

BOX 4-5-9

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A.A.

Vol. 24, No. 5

October-November 1979

Discussion Meetings Are Influencing A.A. Group Life

What can we talk about at meetings? On the face of it, that sounds like a silly question – it's often said in A.A. that once we get sober, all the rest is conversation. But some groups do seem to have difficulty, not only in finding good topics for discussion, but also in deciding what *not* to talk about.

A member writes, "Discussion in our group sometimes bogs down in the same old problems, and new people don't come around after the first few times. What can we do to make our meetings more interesting?"

Many groups find an answer in literature. Over the last five years, Big Book meetings have become increasingly popular (see *Box 4-5-9*, Oct. - Nov. 1974). Grapevine discussion groups are springing up, using "Closed Meeting Topics" or taking some article of particular interest as a starting point.

In Sydney, Australia, the concept of discussion groups has recently begun to take hold, and Nancy C. writes: "In addition to the many regular A.A. meetings held here, there are several Step groups and a few discussion groups.



In the discussion groups, the secretary or chairperson usually chooses a topic or passage from the Big Book
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AQUI SE HABLA A.A.

Spanish-speaking A.A.'s from all over the United States came together Labor Day weekend for a national convention of Hispanic A.A. groups. About 300 such groups are listed in the U.S. and Canada, and the number is growing daily.

Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Marysville, Ind., representatives of many of these groups heard presentations on the Three Legacies, saw the filmstrip "Circles of Love and Service" (in Spanish), discussed provisions for non-English-speaking A.A.'s at the Convention in New Orleans – and most of all, enjoyed a unique weekend of sharing.

Bob P., general manager of G.S.O., was one of the three speakers at the Saturday-night banquet. Speaking in Spanish, he talked about the Third Legacy,
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A DOUBLY INTERNATIONAL A.A. YEAR IS COMING UP

"International" is the key word in June and July 1980, as United States A.A.'s host two major events: the Sixth International Convention, in New Orleans, July 3-6, and the Sixth World Service Meeting, at the Harrison Conference Center in Glen Cove, N.Y. (just outside New York City), June 27-30.

The World Service Meeting, usually held in the fall, takes place the end of June to give delegates from about 19 countries and zones the opportunity to go on to New Orleans, where they may join an expected 20,000 A.A.'s in celebrating sobriety (see the last issue of *Box 4-5-9* for details).

Note for regional and state planning committees

As in other Convention years, the General Service Board asks

that state and regional events not be held between May 15 and August 15, so that would-be conventioners can concentrate their resources on New Orleans.

Arrangements for handicapped in New Orleans

Handicapped members should have an easy time at the Convention, with ample elevators, a walking bridge from the Superdome to the Hyatt Regency, bathrooms for the handicapped on Level 3 of the Superdome. And of course, space for wheelchairs is set aside at major meetings.

Five historic Conventions

At A.A.'s first such Convention (one is now held every five years), in Cleveland, Ohio, those present in 1950 heard co-founder Dr. Bob S.'s moving last message, and unanimously accepted the Twelve Traditions.

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LUCY W. HAS IDEAS FOR OUR GRAPEVINE

A G.S.O. staff member who knew Lucy W. was a free-lance editor, with experience on several magazines, asked her one night to send in her job résumé. "There might be some kind of opening on the Grapevine," the staff member said.

Lucy could hardly believe her good fortune. She had loved the Grapevine since joining A.A. in 1973, often using it for twelfth-stepping herself when alone in the wee hours of the night. After interviews with the managing editor and with past and present chairpersons of the Grapevine Corporate Board, she became an associate editor in November 1978.

"What do you wish for the Grapevine's future?" a caller recently asked Lucy.

She replied promptly, "That the Grapevine could be more representative of the entire A.A. membership.

"We have a fantastic range of people in our Fellowship," she explained, "but large segments of our membership never contribute to the Grapevine. Since they do not see stories about people like themselves, they do not bother to write pieces for us.

"Readers also want more articles about our Traditions and history, but very few manuscripts like that arrive," she said.

A native of Maine, Lucy was educated there and in Massachusetts until she went to Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y.,

and for two years to the University of Iowa, Iowa City, famous for its writers' workshops.

In addition to her free-lance editing, Lucy has written much fiction for magazines, and a volume of her short stories was published commercially in the U.S. and England.

NEW WAREHOUSE SPEEDS LITERATURE SERVICE

Faster and better service is the purpose of a new A.A. literature warehouse in Chicago. The new facility will fill quantity orders from the East Central Region and parts of Canada. (Orders for smaller quantities will still be shipped from New York.)

Bulk orders sent to G.S.O. will be teletyped to Chicago and shipped from there, cutting down significantly on shipping time. A letter with information about minimum orders has been mailed to central offices and intergroups in the areas involved.

MONEY WE CANNOT KEEP

Most people do not realize that A.A.'s Tradition of self-support is really vital in our recovery. So sometimes in the obituary of a well-known local A.A., the newspaper notes that the family of the deceased "wants *in memoriam* contributions sent to A.A."

It is a beautiful gesture, of course, and we are deeply grateful to these non-A.A. family members and friends who send us checks. We are proud of their respect for A.A. and gratitude to it.

But, of course, we have to return such donations, and it is not always easy to do so without hurting the feelings of the nonalcoholic contributors who have never encountered our Traditions.

Decades ago, we in A.A. assumed responsibility for financial support of our Fellowship. We even limit the amount acceptable from any

one member in one year—now \$500, by 1979 Conference Advisory Action.

We can take one bequest of no more than that amount from the estate of a deceased member, too. However, we return *all* contributions from non-A.A.'s.

It might help if we explained to our non-A.A. relatives and friends the therapeutic benefit of our self-support Tradition.

TWO REGIONAL TRUSTEES TO BE CHOSEN IN 1980

A.A. trustees for the Western Canada and West Central U.S. Regions will be named for the General Service Board at the 1980 annual meeting of A.A.'s General Service Conference in New York in April. The Conference says that résumés of candidates must be received at G.S.O., by registered mail, no later than Jan. 1, 1980, and that any received after that date will be returned.

The Western Canada Region is composed of Alberta, British Columbia/Yukon, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The new board member will succeed Cec C., Prince Albert, Sask.

Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming make up the West Central Region, currently represented by Don N., Moorhead, Minn.

All of A.A.'s regional trustees serve four-year terms, without pay. For further information, see "How A.A. Chooses Regional Trustees," pp. 98-99 in the 1978 "A.A. Service Manual," or write G.S.O.

AQUI SE HABLA A.A.

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Service, and told members about services available from G.S.O. for Hispanic members. He said G.S.O. is working hard to improve these. In addition to already existing resources (a separate literature

order form for books and other materials translated into Spanish, and the Spanish *Box 4-5-9*), future plans include making available the Group Handbook and G.S.R. Kit, as well as translating Guidelines. Guidelines on the Relationship Between A.A. and Al-Anon are now in stock; so are Spanish versions of the leaflets "Circles of Love and Service" and "Self-Supporting? The 60-30-10 Plan."

Bob said G.S.O. welcomes visits from Spanish-speaking A.A.'s. About one-tenth of the office force speaks Spanish, and visitors are greeted by friendly guides who interpret and answer questions.

CHARTER SETS LIMITS ON CONFERENCE ACTIONS

Your A.A. group, like every other in the world, received this spring a condensed version of the 1979 General Service Conference (U.S./Canada) report. It was the June-July issue of *Box 4-5-9*. So

every A.A. member who cares about our Fellowship has a chance to learn the chief actions taken — or not taken — by our Conference.

The Conference can recommend action in case of "serious deviation from A.A. Tradition or harmful misuse" of the A.A. name, as Article 11 of the Conference Charter shows (pp. 25-26 in "The A.A. Service Manual").

Other areas in which the Conference operates are specifically spelled out. Plainly, it has responsibility in "all matters . . . affecting A.A. as a whole."

It is interesting to note certain omissions — in other words, matters that the Conference has no business meddling in. For example, omissions make it clear that the Conference cannot tell any individual A.A. member, or group, what to do or what not to do. Local affairs are local business.

It can, of course, make *recommendations*, such as: that groups not display non-A.A. literature along with A.A. Conference-ap-

proved literature, because this could affect A.A. as a whole, making it appear that our Fellowship is tied up with some religious, scientific, professional, or rehabilitative organization.

The Conference reviews financial and policy reports of the General Service Board and its corporate operating arms (A.A. World Services and Grapevine) and all their committees. It debates, studies, and advises.

The *Final Conference Report*, a 64-page, paper-bound, 8½" x 11" booklet, is mailed to all Conference participants in the summer. Any A.A. member may order the 1979 issue from G.S.O. for \$2.00.

It is illustrated and contains complete financial data, Ask-It Basket questions and answers, digests of all presentations, workshops, discussions, area highlights, committee reports, and more. It shows the Conference Charter in action.

(This is the eleventh in a series of articles on the charter.)

INTERNATIONAL A.A. YEAR (continued from p. 1)

In St. Louis, Mo., in 1955, those present heard many important figures in the history of A.A. (told about in the book "A.A. Comes of Age") and, by acclamation, accepted from the founding members the responsibility for A.A.'s world services, handled now through the U.S./Canada General Service Conference and its counterparts around the world.

The 1960 International in Long Beach, Calif., the largest up to that time, was the occasion for Sister Ignatia's last big address.

Toronto, Ont., was site of the only International held outside the U.S. so far, in 1965, when thousands of us repeated, "I Am Responsible," with members from many nations saying it in their native tongues.

No one who was at Miami Beach, Fla., in 1970 will forget co-found-

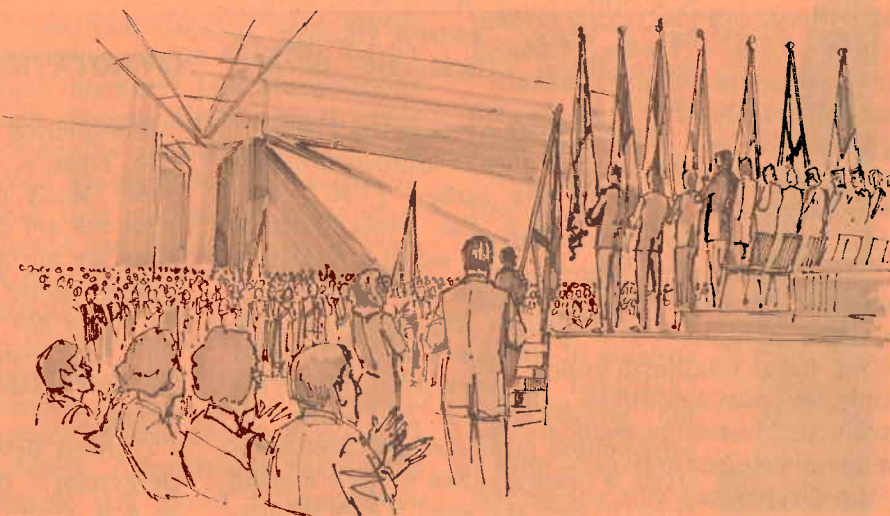
er Bill W.'s too-brief appearance at the Sunday-morning spiritual meeting. First voiced there was the Declaration of Unity.

"Let It Begin With Me" was the theme of the Denver, Colo., gathering in 1975, when 19,300 of us took over the mile-high city and at the opening session stood facing a huge replica of the Big Book to

cheer as A.A.'s from 29 countries streamed down the aisles carrying their country's flags.

A.A.'s who have attended any of our International Conventions would agree that no words can capture the particular spirit of A.A. love and fellowship actually experienced there.

See you in New Orleans!



G.S.R. Corner

EYE-OPENING PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

Being a G.S.R. is an "eye-opener," writes Richard C., who attended his first provincial assembly, in Red Deer, Alta., recently. Like many new G.S.R.'s, he had "no idea of what I was in for when I arrived. As I sorted through the two days, I began throwing out some of the ideas I had formulated about how A.A. worked, and I came away with more gratitude than I had thought was possible.

"Keeping an open mind helped very much and taught me that the voices of many solve more problems than the voices of a few. The impression I got was that the unity and strength from within the rank and file of A.A. are growing stronger than ever. I can now understand better how the groups direct the working of the whole Fellowship. The group-autonomy principle is directly opposite to that of business. But it works better for us, because the people who carry the group conscience relate to members who listen. We learn from one another."

THIS INTERGROUP IS EASY TO FIND



After 34 years, the New York A.A. Intergroup Association finally has a "classy" address (though its second-floor offices are suitably modest).

At 175 Fifth Avenue, the 22-story, block-long Fuller (Flatiron) Building is one of the earliest (1902) skyscrapers, once the most famous building in the world. Architect Daniel H. Burnham ingeniously took a thin triangular lot, created by the crossing of Broadway and Fifth, and "extruded" it skyward, multiplying the ground space 22 times. Its ornamented facade of rusticated limestone is totally unlike today's soaring cubes of glass and steel. (Coincidence: Burnham was a cousin of Lois W., widow of A.A. co-founder Bill!)

We'd love to print a photo of *your* central office building, too. Send us a good glossy print, and tell us something about the building and local C.O. history. (No clubhouses, please.)

Central Office Corner

Photo courtesy The Picture Collection,
The New York Public Library

Trustee Corner

MEETINGS 'EDUCATED' THIS TRUSTEE

For Kenneth Williams, M.D., one of the General Service Board's new nonalcoholic trustees (he came on the board in April 1979), being a trusted servant of A.A. is "the biggest honor I've ever received." And that's saying something. Ken, currently assistant professor of psychiatry and internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has done a great deal to bring the illness of alcoholism to public awareness.

Born in Haverhill, Mass., Ken was graduated from Dartmouth College and then from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky, where he was named an outstanding student in psychiatry. He interned at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis and did his residency and postdoctoral work at Yale University School of Medicine.

Ken's "A.A. story" began in 1967 when, as a resident at Yale, he learned firsthand the difficulties of working with sick alcoholics. Frustrated because he could treat only the medical complications of the illness, he began to look around for a better way. He was introduced to some A.A. members and soon afterward attended his first meeting. "It was a

(continued on next page)

ON ROTATION, UGANDA, DIRECTORIES

Completing a two-year term as Conference delegate, Dean K. (N. Coastal Calif.) wrote about rotation: "Many of us would like to continue. We like what we are doing and are just beginning to know what we are about. But as the late Bernard Smith [nonalcoholic board chairman] said in 1952, 'It is far better *not* to serve than to take the slightest risk with this Society.' We step aside to make room for the new person to learn and experience the joys of serving." . . .

Current delegate Judd B. (Cent. N.Y.) tells of a clergyman — nonalcoholic — in Uganda who started an A.A. group there, which has an attendance of 40! Who says only alcoholics can carry our message? . . .

"Preparing for our assembly, I took 40 names of people in the area at random from the new A.A. directory, and sent personal invitations. Thirty-nine showed up, despite a storm warning," writes Ken W. (S.E. Mich.). "We are really impressed by the accuracy of the latest directory."

Delegate Corner

TRUSTEE CORNER

(continued)

tremendous experience," he says. "I had never before met an alcoholic who was recovering. It was hard for me to believe these people were really alcoholics."

As a result of this and other meetings, Ken was instrumental in starting an A.A. meeting at Yale New Haven Hospital (the first hospital meeting in Connecticut, and the first A.A. meeting in a university teaching hospital). He attended this meeting every week for the better part of two years and feels his early education in alcoholism came from A.A.

Ken is eloquent about the value of A.A. meetings in hospitals. He believes they are crucial, not only to introduce the new person to A.A., but to give hospital personnel an opportunity to meet recovering alcoholics. Most doctors, he reminds us, see only the sick alcoholic. When they come to meetings, get to know A.A.'s, and realize that recovery *is* possible, their attitude change is remarkable.

When Ken moved to Pittsburgh in 1973, his involvement with the Fellowship continued, and he helped start four hospital meetings, one for medical personnel.

Ken was one of the speakers at the 1975 International Convention in Denver, where he told his A.A. story, appearing on the same panel as nonalcoholic trustees "Dr. Jack" Norris and Dr. Vincent Dole.

DISCUSSION MEETINGS

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Book or other A.A. literature.

"Much of the discussion centers around our lives now, rather than in the past. We talk about day-to-day problems we encounter in living sober; we ask questions, express opinions, share our experiences with one another. Discussion groups are really just another kind of A.A. meeting, based firmly on

the Traditions. We don't want to change A.A.—we want to change ourselves."

Step groups are well established in many places, and discussing one Step each week is probably the most common pattern. At some Step meetings, the leader tells his or her story and then talks about the Step before opening up the discussion; at others, one person reads a Step chapter from the "Twelve and Twelve," and discussion takes off from there. Some groups hold Third or Eleventh Step meetings, focusing on spiritual aspects.

Special meetings for newcomers, either held separately or preceding other meetings, introduce new people to A.A. and offer practical suggestions for staying away from a drink those first shaky days. A variation is First Step workshops, for beginners and oldtimers alike, good reminders to all of us to stick with the basics.

The flip side of "what to talk about" — what *not* to talk about — frequently turns up when new people come into a group with problems other than, or in addition to, alcohol. Some groups report confusion about whether to let these members talk freely about such subjects as addiction to other substances or differences in personal life-style. And some groups, with firm convictions about what should and should not go on at an A.A. meeting, still have trouble handling the situation.

Discussions at Regional Forums have aired this problem, and one participant put it this way: "If another problem affects a person's sobriety, okay. If not, the person should talk about it somewhere else. I share my *alcohol* problem with fellow A.A.'s at meetings; others, with my sponsor."

Some groups have found that the way to keep discussions on the track, or to deal with members who want to talk only about unrelated topics, is to encourage leaders to be better prepared. A member writing in an area newsletter believes that anyone who agrees to lead a meet-

ing should do some preparation ahead of time: think through a topic; reread the appropriate chapter in the "Twelve and Twelve" before leading a Step meeting. And the leader, too, can be firm (politely, of course!), perhaps suggesting to a person who wants to talk only about matters unrelated to alcohol that people will be glad to talk about it after the meeting.

Tradition meetings can help, too. (No longer do A.A.'s always "stay away in droves" when the Traditions are to be discussed.) One member reported, "For the first time, I had a sense of the larger A.A., a feeling of what the Fellowship is all about beyond the doors of my home group's meeting place." And a serious discussion of group conscience, our primary purpose, or "the only requirement for A.A. membership" has brought many group troubles into perspective.

A longtime member reminds us that there's nothing new in A.A. "Many of us think dual addiction, for example, is a phenomenon of the 1960's and 1970's. But did you know that one of the first pamphlets published by A.A. mentioned sedatives?"

"Most of us know that the Traditions were written just because problems like the ones we're having today cropped up from the very beginning. The early members found out the hard way that strict membership requirements didn't work, and so 'The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.' Anyone who has that desire can talk about it at an A.A. meeting, and anything that relates to getting and staying sober is meat for A.A. discussion."

NEW MATERIALS AID THE IMPRISONED AND THE DEAF

Alcoholics are unique individuals with a common problem. The question sometimes is: How do we deal with our differences in order to carry the message to all who

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NEW MATERIALS (continued from p. 5)

need it? A new pamphlet for inmates of correctional facilities and service material for the deaf form

two answers.

"It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" is a 28-page pamphlet designed for inmate alcoholics (but also useful to A.A.'s who work with correctional institutions). Clearly written and highly illustrated, the pamphlet contains seven stories of

A.A.'s who did time, along with sections on what inmate A.A.'s did to stay sober inside the walls and how they got a good start on sobriety their first days out.

Two years in the making, the pamphlet is based entirely on suggestions from A.A.'s inside, or those who work with them. The manuscript was reviewed, not only by the Conference and trustees' Committees on Correctional Facilities, but also by professionals in the corrections field. Price is 25 cents.

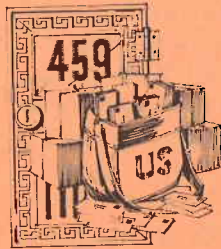
Service material for working with deaf alcoholics, now available at no cost, points out ways some A.A.'s have found to "talk" to the hearing-impaired alcoholic.

A survey in September 1978 gleaned the experience of delegates, central offices, intergroups, and contacts in the United States, and the results of their sharing will be sent on request.

HUMILITY RUNS RIOT AS G.S.O. STAFF ROTATES

Another two years have passed, and once again members of the General Service Office staff have rotated into new assignments.

The enclosed staff assignment sheet tells you who is now corresponding with your region, and who is responsible for your particular area of service or interest.



G.S.O. MAIL MIRRORS THE WORLD OF A.A.

On top of the mailbag this month is a letter from Atlantic City, N.J., addressed to "Dear Committee."

"I am writing this letter to thank you for helping the alcoholics around the world. My father is an alcoholic. Some of the literature helps my brother and my sister, since I leave it around the house, and they seem to take it sincere. It helps the suffering alcoholics and it is getting them sober and I would like to thank you."

Running sober

From Portland, Me., Carlton M. writes: "Stan told me he visited G.S.O. for the open house last year and talked to you about the New York City marathon, which I ran in last October.

"I seem to get caught up in the spectators and runners and scenery in the big races, and forget to concentrate on my pace. There isn't anything quite like the Boston and New York City marathons, and I plan to run both this year. I ran five marathons last year, and about 50 different races all told.

"I have been to N.E.R.D. (Northeast Regional Delegate) events, and I do get to my area assembly meetings. I still go to an A.A. meeting every night, as I have since my first, April 1, 1967."

Finnish group in Russia

From Helsinki, Finland, Viecko K. keeps us up-to-date: "Here we

sit in the basement of the same place where you visited some years ago. It seems that nothing has happened—well, I walk a little slower.

"For a while now, we have had a Finnish-speaking group in Russia. This has been in our printed group directory and so is not secret."

New Year in Nepal

"Today is the Nepali New Year, the year 2036," writes Pat G. "Today will also be the occasion of our 75th A.A. meeting here in Katmandu — our Mt. Everest Group. Our first was the first week of September 1978. By October, our first Nepali member was coming pretty regularly, and we were having two meetings a week. In February 1979, we began a third; by March, a fourth.

"About 18 people attend regularly, perhaps six of them Nepali. Another dozen or so Nepalis have dropped in, and that was it! They knew very little English, and thus there was a barrier.

"On April 10, the first meeting completely in the Nepali language was held in the adjoining city of Patan. The group hopes to meet at least once a week.

"Anyway, the message is getting around, and its best messengers are the ones who are working the program. The group is holding fast to the Traditions; we are fully self-supporting. All our active members have a Big Book. We have three or four copies of the 'Twelve and Twelve' to share among us, a copy of 'As Bill Sees It,' most pamphlets, Box 4-5-9, correspondence, etc. So we think the seed has been planted.

"Back in August, we had a rough translation of 'How It Works,' with the Steps, done in Nepali. Only 24 copies were made, and to this date, 12 or so distributed. Perhaps, as the all-Nepali group gets going, they will try to get portions of the Big Book or pamphlets translated. If this is done, we will be sure to get your approval before printing up any copies."



THE BULLETIN BOARD

October-November 1979

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

YOU HAVE A DATE WITH G.S.O. — NOVEMBER 10

“Our house is your house” Saturday, Nov. 10. G.S.O. and the Grapevine invite all A.A. members and friends to the annual open house at 468 Park Avenue South, New York City (between 31st and 32nd Streets), from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It’s a chance to meet the staff, and let them meet you and tell you about the joys of giving service to over 33,000 listed groups.

Non-A.A. personnel as well as staff will be on hand; refreshments will be served; and orders for literature and Grapevines can be taken on the spot.

A highlight for more than 400 visitors last year was a trip through A.A. history with Nell Wing, nonalcoholic archivist, in the archives on the eighth floor. Visitors enjoyed, too, seeing their orders for literature sent out, meeting “Enterprise,” the in-house computer, and having a chance to view A.A.’s films and filmstrips.

A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 4-7 — *Amarillo, Texas.* 32nd Annual Top o’ Texas Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 412, Amarillo, TX 79105
- 5-7 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia.* Jackson’s Mill Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 5-7 — *Hope, British Columbia, Canada.* Third Annual Thanksgiving Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 876, Hope, B.C. VOX 1L0
- 5-7 — *North Bay, Ontario, Canada.* 24th N.E. Ont. Area Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 494, North Bay, Ont., P1B 8J1
- 5-7 — *Vancouver, Washington.* Wash. Area Assy. Write: Assy. Ch., P.O. Box 2291, Vancouver, WA 98661

- 5-7 — *Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.* N.S./Nfld./Lab. 15th Assy. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 554, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H4
- 5-7 — *Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., 561 Beech Cres., Prince George, B.C.
- 5-8 — *Miami, Florida.* Ocean Roundup IV. Write: Ocean Roundup IV, P.O. Box 010882, Miami, FL 33101
- 6 — *Buford, Georgia.* Gwinnett Co. Tenth Anniv. Write: Ch., 6709 Bass Cir. Buford, GA 30518
- 11-14 — *Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.* Annual Fellowship-by-the-Sea. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 201, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
- 11-14 — *San Antonio, Texas.* 29th S.W. Tex. Area Conf. Write: Ch., 109 Lexington Ave. #215, San Antonio, TX 78205
- 12-14 — *Lake Yale, Florida.* 12th Annual Autumn Mtgs. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 996, Merritt Island, FL 32952
- 12-14 — *Buffalo, New York.* 38th Annual Fall Conv. Write: 38th Conv., 534 Ellicott Sq. Bldg., 295 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203
- 12-14 — *London, Ontario, Canada.* 26th Annual W. Ont. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 725, London, Ont. N6A 4Y8
- 12-14 — *Claresholm, Alberta, Canada.* Sixth Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 45, Claresholm, Alta.
- 14 — *Worcester, Massachusetts.* Third Annual Roundup. Write: Cent. Mass. Intergroup, 306 Main St., Worcester, MA 01609
- 18-21 — *Macon, Georgia.* 26th State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 2791, Macon, GA 31203
- 19-20 — *Grenada, Mississippi.* Fourth Annual N. Miss. Roundup. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 786, Grenada, MS 38901
- 19-21 — *New Bern, North Carolina.* 17th Semiannual Roundup. Write: Roundup Secy., P.O. Box 1304, New Bern, NC 28560
- 19-21 — *West Palm Beach, Florida.* 23rd S. Fla. Agape Weekend. Write: Coord., 4621 S. LeJeune Rd., Coral Gables, FL 33146

PLANNING AN A.A. EVENT IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY?

Please be sure to send your information on December or January A.A. events in time to reach G.S.O. by *October 15*. This is the calendar deadline for the Holiday issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed November 15).

- 19-21 — *Stockton, California.* Annual N. Calif. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- 19-21 — *La Crosse, Wisconsin.* 38th Annual S. Wis. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., P.O. Box 1212, La Crosse, WI 54601
- 19-21 — *Burlington, Iowa.* Area Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 1212, Burlington, IA 52601
- 19-21 — *Downingtown, Pennsylvania.* 21st Annual E. Pa. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., R.D. 1, P.O. Box 554, Cresco, PA 18326
- 19-21 — *Selsey by Sea, Sussex, England.* S. Eng. Conv. Write: G.S.O., P.O. Box 514, 11 Redcliffe Gardens, London SW10 9BG, England.
- 19-21 — *Pittsfield, Massachusetts.* 29th Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 618, Adams, MA 01220
- 19-21 — *Billings, Montana.* Fall Area Conf. Write: Ch., 1826 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59102
- 20 — *Fox Valley, Illinois.* 37th Anniv. Celebration. Write: Secy., 388 N. Win Haven Dr., Elgin, IL 60120
- 21 — *Paramus, New Jersey.* 33rd Annual Intergroup Banq. Write: Ch., Box 632, Maplecrest Sta., Maplewood, NJ 07040
- 26-28 — *Joplin, Missouri.* W. Mo. Area Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., P.O. Box G, Urich, MO 64788
- 26-28 — *Tucson, Arizona.* 29th State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Tucson Intergroup Assoc., 804 S. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719

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CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

October: For a Step Six meeting, see two articles that ask us to examine our willingness to change and attempts to control our own recovery; “Living the Program Fully” points to the last phrase in Step Twelve; “Anonymity” can top off a Traditions series.

November: In the annual “classics” issue, Bill W. advises us, “Take Step Eleven”; Dr. Bob’s “The Fundamentals—in Retrospect” suggests regular reexamination of A.A. principles; “Sponsor Relationships” stresses the value of sharing on both sides.

OCTOBER

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- 26-28 - *Ocean City, Maryland*. Ninth Annual N.E. Reg. and State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 1922, Salisbury, MD 21801
- 26-28 - *Tokyo, Japan*. Fall Far East Round-up. Write: Tokyo A.A. Japanese-Speaking Intergroup, c/o M.A.C., P.O.B. 916, Tokyo Cent. P.O., Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-91 Japan
- 26-28 - *Bakersfield, California*. 28th Annual S. Calif. Conv. Write: 28th S.C.C., P.O. Box 5848, Santa Monica, CA 90405
- 26-28 - *Thief River Falls, Minnesota*. Fourth Annual Harvest Festival. Write: Conv. Ch., 422 N. Kinney Ave., Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 27-28 - *Rome, Italy*. Seventh It. Anniv. Conv. and Second Intergroup. Write: Italian Intergroup Off., Via Lupatelli 62, Rome, Italy

NOVEMBER

- 1-4 - *Memphis, Tennessee*. Memphis/Bluff City Fellowship. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 41274, Memphis, TN 38104
- 2-4 - *Casa Grande, Arizona*. Fifth Quarterly Sahuaro Agape Weekend. Write: Ch., 1645 E. Thomas, Apt. 21, Phoenix, AZ 85016
- 2-4 - *Twin Falls, Idaho*. Area Conf. Write: Reg. Ch., P.O. Box 301, Gooding, ID 83330
- 2-4 - *Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. 29th Annual Prov. Conv. Write: Conv. Com., P.O. Box 6744, Sta. D, Calgary, Alta. T2P 1H7
- 2-4 - *Evansville, Indiana*. 19th Annual Tri-State Conv. Write: Host Com., P.O. Box 4553, Evansville, IN 47613
- 2-4 - *Las Vegas, Nevada*. 13th Annual Round-up. Write: Roundup, P.O. Box 5446, Garside Sta., Las Vegas, NV 89102
- 3 - *New York, New York*. Annual Bill W. Dinner. Write: Dinner Com., Intergroup Assoc., 175 Fifth Ave., Rm. 219, New York, NY 10010

- 3-4 - *Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, Canada*. First Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 795, Esterhazy, Sask. S0A 0X0
- 9-11 - *Bloomington, Minnesota*. 39th Annual Founders Day Weekend. Write: Banq. Ch., Alano Soc. 2218 First Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404
- 16-18 - *Whitney, Texas*. Second Annual Brazos Riverside Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 1386, Bonanza Sta., Whitney, TX 76692
- 23-25 - *Loveland, Colorado*. Winter Area Assy. Write: Assy. Ch., 1005 Knobcone Pl., Loveland, CO 80537
- 30-Dec. 2 - *Albuquerque, New Mexico*. S.W. Regional Forum. Write: Regional Forum Secy., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10017