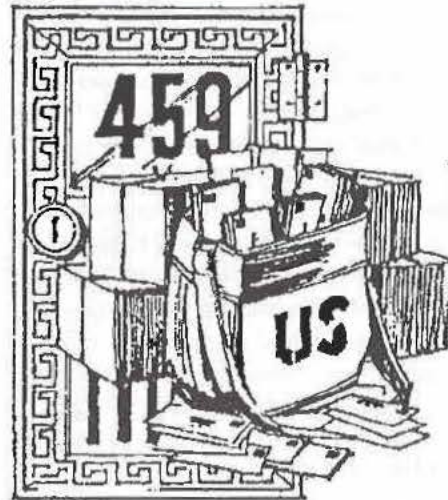
After you have decided if it is necessary to become "Tax Exempt," then go back to the IRS or the Web site and get Package 1023, "Application for Recognition of Exemption," under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. You will also need Form 8718 "User Fee for Exempt Organization Letter Request." If there are any accountants, lawyers, or others in your group who have had experience with these forms, etc. perhaps you can use their experience and guidance.

You are almost there! Soon the contributions to your group will be tax deductible. But each year you will receive forms in the mail for someone to review to deter-

mine if your group took in enough money to require filing. Ta Daa—you are there!

What about State Taxes? Sorry, we really can't help you there. You need to talk to people in your area.

*\*This information applies to the U.S. only.*



From  
the 1998  
Mailbag

### ***When did Dr. Bob and Bill meet?***

An article on the General Service Conference [June-July 1998] mentions that Bill W. and Dr. Bob met on a "Sunday morning in Akron, Ohio." Actually they met on Sunday afternoon, May 12, 1935—Mother's Day—at 5 p.m. (See "Pass It On," page 143.) Dr. Bob was still too hungover on Sunday morning, since he'd been passed out since Saturday afternoon. He probably needed to get fortified prior to his historic meeting with Bill. **Paul H., Southeast Region**

### ***Since when are we medical experts?***

I have read your lead article—a Q&A entitled "Sponsorship Goes Two Ways" [April-May 1998]—and support your answer to the person whose sponsor suggested he change his sobriety date for having taking prescribed medication. [The shared experience of A.A.] to "not depend on my sponsor for legal or medical advice" was perfect. Our area recently had a Conference-topic workshop specifically about the booklet *Living Sober*, and I was personally appalled at the number of "medical experts" ready to overturn previous recommendations.

In our discussion of Twelfth Step work, one person felt strongly that we should be prepared to offer alcohol to the suffering recoverer. A newcomer, God bless her, said she had been present at such a call, and the prospect wound up dying. As a surgeon, I have little experience with alcoholism and refer patients to physicians with expertise in this area. God gave us accoun-

tants, medical specialists and attorneys for a reason, and it behooves us to lower our egos and turn these problems over to people who are better able to handle them. **Richard M., Pacific Region**

### **Responses to "Open and Closed Meetings—There Is a Difference" (Feb.-March 1998, page 3)**

Regarding the question "What do you think about A.A.s who talk at meetings about their experience with drugs as well as alcohol?" I have a problem when others say we can't mention drugs in a meeting because it's not A.A. Most of us know by now that if taking drugs can lead us back to alcohol, we must talk about it. **Shelly M., Southeast Region**

In our area, we have a lot of drug addicts who like to argue the point of discussing not only their drug addiction but the how and where of shooting up, etc. Coming into A.A. as a "pure" alcoholic and being brought up, so to speak, on A.A. language, I feel lost while listening at most meetings to things that are foreign to me and certainly will not keep this alcoholic sober. **Diane H., Pacific Region**

We held a group conscience meeting last spring to discuss the problem of people who share problems that may not relate to alcoholism, such as gambling, sex and relationship difficulties. And some of them, instead of identifying themselves as alcoholics, say they're "cross-addicted" or "an alcoholic addict" and so forth. One suggested remedy for this was to announce at the beginning of the meeting that if you don't identify yourself as an alcoholic, you cannot share at our closed meetings.

My concern: The Big Book, on page 68, starts a paragraph with, "Now about sex"; and there's a chapter on "The Family Afterward" [page 122]. If the Big Book and the Twelve & Twelve discuss certain issues other than alcoholism, is it right for us to stop an A.A. from similar sharing in our meetings? At the same time, I came to A.A. to stop drinking and stay stopped. I believe that when people are troubled by overeating or drug addiction, they can join fellowships for their specific problems. But what can we do? Also, what if overeating or gambling are causing some to drink over their actions?

I know an A.A. group should stick to its Primary Purpose. Tradition Three states, "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." It further says that "... we must never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or conform to anything." [Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 141]. So if people are confused about whether or not they are alcoholics but do have a desire to stop drinking, how can we refuse to let them share? **Jimmy D., Northeast Region**

Because of our headlong rush to help someone recover, people are being told to ignore A.A.'s singleness of purpose, and that it's okay to talk about drugs. It seems that the words "singleness of purpose" have become something to be used only when it's convenient to do so. Drugs were around when the Big Book was being written—there's nothing new or fashionable about them. There is not a thing in the first 181 pages of the Big Book, or the spiritual experience in the back of it, that has gone out-of-date in today's world of high-paced technology. A.A.'s message needs protection, for if we forget the past experience of the Washingtonians, we could become just another movement that has vanished because we tried to become a solution to all the problems of the world—only to find that we are totally unable to help even ourselves. **Carl V., Southeast Region**

My group really appreciated the article on "Open and Closed Meetings." Over the years, we have attracted more and more young people from treatment centers who are either dually addicted or solely drug addicts. We have struggled with our format.

After reading the article, we reproduced the 1987 General Service Conference statement describing a closed meeting as. . . "limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. . ." which we now read every week. This has made a big difference in explaining to all the difference between an open and closed meeting. **Fran P., Pacific Region**

### **"How Do You Make an Old-Fashioned Twelfth-Step Call?" (Oct.-Nov. 1998, page 6)**

The article is right-on except for Item 5: "Suggest detox/rehab if needed. If such is indicated, arrange with family or significant others, with prospect's permission if possible. Should violence seem imminent, leave. If necessary, make the appropriate phone call." For years we have been insisting that we A.A.s not play the role of doctor. Our recent workshops at the General Service Conference and our literature, including the Big Book and especially the booklet *Living Sober*, suggest we turn to a doctor if the prospect seems "very sick." The doctor's the one to prescribe treatment.

Here in North Carolina, most of our detox and rehab centers are run by the state. The names and Social Security numbers of patients become part of their permanent records and are likely to become open knowledge in this computer age. And once sober, they usually face medical exams and a lot of paperwork before being allowed to renew their driver's license. Many patients want to know, when arriving at a detox unit, "How did I get here?" They are frequently told, "An A.A. member placed you here," and we have had lawsuits filed against A.A.s for doing this on their own. It is



so much better when the prospects are told, "A doctor suggested detoxing." *Art D., Southeast Region*

### **The 'Minority View'**

In the article "For Unity's Sake, Let's Not Skew Our 'Minority View'" (Oct.-Nov. 1998, page 3), Tanya E. of Hawaii was quoted as saying that, "A real problem arises when a minority has had ample opportunity to state their case but, still unable to sway the majority, refuses to accept the group conscience and continues to lobby for their way. . . ." This response to the minority voice—"Sit down, you're rocking the boat," as Nicely Nicely put it in *Guys and Dolls*—is one I have trouble with. No one likes to be a pain in the neck, but our Concepts guarantee us that we will be heard and heard and heard. I have not run across anything in A.A. that limits the number of times a subject may be broached for discussion. So, editors, I hope that in the interest of fairness and balance, you are planning a piece on "sticktoitiveness." I hope to see an article suggesting that we not throw up our hands, walk away and shrug, saying, "Oh, well. . . ." It's too important. *John K., Southeast Region*

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## **Viewpoint**

### **Are Rituals Offputting To Newcomers?**

"I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is May 24, 1965. I believe we have a problem in our program—namely, that the ever-expanding rituals we're substituting for the sharing of our experience, strength and hope are turning newcomers away."

Writing from his home in Connersville, Indiana, Jack S. notes: "Like many oldtimers, I had dropped off meeting attendance to one or two a month. Then, about two years ago, a man newly sober phoned me and said that in order to keep his professional license he was required to get an A.A. sponsor who would accompany him to three meetings a week for at least two years. Since I had been told, a long time ago, that if I wanted to keep what had been given to me for free, I must be willing to pass it on, I agreed to sponsor him. The two years have passed, and I am glad to report that he is sober and practicing his profession."

However, Jack says, "it was disturbing to find that every one of the more than 300 meetings we attended consisted of the reading of the Twelve Steps, the

Promises and part of Chapter Five from the Big Book, and on and on. We have listened to more than 50 hours of repetition—50 hours of ritual substituted for the sharing of experiences.

"When we in A.A. recommend that new people attend 90 meetings in 90 days, we may be telling them that the 15 hours of ritualistic reading they're going to be subjected to will help them learn how to live a sober life. That isn't the program that saved my life! People who had 'walked the walk' told me what they had done. At least one of the men who shared with me had been Twelfth-Stepped by [A.A. co-founders] Dr. Bob and Bill W."

Several years ago, Jack adds, "my sponsor and a few other concerned oldtimers attempted to get the meeting format of their home group back to more sharing instead of the endless ritual, but were told they were 'a bunch of has-beens.' It certainly was fortunate for me that when I came to A.A. sick and drunk, those 'has-beens' were there for me."

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## **Archives Workshop Upholds Spirit of Service**

"I originally looked at archives as antiques, like my father's Oldsmobile," observed Northeast Ohio delegate Bob McK. "But then I came to see that some important A.A. principles were at play here, such as 'back to basics' and 'shared experience.' Speaking at the Third Annual A.A. Archives Workshop in Akron last fall, he noted that the history of the Fellowship "keeps A.A.s close to our origins, makes the past relevant to the present and helps to safeguard the future for the sick alcoholics to come."

Northeastern Ohio archivist Sandra S. credits the Akron Intergroup past archivist Gail L. and the Area Archives Committee for making the September Workshop "a magnificent event that well-served its purpose: to share information and archival techniques as well as to uphold the spirit that is vital to all A.A. service. Archivists come together to participate in the exchange of ideas and express their love of the history of A.A. in an atmosphere that is supportive of their endeavors and their hard work."

Highlights of the weekend Workshop included one presentation on the early care and treatment of alcoholics and another on the life of Sister Ignatia, the non-alcoholic nun who worked tirelessly with A.A. co-founder Dr. Bob to care for 5,000 alcoholics at Akron's St. Thomas Hospital when the Fellowship was very young. (*Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, p. 67) An Oldtimers Panel offered what Sandy recalls as "some



examples of long-time sobriety, including Searcy of Texas, who had sponsored Ebby T., the beloved friend and sponsor of A.A. co-founder Bill W."

Saturday night's program featured "Children of the Healers," including Dr. Bob's children "Smitty" and Sue Windows, among others. Remembers Jay M., archival assistant, the Akron Archives: "The atmosphere in that room was unlike anything I have heard or felt in the 16 years God has graced me with in our program. To listen to the children of the founders, to be reminded of the humility and simplicity of the early days and to feel the palpable spirituality permeating the room was overwhelming."

During the break, Jay relates, "I encountered a young man who showed me his St. Thomas Hospital patient bracelet. Sober just seven days, he said, 'I have learned who Dr. Bob was, but who was Bill W.?' How do you answer that? You could tell him Bill W. was a co-founder of A.A. and, with Dr. Bob, was mainly responsible for the Twelve Steps. You could tell him that, with some help, he wrote the Big Book. But those answers tell this young man *what* Bill W. was, not *who* he was. His question is the reason for there being A.A. archives. We preserve our history so those who follow us will know not just what the oldtimers were but who.... Archives are concerned with that and much more. Do you want to know what happened at a council meeting in 1966? Or when your home group started up? Or how A.A. moved from Akron to the rest of the world? Or why we

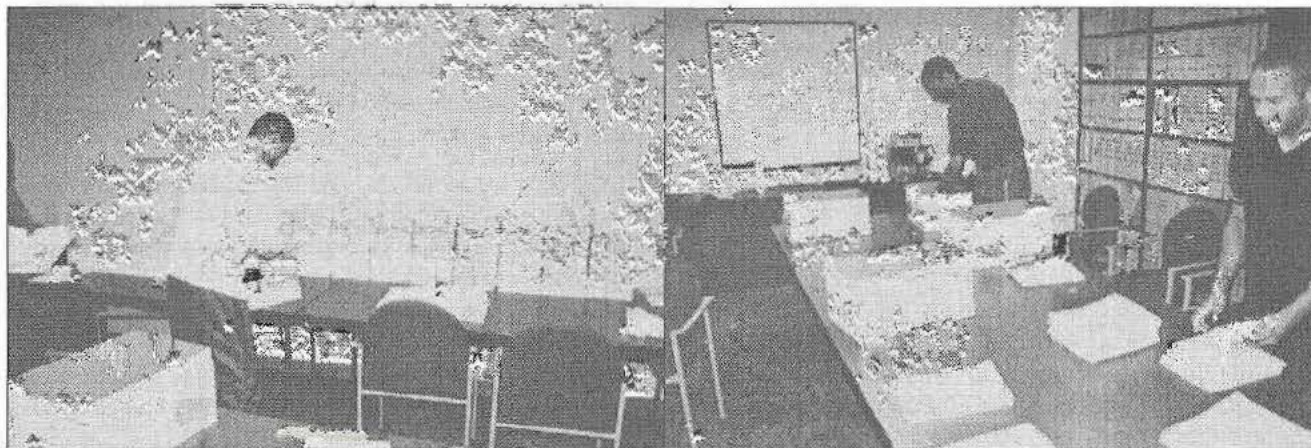
say the Lord's Prayer at meetings? The answers are in the archives."

Illinois archivist Rick T. recalls that "the sharing of ethics, practical procedures and established access policies have been combined with our experience, strength and hope throughout each year's sessions. The Archives Workshop is a genuine open forum of ideas relating to our archives effort." And Rob S., alternate Northeast Ohio delegate and delegate-elect (Panel 49) says that "as a non-archives person, I found that this Workshop exposed me to the necessity for maintaining some form of archives to protect the history of our various areas, groups, intergroups and so on. I further learned how important the service structure is in providing guidance and communication for the archival community in its efforts to preserve A.A. history."

Speaking at the Workshop, Western Washington archivist David C. described the day-to-day responsibilities of the A.A. archivist. "When I was a district archivist," he said, "a good friend who was our Seattle Intergroup office manager told me, 'Enjoy what you do today, for you are a collector. When you move to the area level, you will become a caretaker.' I find that to be mostly true today, for I am the historian and caretaker of our area archives, a job I have loved. I still find time to pursue the odd piece here and there and add to our collection—that fire still burns within me and always will. But my main endeavor is the upkeep and preservation of our past. I am asked almost daily for information about

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## Gearing Up for the 49<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference



*Although the work of the Conference goes on all year—things at G.S.O. really begin to hum and pick up speed from January on—right up to April 18. In the photos above (left to right) Miguel Rodriguez, who heads up the copy room, and Shawn Buckley and Carlos Bauza—all nonalcoholics—prepare committee background material for mailing to the delegates who requested this information. Work on this project took approximately eight days—consisting of copying, sorting, assembling, and preparing mailing labels. Then it was on to the mail and shipping department where supervisor Aubrey Pereira (nonalcoholic) and his able staff began boxing and mailing these 5 lbs. packets.*



A.A. and am grateful to my predecessors on our Archives Committee for setting up our repository. Without this resource the job of historian would be far more difficult, if not almost impossible."

The first three Archives Workshops were held in Akron. The convention voted to hold the fourth in Chicago, Sept. 16-19, 1999.

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## Treatment and Correctional Facilities

### Nutmeggers Set Guidelines for Literature Giving

For some time the Connecticut Area Corrections and Treatment Committee was finding that efforts to disseminate A.A. literature were creating more questions than solutions. Members wanted to know: Is it within the spirit of the Traditions to take free literature into for-profit treatment facilities? Does it make sense to distribute lengthy books to newcomers in short-term facilities? Should we concern ourselves with institutions outside our own bailiwick? And, finally, what about accountability and record-keeping?

In December the C&T committee approved guidelines set forth in a statement of intent that "has evolved from this committee's experience and discussions over two years." Some excerpts:

*"Should we take free A.A. literature into for-profit treatment facilities? Whenever possible, we distribute literature directly to alcoholics in institutions, not to the institutions themselves. Sometimes, however, that approach is impractical; and sometimes an institution requires that we distribute literature through its staff. We are guests of the institution and must comply with its rules.*

*"Tradition Ten reminds us that A.A. [as such] has no opinion on outside issues. Since there are no A.A. rehabs, detoxes, hospitals or halfway houses, all such places are 'outside enterprises' or, at most, 'related facilities.' Therefore their financial status and corporate structure, the fees they charge and their attitudes toward A.A. itself are outside issues. We feel that we are in opposition to Tradition Ten if we refuse to provide A.A. literature for alcoholics in an institution that some people feel 'should buy its own A.A. books.'*

*"We also feel that such a policy punishes some newcomers because they happen to be in for-profit institu-*

*tions. Further, such a policy implies that it is the institution's job to carry the A.A. message; as far as we know, this idea is not supported by any Conference-approved literature. We do try, however, to keep C&T facilities informed about A.A. literature by providing them periodically with up-to-date catalogs and order forms. Some institutions choose to buy literature on their own; others don't. As a committee we have no opinion on this matter.*

*"How should we distribute books to newcomers in institutions? Some districts have found it appropriate to distribute fewer books in short-term treatment centers, focusing instead on providing meetings, meeting lists and introductory pamphlets. Others point out that Conference-approved literature is the closest thing we have to a voice of the Fellowship as a whole; no individual can speak in that way for A.A. According to this view, providing newcomers with basic Conference-approved A.A. texts is an essential part of providing service.*

*"When we do have to distribute literature through institutional staff members, we do not control its destiny in their hands. Sometimes A.A. literature reaches a dead-end in someone's office or in a storage room. We welcome information about such situations but may not always be able to remedy them to everyone's satisfaction.*

*"What about accountability and record-keeping? After a series of honest efforts over the past two years, we have found that it is impractical—and in some ways unfair—to ask district C&T chairs to keep track of how they distribute the literature bought with their share of the area C&T budget. Would such record-keeping help us carry the message? Our experience has been that the effort created obstacles to our work.*

*"We have, however, put together a database that lists the institutional meetings maintained by district C&T committees in Area 11. At this time the list contains about 150 weekly meetings; it has proven useful to some people, on and off the committee. Periodically updated and circulated more widely, it might become even more useful to our area.*

*"Should we spend area money on books for inmates not within the area? We believe that C&T committees in Area 11 should not neglect institutions in their own districts in order to make A.A. available in facilities outside the area. But if a C&T committee can fulfill its district responsibilities and also work outside the area, isn't it appropriate to use district or area funds to buy literature that the committee considers essential to carrying A.A. to the newcomer?"*

*In conclusion, the statement of intent emphasizes that "a committee should always be careful in its purchasing and distribution policies, should keep the Fellowship well-informed of what it is doing, and should be open to ideas and criticisms that might improve its service to A.A."*



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

APRIL - MAY 1999

## 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.

### April

- 01-04—*San Diego, California.* San Diego Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 922, Carlsbad, CA 92018
- 01-05—*Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.* 1999 Australian International Conv. Write: Reg. Officer, Box 5745, West End, Queensland 4101 Australia
- 02-04—*Pretoria, South Africa.* 50th South Africa National Conv. Write: Ch., Box 284, Olfantsfontein, 1665, Republic of So. Africa
- 02-04—*New Orleans, Louisiana.* 31st Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 3117 Independence St., Ste. D., Metairie, LA 70006
- 02-04—*Tulsa, Oklahoma.* Trail of Hope Conf. Write Ch., 4308 S. Oswego, Tulsa, OK 74135
- 02-04—*Washington, D.C.* Singleness of Purpose Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3074, McLean, VA 22103
- 09-11—*Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.* Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., #17, 1601 23 St. North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 4M9
- 09-11—*Council Bluffs, Iowa.* Bluffs Roundup. Write: Ch., 19271 245th St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503
- 09-11—*Fort Wayne, Indiana.* 19th Conv. & 56th Banquet. Write: Ch., 8306 Schlatter Rd., Leo, IN 46765
- 09-11—*Tarrytown, New York.* 34th Annual SENY Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1688, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159
- 09-11—*Grand Forks, North Dakota.* Northern Spring Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 14121, Grand Forks, ND 58208-4121
- 09-11—*Sandusky, Ohio.* 24th Mini Conference. Write: Ch., Box 3834, Akron, OH 44314-0834
- 09-11—*Long View, Texas.* East Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2082, Long View, TX 75606
- 15-18—*Eureka Springs, Arkansas.* 23rd Springtime in the Ozarks Conv. Write: Conv. Trsr., Box 742, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
- 16-18—*Ermioni, Peloponnese, Greece.* Fifth Int'l. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 52185, 14610 Nea Erythra-Athens, Greece
- 16-18—*Moscow, Russia.* XI General Service Conf. in Russia. Write: Ch., 129128, Box 33, Moscow-128, Russia
- 16-18—*Banff, Alberta, Canada.* 26th Annual Banff Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 6744, Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 2E6
- 16-18—*Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.* 48th Annual Miracles Rally. Write: Ch., Victoria C/O, #8-2020 Douglas St., Victoria, BC V8T 4L1
- 16-18—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.* Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 453, Dauphin, MB R7N 2V3

- 16-18—*Hill Island, Ontario, Canada.* Tools of Recovery. Write: Ch., 142 Mechanic St., #803, Watertown, NY 13601
- 16-18—*Kailua Kona, Hawaii.* Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 390727, Kailua Kona, HI 96739
- 16-18—*Roswell, New Mexico.* Road Runner Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o Dry Harbour Club, 202 E. Van Buren, Rosewell, NM 88201
- 16-18—*St. Paul, Alberta, Canada.* District Three Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 974, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0
- 17-18—*Norfolk, Nebraska.* NE Nebraska Spring Classic. Write: Ch., 608 Blaine St., Norfolk, NE 68701
- 23-24—*Manhattan, Kansas.* The Week That Was 22nd Anniv. Write: Ch., Box 1433, Manhattan, KS 66502
- 23-25—*Atikokan, Ontario, Canada.* 35th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 391, Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0
- 23-25—*Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.* 35th Annual Blossom Time Conv. Box 851, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6V6
- 23-25—*Colorado Springs, Colorado.* Annual Corrections Conf. Write: Ch., 1509 Coronado Pkwy. North, Denver, CO 80229-5594
- 23-25—*Georgetown, Texas.* Chisholm Trail Convention. Write: Ch., 16601 FM 1325 #823, Austin, TX 78728-1126
- 23-25—*Fairmont, Minnesota.* Annual Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 748, Fairmont, MN 56031
- 23-25—*Jackson, Mississippi.* Emerald Jubilee. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289-1664
- 23-25—*Kansas City, Missouri.* 58th Anniversary Celebration. Write: Ch., 311 W. 80th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo 64114
- 23-25—*Omaha, Nebraska.* Heartland Roundup. Write: Ch., 2717 So. 116th Ave. Circle, Omaha, NE 68144
- 23-25—*Canadaigua, New York.* 14th Annual Conference of the Lakes. Write: Ch., 1 Stonington Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

April (pages 44-55): A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose

May (pages 32-39): Sex and Sobriety

- 23-25—*Orangeburg, South Carolina.* Orangeburg Spring Round-Up IV. Write: Ch., Box 2431, Orangeburg, SC 29116
- 23-25—*Superior, Wisconsin.* 54th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 996, Superior, WI 54880
- 23-25—*Chipley, Florida.* Country Round-Up. Write: 746 4th Street, Chipley, FL 32428
- 23-25—*Galesburg, Illinois.* Spring Fling. Write: Ch., Box 1772, Galesburg, IL 61402-1772
- 23-25—*Waterloo, Iowa.* Metro Spring Anniver. Write: Ch., Box 4221, Waterloo, IA 50704
- 30-May 2—*Golden, British Columbia, Canada.* 32nd Golden Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1405, Golden, BC V0A 1H0
- 30-May 2—*Oliver, British Columbia, Canada.* South Okanagan 15th Annual Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 392, Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
- 30-May 2—*Irvine, California.* 12th Gay & Lesbian Conf. Write: Ch., Box 5028, Laguna Beach, CA 92652
- 30-May 2—*Pocatello, Idaho.* Area 18 Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 4573, Pocatello, ID 83205-4573
- 30-May 2—*Marion, Illinois.* Little Egypt Roundup. Write: Ch., 14555 Allen Rd., Herrin, IL 62948

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on June, July or August events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by April 10, the calendar deadline for the June/July 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





- 30-May 2—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. Annual Red Road Conv. Write: Ch., Box 9460, Albuquerque, MN 87119
- 30-May 2—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 51st Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6, Bovard, PA 15619
- 30-May 2—*Sioux Falls, South Dakota*. Area 63 1999 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1872, Sioux Falls, SD 57101
- 30-May 2—*Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*. 48th Annual Spring 1999 Conf. Write: Trsr., 159 Whitetail Blvd., Baraboo, WI 53913

## May

- 01-02—*Scottsbluff, Nebraska*. Panhandle Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 256, Scottsbluff, NE 69363
- 07-08—*Petawawa, Ontario, Canada*. Mother's Day Conf. Write: Ch., 8 Norman St., Petawawa, ON K8A 3C9
- 07-09—*Craig, Colorado*. Little Skyline Conf. Write: Ch., Box 123, Craig, CO 81626
- 07-09—*Palm Springs, California*. Sober in the Sun Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1935, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
- 07-09—*Westbrookville, New York*. Orange County Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 210, Middletown, NY 10940-0210
- 07-09—*Roanoke, Virginia*. Roanoke Men's Workshop. Write: Box 21053, Roanoke, VA 24018
- 07-09—*Brattleboro, Vermont*. Vermont Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1999, Wallingford, VT 05733
- 07-09—*Richland, Washington*. Inland Empire Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5774, Kennewick, WA 99336-5774
- 13-16—*Daytona Beach, Florida*. Ninth Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 214911, South Daytona, FL 32121
- 14-16—*Lake Arrowhead, California*. Mountain High Conf. Write: Ch., 2621 Centinela Ave., #7, Santa Monica, CA 90405
- 14-16—*Santa Barbara, California*. 10th Annual Santa Barbara Get Together. Write: Ch., 1220 Bath St., #1, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- 14-16—*Louisville, Kentucky*. Ninth Falls City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37137, Louisville, KY 40233-7137
- 14-16—*Dayton, Ohio*. Women's Workshop XXI. Write: Ch., 39 Redwood Ave., Dayton, OH 45405
- 14-16—*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*. 58th Annual Oklahoma State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 60202, Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0202.
- 14-16—*Appleton, Wisconsin*. 50th Annual Spring Conf. Write: Secy., 247A W.15th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901
- 21-23—*Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada*. 1999 Kamloops Annual Roundup. Write: Secy., #209-240 Royal Ave., Kamloops, BC V2B 3P3
- 21-23—*Boca Raton, Florida*. Sponsorship Weekend 7. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 541001, Lake Worth, FL 33454
- 21-23—*Kitimat, British Columbia,*

- Canada*. Kitimat Roundup. Write: Ch., 46 Greyling, Kitimat, BC V8C 2K6
- 21-23—*Holyrood, Newfoundland, Canada*. 41st NF/Lab. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 149, Harbour Main, NF A0A 2P0
- 21-23—*Magog, Québec, Canada*. Spring Roundup. Write Ch., 731 Rte. 243, Mansonville, PQ J0E 1X0
- 21-23—*Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada*. 48th Annual Comox Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1337, Comox, BC V9N 7Z8
- 27-31—*Gatlinburg, Tennessee*. 22nd Great Smoky Mountain Recovery Campout. Write: Ch., Box 52385, Knoxville, TN 37950
- 28-30—*Bakersfield, California*. Golden Empire Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 42894, Bakersfield, CA 93384-2894
- 28-30—*St. Petersburg, Florida*. Sobriety in Action Conference. Write: Ch., Box 2571, Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2571
- 28-30—*Waycross, Georgia*. Okefenokee Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 403, Waycross, GA 31502
- 28-30—*Cadillac, Michigan*. 15th Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1363, Gaylord, MI 49735
- 28-30—*Bozeman, Montana*. Spring Roundup 1999. Write: Ch., Box 1538, Bozeman, MT 59771
- 28-30—*Dallas, Texas*. Gathering of the Eagles. Write: Ch., Box 35865, Dallas, TX 75235
- 28-30—*Wichita Falls, Texas*. Texoma Freedom Rally. Write: Ch., Box 4200, Wichita Falls, TX 76308
- 28-30—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup XXVI. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165-0295
- 28-31—*Boston, Massachusetts*. 23rd Boston Gay & Lesbian Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 1009 GMF, Boston, MA 02205
- 28-31—*Kauai, Hawaii*. The 19th Annual Kauai Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1301, Koloa, Kauai, HI 96756
- 28-31—*Blue Ridge, Georgia*. North Georgia Sobriety Run. Write: Ch., Box 865, Blue Ridge, GA 30513

## June

- 04-06—*Flagstaff, Arizona*. Flagstaff Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 155, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 04-06—*Oakland, California*. NCCAA 52nd Annual Summer Conf. Write: Trsr., Box 508, Rocklin, CA 95677
- 04-06—*Leonardtown, Maryland*. Camp Maria Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
- 04-06—*Dallas, Texas*. 54th Annual Texas Sate Convention. Write: Trsr., Box 595833, Dallas, TX 75359
- 08-12—*Colorado Springs, Colorado*. BOAF Int'l. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5874, Navarre, FL 32566
- 11-13—*Azalea City, Alabama*. 18th Annual Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36609

- 11-13—*North Conway, New Hampshire*. Nlt Assembly Convention. Write: Ch., NH Area Service Off., 321 Lincoln St., Rm. 214, Manchester, NH 03103
- 11-13—*Altoona, Pennsylvania*. Northeast Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 11-13—*Memphis, Tennessee*. Tenn. Area 64 State Conv. Write: Ch., 4024 Lehi Drive, Memphis, TN 38128
- 11-13—*Medford Lakes, New Jersey*. South Jersey Young Peoples Conference. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 82, Cape May, N.J. 08204
- 17-20—*Indian Wells, California*. Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255-0128
- 18-20—*Greenville, Mississippi*. 53rd Conf. Write: Ch., 104 Lysbeth Dr., Leland, MS 38756
- 25-27—*Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada*. Cache Creek/Ashcroft 24th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC V0K 1H0
- 25-27—*Exeter, Rhode Island*. 23rd Annual Ocean State Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 41091, Providence, RI 02940

## July

- 02-04—*Richmond, British Columbia, Canada*. Pacific Northwest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 27150 Collingwood PO, Vancouver, BC V5R 6A8
- 16-18—*Showlow, Arizona*. Lewis Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3284, Showlow, AZ 85902
- 16-18—*Lafayette, Louisiana*. Louisiana State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5923, Alexandria, LA 71307
- 22-25—*Silver Creek, Colorado*. Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 19348, Boulder, CO 80308
- 23-25—*Dothan, Alabama*. ALCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 51, Cottonwood, AL 36320
- 23-25—*Willow, Alaska*. Second Annual Denali Conf. Write: Ch., Box 875617, Wasilla, AK 99687-5617
- 23-25—*Allentown, Pennsylvania*. PENNSCYPAA 11. Write: Ch., Box 1881, Allentown, PA 18105
- 23-25—*College Station, Texas*. AAggieland Conv. '99. Write: Ch., 2907 Jennifer, College Station, TX 77845
- 23-25—*Huntsville, Texas*. Spirit of Recovery. Write: Ch., 320 Market #5, Galveston, TX 77550
- 30-May 1—*Somerset, Pennsylvania*. Sixth Annual PA State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 701, Albrightsville, PA 18210-0701