

ABOUT A.A.

...a newsletter for professional men and women

Spring 1980

Three International A.A. Events Set for 1980

Three major international A.A. events are planned to take place this year. Biggest will be our 45th Anniversary International Convention in New Orleans, July 3-6, with as many as 30,000 A.A.'s and friends. Lois B. Wilson, widow of our co-founder Bill, will be introduced at our Sunday morning session.

To attend, one must use a registration form available only from G.S.O.

Thirteen of the daytime panels (in rooms holding 650 to 2,500 people) Friday and Saturday will have as guest speakers nonalcoholic authorities on such topics as hospitals, court programs, the clergy, armed services, industry, A.A.'s working in the alcoholism field, rehabilitation programs, prisons, alcoholism agencies, the medical profession, the communications media, and how professionals cooperate with A.A.

Hundreds of A.A. members will speak at alkathons and workshops in English, Spanish, French, and German. Other sessions will feature deaf A.A.'s, Asians, lawyers, doctors, gay people, oldtimers, and young people. Planes have already been chartered to bring A.A.'s from about 20 overseas nations. "Alkathons" (marathon A.A. meetings) will run almost around the clock in many of the city's big hotels.

The Al-Anon Family Groups, and their youth segment, will have concurrent sessions.

Just before the New Orleans festivities, delegates chosen from 20 nations or global zones will convene at Glen Cove, New York, for the Sixth A.A. World Service Meeting. At these biennial sessions, representatives share with each other on such subjects as anonymity, self-support, literature, and working with institutions.

In April, the 30th annual meeting of the General Service Conference of A.A. (U.S. and Canada) will be held in New York City. Elected delegates from each state and province form about two-thirds of the Conference. Other members are the trustees (members of our General Service Board), directors, and staff members of the

Grapevine plus G.S.O. staff members and the directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

This representative assembly has replaced A.A.'s pioneers in overseeing the Fellowship's worldwide services and policies.

A.M.S.A. Encourages Cooperation With A.A.

Members of the American Medical Society on Alcoholism (A.M.S.A.) and the institutions with which they are affiliated recently issued a resolution which reads in part, as follows:

"WHEREAS, self-support groups, particularly Alcoholics Anonymous, have been a tremendous help in recovery to many thousands of alcoholics, their friends and families; THEREFORE, be it resolved that the American Medical Society on Alcoholism encourages all physicians and the alcoholism treatment agencies with which they work to develop relationships of maximum cooperation with the self-help groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous."

We are grateful for this vote of confidence and hope to continue to improve our cooperation with the professional community.

Fifth U.S.-Canada Survey Planned

During some July evening this year, at an ordinary meeting of about three percent of all A.A. groups in each state and province, a "sobriety census" will be taken.

Groups are chosen at random and are not notified in advance. (Those that meet in treatment centers or correctional institutions are not surveyed.) Members present will complete a brief, anonymous questionnaire about their length of sobriety, age, sex, occupation, and other facts.

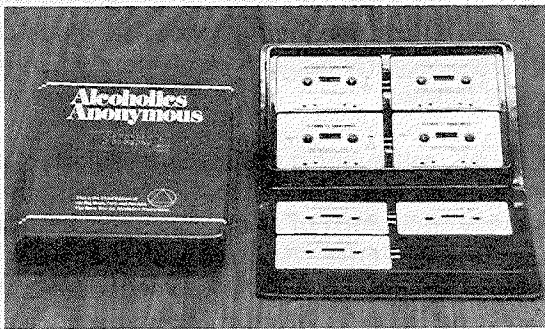
Results will be reported in this newsletter when the data are processed.

Such surveys have been made under the auspices of our General Service Board every three years, beginning in 1968, and findings have been published in many places.

Results of the 1977 survey, reported in Warsaw, Poland, at the 32nd Annual International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, covered about 17,000 members in ten nations.

New A.A. Items You Might Want

A set of seven tape cassettes now makes the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* available for those who cannot read or who prefer aural to visual learning. Each cassette is labeled in Braille.



Included are the first 11 basic chapters and the first two "stories," all read by a professional actor. The album costs \$25.

Also available is a large-print version of our new pamphlet "Time to Start Living." In it, five men and four women who joined A.A. after reaching the age of 60 tell their stories. We would be glad to send you a sample of either the regular or large-print versions.

ENCLOSURE: "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous"

Based on a university lecture the anonymous author gave when asked to explain to non-A.A.'s what the A.A. program is, this pamphlet has become popular with nonalcoholics who work with alcoholics.

Because of the author's understanding of the dilemmas faced by non-A.A.'s trying to help alcoholics, it seems especially suitable for readers of this newsletter.

How Professionals Refer Clients to A.A.

Many new people enter the professional alcoholism treatment field each year.

So we are sure that many readers of this newsletter have not yet had much contact with A.A.

Getting acquainted is easy. A local A.A. central office (sometimes called the A.A. Intergroup) or A.A. answering service number can be found in most North American telephone directories, those of the United Kingdom and some other countries.

So, by a telephone call you can learn where and when you can attend nearby "open" (to the public) A.A. meetings.

This way, you see and hear A.A. for yourself. You meet A.A. members, and can get many A.A. publications of special interest to you.

To refer anyone to A.A., the easiest way is also to telephone. Call the local office or some A.A. members you know personally.

Results seem to be best when you call with your client present, so the client can be introduced to an A.A. member on the phone. Some physicians, social workers, and others we know prefer to accompany the client to a few A.A. meetings, until A.A. begins to seem familiar.

Detailed instructions for successful referrals to A.A. have been published by a psychiatrist in two alcoholism texts. We do not endorse any books, of course, but you might find it helpful to look at pages 173-198 of Whitney, "World Dialogue on Alcohol and Drug Dependence" (Boston: Beacon Press, 1970); and pages 227-243 in Bourne and Fox, "Alcoholism — Progress in Research and Treatment" (New York: Academic Press, 1973).

Whether for a lay group or a staff meeting of professionals, it is also simple to obtain A.A. speakers to talk about A.A. Just telephone your A.A. office or answering service. There is, of course, no charge for this.

If you have questions, please call or write this office. We will put you in touch with local A.A.'s who can help.