

■ “One Who Cannot Stop Drinking”

Translated into 70 languages and available literally around the world, *Alcoholics Anonymous* has sold over 38 million copies and helped countless alcoholics find their way to sobriety and happy, purposeful lives since its first printing in 1939.

Yet, there remain many populations — and places — that have not yet been reached with A.A.’s lifesaving message as it is carried in our A.A. literature. When it comes to such populations, the Navajo Nation, occupying portions of northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah and northwestern New Mexico, certainly qualifies. Alcoholism continues to be a leading factor in the incidence of domestic violence, health disparities, rape, sexual assault, drop-out rates and suicide among Navajos, with average life expectancy on the reservation in the early 50s.

Navajo, however, is primarily an oral language, and very little of A.A.’s vast storehouse of written materials has been accessible to Navajo members in their own language. Yet over the course of many years, a number of A.A. members in the region — both Navajo and non-Navajo, along with some nonalcoholic friends of A.A. — have dedicated themselves to finding a way to provide more recovery resources for Navajo members and others who have not yet found a way out of their active alcoholism.

Local lore has it that the first A.A. meeting was held on the Navajo reservation in 1981. It was started by Brother Dermot along with Rudy R., and was held in a Catholic retreat house with a mere three people attending meetings regularly. In 2008, the retreat house closed and the meeting moved to the Seventh Day Adventist church. Freddy B., a Navajo recovering alcoholic who chairs the present-day A.A. group, is happy to report that there are now over 50 regular attendees.

Karen S., former Area 3 (Arizona) remote communities coordinator, points out the irony of A.A. being introduced to the Navajo people through a religious organization, since longstanding campaigns of religious conversion and assimilation have been largely responsible for the near annihilation of the language and identity of the Navajo people. So, when the idea of translating the A.A. Big Book into Navajo first arose, some wondered as to its purpose, since there are so few Navajos who can speak or understand their native tongue. Dave M., former Area 3 delegate and a key supporter and early point man for the project, held that, ultimately, the real value could be symbolic — making clear that A.A. is not “the white man’s solution,” but rather a solution for anyone and everyone who has a



Class A Trustee and General Service Board chair Michele Grinberg presents the first copy of Alcoholics Anonymous, a 14-CD compilation audiobook spoken and recorded in Navajo, to the Honorable Russell Begaye, president of the Navajo Nation at the 25th Red Road Convention. President Begaye spoke at length about the importance of the Big Book in Navajo and shared that he is looking at ways to address alcoholism in the native communities.

drinking problem. He feels that rendering the Big Book in Navajo is a goodwill gesture to the people, “to meet them on their ground.”

The earliest inkling of a translation emerged in 1981, when A.A. member Bob C. moved to Flagstaff, AZ, and started going to meetings in the area. He got to know some Native people and said he “saw the need.” Described by his colleagues as a “boots on the ground” kind of guy, Bob hired Irene Silent Men to translate the Steps, Traditions, Preamble and Serenity Prayer for a small fee gathered by local groups. However, since it was a written translation and Navajo is an oral language, the material

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Note on anonymity: From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of G.S.O. employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

was never implemented in any significant way.

In 1997, again spurred by the desire of the Navajo community, Bob C. and Rusty W., a local sound engineer and founder of a recording company of spiritual and inspirational conferences, engaged the services of Navajo A.A. member Milford J. to translate and record (in Bob's living room) the well-known first part of Chapter Five, "How It Works." The cassette recording was presented at the Window Rock Special Forum in Arizona in 1999 but was only used locally in the years that followed. No further progress would be made for over a decade.

In 2011, Rusty W. gave Milford's cassette to Area 3 delegate Suzette C. Overwhelmed by this unique way of carrying the message, she wept when she saw the cassette. Suzette passed on the tape to incoming Pacific regional trustee Rod B. — the first Native American trustee in A.A. history — who was passionate about reigniting the effort. That is when things gained momentum. Rod traveled to many areas in Navajo country, encouraging people to bring up the conversation about an oral Navajo translation at their home groups. Rod then handed the tape over to the new Area 3 delegate, Dave M.

In 2012, A.A. World Services, Inc. voted to authorize funding for a pilot project to produce an oral translation of the Big Book in Navajo. Dave M. asked Bob C. and Rusty W. to pay a visit to Milford in northern Arizona and this time have him record the entirety of Chapter 5. Bob secured the services of Freddy Johnson, a certified Navajo interpreter, to translate Milford's recording back into English. Bob, Dave and Rod all reviewed Mr. Johnson's retranslation, pointing out that delivering the wrong message would do more harm than delivering no message at all. At Bob's recommendation Dave hired a professional translation company, World Translations, headed by Sabina Wrightsman, to do a further evaluation. Sabina worked briefly with a University of Arizona professor, Linda Mexican Woman, who tried updating Milford's

copy but found the spiritual words too difficult to translate and subsequently withdrew from the project, feeling she was not the right choice. Several other translators took passes at the material but none of the translations ultimately held up.

In 2013, Sabina showed Linda's copy to Eugene Plummer, a local Navajo DJ and radio personality. He agreed that the translation was not a faithful representation of the A.A. literature and offered to take on the job. He completed the entirety of Chapter 5 in December, and early the next year recorded a poignant video of the Twelve Steps written in English and spoken in Navajo. [<http://www.area03.org/Area-03-Committees/Remote-Communities/The-12-Steps-translated-to-Navajo-audio-video>].

In 2014, A.A.W.S. agreed that Eugene's translation of Chapter 5 truly captured the spirit of A.A. and approved completion of a Navajo audiobook of *Alcoholics Anonymous* with Eugene as sole translator.

When Kathi F. rotated in as Area 3 delegate in 2014, she picked up where Dave left off, and Greg T., then the publishing director at A.A.W.S., determined to avoid any further delays or missteps, asked Kathi to stay with the project until it was completed, even if that was beyond her term as delegate. Kathi honored his request and kept the venture in the forefront by keeping all lines of communication open. She chaired the area's translation committee and stayed in touch with Rod B., A.A. World Services and World Translations. During Kathi's first Conference as delegate, Greg asked her what specific portions of the

■ Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2018¹

| | Groups | Members |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| United States | 61,904 | 1,297,396 |
| Canada | 4,956 | 84,558 |
| Sub-Total | 66,860 | 1,381,954 |
| Correctional facilities ² | 1,360 | 34,524 |
| Loners, Internationalist, Homers | 1 | 27 |
| Total | 68,221 | 1,416,505 |
| Outside U.S. & Canada ³ | 52,079 | 671,335 |
| Grand Total | 120,300 | 2,087,840 |

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2. U.S. and Canada only.

3. We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 62 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use the previous year's figures.

■ Opening for Two Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees

Following the 2019 General Service Conference there will be openings for two Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, replacing Hon. Ivan Lemelle, of New Orleans, Louisiana, and David Morris, of New York, New York.

The trustees' Nominating Committee asks that trustees, delegates and directors submit any names they deem appropriate as candidates for Class A trustees. Class A trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds, including doctors, lawyers, clergy, social workers and educators. In seeking applications for all vacancies at Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., and the General Service Board, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.

Please submit your candidate's business or professional résumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office, by July 27, 2018.

■ Résumés for Trustees Election due January 1, 2019

Two new Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees from the Northeast and Southwest regions as well as the trustee-at-large/Canada will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 2019. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2019, and must be submitted by area delegates U.S./Canada only. In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of qualified applicants that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. Please submit your candidates' résumés to the secretary, trustees' Committee on Nominating, G.S.O.

The new Northeast regional trustee will fill the position currently held by Richard P., of Windham, New Hampshire. The next trustee from the Southwest region will follow Yolanda F., of San Antonio, Texas. The next trustee-at-large/Canada will replace Scott H. of Kamloops, British Columbia.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

Since much is asked of the trustees with respect to their time, it is important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings running from Saturday morning through Monday noon; a quarterly meeting combined with the General Service Conference (seven days) in April; and any special meet-

ings of the board. Regional trustees also serve in rotation for attendance at Regional Forums other than in their own regions. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine corporate boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may also serve on trustees' subcommittees or corporate board subcommittees, whose work often involves conference calls. They are often invited to participate in regional or area activities, such as service conferences, area assemblies, etc. Trusteeship is for four years. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

■ Myths and Misconceptions

The relationship of Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community is an extremely important and long-standing one. A.A.'s 2014 Membership Survey shows that 32 percent of A.A. members were introduced to the program via a treatment facility; 12 percent of A.A. members were introduced to the program through the judicial system; and fully 59 percent of members received some kind of counseling (psychological or spiritual) related to their alcoholism before coming into A.A. Importantly, 74 percent of those members who received treatment or counseling said it played a crucial role in directing them to A.A. Given these numbers, perhaps no group of nonalcoholics looms so large in relation to A.A. as those professionals in the fields of health care, addiction medicine and the law, whose working lives intersect daily with Alcoholics Anonymous.

A.A. publishes a number of resources aimed specifically at this critical relationship, particularly the pamphlets "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional," "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals," "If You Are a Professional" and "A Newcomer Asks." Yet there remain myths and misconceptions about A.A. that can create barriers between our Fellowship and those who might seek our help — both nonalcoholic professionals and those still-suffering alcoholics who may be searching for recovery.

For a deeper look at how others often see us, we asked for input from some current and former Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees as to what they felt might be some of the impediments we face in carrying the message.

Leslie Backus is a current Class A trustee of A.A.'s General Service Board and CEO of a treatment center in Savannah, Georgia.

"Because our business is substance abuse, we have a good understanding of what A.A. is and isn't," she says. "We make a point of talking to our new clinicians who have gone through masters or doctoral level programs



but who still sometimes feel that treatment is enough — alcoholics are cured; they can move on. To counter this, we make a point of going into schools and talking about how you can help clients understand the concept of ‘one day at a time.’

“When it comes to the clients we treat, we consider misconceptions about the A.A. program as teaching opportunities. Our clients often have a hard time with the concept of sharing, and we explain how sharing helps them as individuals and as part of an A.A. group. They often misunderstand the concept of sponsorship. We say, ‘Your sponsor is not your therapist. He or she is not just a free ride to A.A. meetings. Your sponsor is there to help guide you through the program of A.A.’

“Sometimes with clients, one of the sticking points is religion: they think A.A. is too God-oriented. We work with them on the idea that A.A. is not a religious program but a spiritual one, and your Higher Power can be whatever works for you in terms of finding a spiritual solution. We also can direct people to meetings that are welcoming toward atheist/agnostic members.”

The Honorable Ivan Lemelle is a current Class A trustee and a U.S. district judge in New Orleans who has seen misconceptions about A.A. on the legal side of things. “From my perspective,” he says, “I do run into a minority of colleagues who still believe that A.A. is some kind of religious cult, and when that happens I have in the past given out some literature that explains the difference between spirituality and religion, between the notion of God and the A.A. focus on a Higher Power. Still, I can understand why some people have that belief. At one time, judges were able to mandate that a defendant with a history of problem drinking go to A.A. meetings. But case law is now against that.”

Lemelle continues, “There is also concern among some people that A.A. is too white, too old, too male. To some extent, the most recent A.A. survey bears this out [the 2014 Membership Survey shows that men outnumber women 62 percent to 38 percent, that 89 percent of A.A. members are white, and that the average age of an A.A. member is 50]. But I think that when you take a look at what’s going on at A.A. events currently — Forums, conferences, etc. — you see a more varied group. A while ago,

I was at the Pacific Regional Forum and we had a very diverse group — young, old, male, female, Asian, African-American, you name it. So, I think that is changing.

“A last misconception might be the self-support and contributions issue. It is hard convincing some of my colleagues that A.A. does not accept outside contributions. But I like to tell the story that I was at a meeting with a cousin who was in A.A. I started to put a dollar in the basket, and he stopped me and said, ‘We support ourselves.’ I generally explain this to people as a way of pointing out that A.A. stays free from outside influences by retaining financial independence.”

Dr. John Fromson is a past Class A trustee who is Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Psychiatry at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital in Boston. Most of the physicians he knows, he says, are not prey to myths about Alcoholics Anonymous. And they support treatment. “But their training leads them to a desire for evidence-based treatment — scientific facts — and one of the tough things is that there isn’t much research about the efficacy of A.A. If you ask me, having a spiritual awakening or change is the key to recovery in A.A. It would be great to have some kind of tool to measure those to whom this might be more likely to occur, but of course we don’t have that. Even so, from a professional point of view, there is no contraindication to A.A. It’s not like combining certain medications that are dangerous taken together.”

As noted in the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” denial of the problem is symptomatic of alcoholism, and alcoholics “tend to be evasive when questioned about their drinking.” Most alcoholics, the pamphlet continues, will resist any suggestion that alcoholism is involved and may be equally resistant to the suggestion of Alcoholics Anonymous as a last recourse.

Along these lines, Fromson notes, “The misconceptions about A.A. that I see come mostly from the alcoholic patient. He or she says, ‘No, I am not going to A.A. because it is a cult,’ or ‘I might get hit on,’ or ‘I am not going to go because there is no evidence it works.’ And I say, ‘Just go and try it. If you don’t like one meeting, go to another one. If one group strikes you as overly religious or sexist or anti-medication, you’ll find another one right around the corner.’”

Fromson says that he would also recommend that medical students go to open A.A. meetings. “It would be great if all medical schools required students to attend a few meetings and then come back and have a debrief on it, or a tutorial, perhaps with an A.A. member present. That way, when it comes to a doctor counseling an alcoholic and recommending A.A., he or she can say, ‘I have been to A.A. meetings. I know what it is like. It is worth trying.’”

Dispelling myths and misconceptions about Alcoholics Anonymous is important to A.A.s and professionals alike, as strengthened communication can only serve to help those who share a mission of reaching out to the still-suffering alcoholic.

■ The 68th General Service Conference Convenes



Established on an experimental basis in 1951 as the hoped-for successor to A.A.'s founding members, the General Service Conference was quickly adopted as the formal basis of A.A.'s service structure, serving as "the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society" (Concept II, *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*).

Convening each year, the annual General Service Conference addresses a wide range of matters of interest to the Fellowship in the United States and Canada. Extending from Sunday, April 22 to Saturday, April 28, the 68th General Service Conference was made up of 93 delegates, 26 trustees and corporate directors from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine, along with 17 General Service Office, Grapevine and La Viña staff members. The theme of the Conference was "A.A. — A Solution for All Generations."

Following a warm welcome Sunday morning from Michele Grinberg, Class A (nonalcoholic) chair of the General Service Board, the official roll call by G.S.O.'s general manager Greg T., and a greeting from Ben B. of Oklahoma, delegate chair of the Conference, the Conference keynote address was given by Richard B., Eastern Canada regional trustee. Noting the Conference theme, Richard offered, "In these few minutes, I would like to talk about some of the principles that will make way for the 68th General Service Conference to ... ensure that A.A. remains a solution for the alcoholic who still suffers.

"I believe that we will achieve this if we remain focused on our primary purpose," continued Richard, "if we remain humble and aware of our beginnings, if in everything we do we work for the preservation of Alcoholics Anonymous, and if we extend to one another mutual respect and practice tolerance.

"We are the 68th General Service Conference. Each of us here today has the trust of a group conscience, to be its eyes and ears, and to ensure that the A.A. message will be where it needs to be heard. This year, perhaps more than ever, we will have to be unified in our commitment to ensure that A.A. is and always will be there for all generations."

Conference week is long and often arduous, punctuated by board and committee reports, presentations and discussions, area service highlights, sharing sessions and, every other year, even a visit to G.S.O. and a trip to Stepping Stones, the longtime residence of Bill and Lois W. The main focus of each Conference, however, is on the deliberations of each of the 13 Conference committees, and it is during committee meetings that the major work of the Conference is done. With voluminous background provided on each agenda item (this year was the first year that all Conference background material was made available for distribution in English, French and Spanish), Conference committees weighed and discussed numerous issues of interest to the Fellowship as a whole and came up with recommendations, some of which resulted in Conference Advisory Actions. (Highlights of Advisory Actions appear on page 7.)

Addressing some difficult issues — issues of trust, overcoming barriers, and keeping the Fellowship united — the Conference worked its way through agenda items, slowly and carefully formulating a path forward for the Fellowship. Not all Conference discussions resulted in Advisory Actions, though, and much of the important work of the Conference was articulated in the additional considerations of each committee — suggestions and guidance on how best to carry the message. In order to fully present the work of the committees, it was determined that these committee considerations should be printed in their entirety in the Conference *Final Report*.

By Friday evening, with discussion and voting on committee agendas and floor actions finally complete, as has become the custom at each Conference, rotating Panel 67 delegates lined up around the room for emotional two-minute farewells, often recounting their gratitude and expressing confidence in the remaining delegates to carry on the important work of the Conference and the Fellowship. Reflecting the sentiments of many, Rick W. of Iowa noted, "I came here as a servant of Area 24. I left here as a servant of A.A."

On that note, the work of the 2018 General Service Conference officially concluded with the Serenity Prayer in three languages, led by Linda W. (English), Benoît B. (French) and Melvin M. (Spanish).

While the efforts of the General Service Conference are felt year-round, the annual meeting held each spring is the culmination of a year's worth of activity, a time when the collective conscience of A.A. in the U.S./Canada emerges to highlight a pathway forward that will help groups and members carry the A.A. message today and in the years to come. In this way, the Conference is a window to the future of the Fellowship, and as the 68th Conference receded, Conference members began to turn their attention toward the ongoing impact of our A.A. literature and the 2019 Conference with its theme: "Our Big Book — 80 Years, 71 Languages."

■ 2018 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations put forward by the standing committees of the General Service Conference that have been discussed, voted on and approved by the Conference body as a whole during general sessions. A number of Advisory Actions from the 2018 General Service Conference appear below in condensed form. A complete list of Advisory Actions will be published in the Conference *Final Report* (available from G.S.O. in late summer).

Agenda — That the theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: “Our Big Book — 80 Years, 71 Languages”; that “Yesterday’s World — Our Legacies Begin,” “Today’s World — Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service” and “Tomorrow’s World — Courage to be Vigilant” be presentation/discussion topics; and that “Clarity of Purpose — Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings” be the workshop topic.

Archives — that the proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes.

Cooperation with the Professional Community — that the pamphlets “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” and “If You Are a Professional...” be revised to reflect language related to the military; that A.A. World Services, Inc. develop a company page on LinkedIn.

Finance — that the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Grapevine — that La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color; that the revised pamphlet “AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved and the title changed to “AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media.”

International Conventions/Regional Forums — that the following two cities, expressed in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri; that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

Literature — that the following pamphlets be approved: “Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.,” “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” “Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues — and their sponsors” and “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services”; that the title of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” be changed to “G.S.R. General Service Representative: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole”; that text originally included in the 1998 edition of *Living Sober* be reinserted

following the section titled “Note to Medical Professionals”; that the pamphlet “The God Word” (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes; that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies; that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

Public Information — that the video PSA “Changes” be approved with a minor revision; that the Young People’s Video submission be approved; that the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” be approved with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve; that a progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter — that following publication of the 2018-2020 edition, the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter; that Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.

Treatment and Accessibilities — that the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” be approved with revisions and the title changed to “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.”

Floor Actions — that the Conference Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.



■ Passing the Hat, not the Buck

P.T. Barnum, the renowned circus promoter, held that “Money is a terrible master, but an excellent servant.” Many A.A.s could not agree more, as the Fellowship’s policy of “corporate poverty,” which Bill W. called “fiscal common sense,” has been a bulwark of A.A. for more than three-quarters of a century, protecting A.A. from the many corrosive side effects of accruing money for money’s sake. Money is also a classic ego inflator, and most alcoholics know all too well the danger of becoming too big for one’s britches. It is one of the slipperiest of slopes that can lead back to a drink.

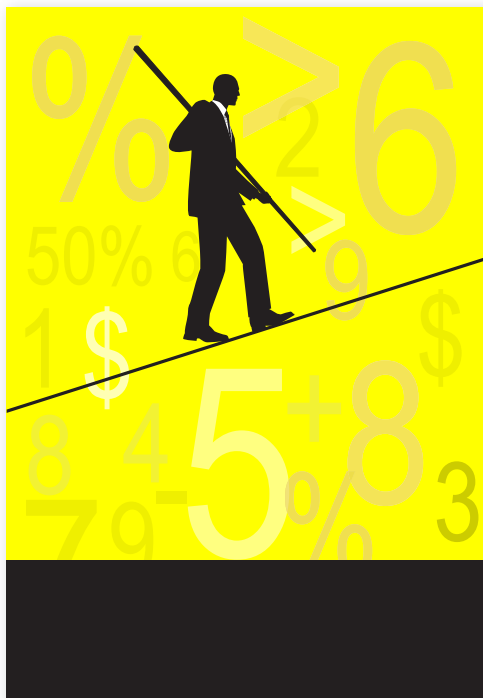
So how does A.A. practice fiscal prudence, remain fully self-supporting through our own contributions, *and* continue to expand our efforts to help another alcoholic? The concept of corporate poverty, a seeming oxymoron in the world at large, has proven to be a significant part of the solution. Simply put, corporate poverty means that once we have the funds needed for our operations and have established a prudent reserve, we must dispose of any excess by putting it back into the program of helping alcoholics. On the topic of fiscal prudence, Gary A. Glynn, a Class A (nonalcoholic) past trustee and former treasurer and chair of the General Service Board, wrote in a 1997 Grapevine article, “We must control spending, despite the presence of a large Reserve Fund, with the same sense of stewardship that we would exercise if the Reserve Fund were small.” This, of course, flies in the face of standard business dealings, yet has long safeguarded our integrity and respectability with the public.

The philosophy of corporate poverty is credited to Francis of Assisi, who lived at a time when it was common for individuals to pledge themselves to poverty, but highly unusual for an organization to do likewise. Francis thought corporate poverty to be fundamental: “The less money and property to quarrel about, the less the diversion from their primary purpose.”

Michele Grinberg, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and current General Service Board chair, notes that the idea of corporate poverty may go back even further, to the Benedictine monks, who pledged not to own *anything*: “And though the physical reality of that concept changed through the centuries, the concept remained the same.” Michele calls corporate poverty “fiscal prudence” and feels strongly that by not amassing money for money’s sake and remaining self-supporting by declining outside contributions, we can avert disaster. On a practical

note, Michele says it is “just good nonprofit governance, as G.S.O. is a business governed by New York nonprofit laws.” Michele feels that “part of the brilliance of A.A. is that it is able to teach people who have no skills how to be good citizens... that there is dignity in self-support, that you do have an obligation if you value something, to put in something.”

On the group level, corporate poverty includes the practice of each A.A. group holding aside a prudent reserve — some agreed-upon number of months’ operating expenses — in the anticipation of an emergency or a decrease in Seventh Tradition donations. Considering A.A. at the level of G.S.O. and the world



services it provides, however, corporate poverty, as a concept, needs to be looked at with a stronger lens. The General Service Board’s Reserve Fund might seem huge to some, but, as Michele Grinberg points out, G.S.O. is a much more complex entity, one that cannot be “restarted” as easily as an A.A. group. She echoes Gary Glynn’s observation that “there is no alternative G.S.O. to turn to if ours goes under. The services we provide have been built up out of many years of collective experience and would be hard to recreate.” A.A.’s Reserve Fund must cover operating shortfalls between revenues and expenses, capital construction projects, lease guarantees, pension obligations, retirement/medical obligations, as well as legal liabilities and other unknowns. Michele emphasizes that there was a reason for the change in language in

the Twelfth Concept (Second Warranty) from “prudent” to “ample” reserve to prevent catastrophes. And, as Gary Glynn wrote, “A strong Reserve Fund is one of the prices we have to pay to assure that no one but the Fellowship sets our financial policies.”

According to David Morris, Class A trustee and current treasurer of the General Service Board, our “prudent reserve” should cover a period of 9–12 months of the combined operating expenses of A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine. The 2017 reserve was approximately \$16 million, which some might see as excessive. But some simple math moderates that number vastly when we consider that there are 66,860 A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada, which means that that “excessive” reserve breaks down to about \$225 per group. David also notes that A.A.’s expenses for 2017 were around \$18 million — a \$2 million shortfall, with literature sales making up the difference.

Bill W. recognized all too well the balancing act he was asking the Fellowship to take on: “Too much, and we

argue over perilous wealth and power and lose sight of our primary purpose of carrying the message. Too little, and we risk losing the ability to carry the message at all.” And Alcoholics Anonymous carries that message in myriad ways at home and all over the world. The Fellowship services provided by group contributions to A.A.’s local districts, area committees, intergroup/central offices and the General Service Office are extensive, covering many aspects of the Fellowship: public information; cooperation with the professional community; carrying the message into treatment and correctional facilities; providing overseas literature assistance; communicating with Loners; establishing archives committees and services; coordinating General Service Conferences, Regional Forums, World Service Meetings and International Conventions; and a host of other service activities. At G.S.O. alone, on average, 13,600 booklets, pamphlets and miscellaneous items as well as 4,900 Big Books and other books are shipped daily; 230 emails and 65 phone calls are answered and responded to each day, as well as 300 Seventh Tradition contributions processed with thank-you letters sent; 200 copies of Grapevine and La Viña are mailed daily; six requests for information from the Archives are answered daily (culled from over 2,700 cubic feet of records); and an average of 390 people (more than half, first-timers) attended each of 14 Regional Forums held throughout the Fellowship during the last three years.

This extensive network of activities would seem to preclude G.S.O. itself of ever having an excess of funds, especially considering that Seventh Tradition support for G.S.O. last year totaled close to \$8 million, while the cost of the activities and services came to \$10 million (the gap, once again, closed with literature sales). But if G.S.O. ever did find itself with extra money on its hands, there is indeed a plan in place — reduce literature prices and commence more services worldwide.

So, the question remains: How can we remain “corporately poor” and yet still augment the ways in which we reach out to the still sick and suffering alcoholic? David R., publishing director for A.A. World Services, knows of countless ways — “special” services which, to the people who request them, are hardly special at all, but rather sorely needed: Israeli groups purchasing Arabic literature for Palestinian newcomers who attend meetings in Jerusalem and cannot read Hebrew; translations of A.A. literature for former Soviet Republics, as well as hundreds of other groups worldwide. David sees these services as “a global demonstration of one alcoholic helping another, one nation or entity helping another, the hand of A.A. being extended to the sick and suffering alcoholic with the profound message of hope — and in that hand an offering of transcendent text, audio, video or website link.”

For the first time after many thwarted attempts, the Big Book is being translated into Haitian Creole; the Big Book and “Twelve and Twelve” were recently retranslated into current-practice American Sign Language (ASL) and should be available later in the year; helpful

format and navigation modifications are being made on Braille editions of A.A. literature; the latest digital versions of audio books will soon be available; and a Navajo (a spoken language) audiobook of the Big Book is now complete. David knows firsthand how this literature is “beloved by international entities. Many use the word *precious* to describe the literature. All these efforts make for a massive, truly global publishing partnership, in service to the Fellowship of A.A., all on a bare-bones budget.”

Corporate poverty has certainly served us well in retaining the integrity and efficacy of A.A. throughout the years, for as Gary Glynn noted, “It is more of a state of mind than the size of our bank account.” And yet, it seems clear that within the scope of our “poverty” there is a wealth of opportunity to help even more alcoholics.

■ Announcement

In response to the 2018 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A., the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking a wide range of A.A. recovery experience from Spanish-speaking women in A.A.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. The author’s complete name, address and email/phone information should be included with the submission.

Submissions can be emailed to Literature@aa.org with “Spanish-speaking women in A.A.” in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is **November 19, 2018**.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Stories will be accepted in English or Spanish.



■ Anonymity in the Digital Age

A poster on anonymity, first introduced at the International Convention in Atlanta, is now available on G.S.O.’s website: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_anonymityplacard.pdf

■ A Note from the General Manager

As we move through the year here at G.S.O., there are a few things I would like to update the Fellowship about, as they may impact our interactions with members over the coming months.

Most importantly, a major project is currently underway at G.S.O. to modernize our business systems. The primary business applications are called enterprise resource planning (ERP), customer relationship management (CRM) and e-commerce. These systems impact nearly all of the business functions of our office and will consolidate and integrate existing applications onto a single platform, providing increased efficiency of operations and permit better overall support of the A.A. community. The process has already begun and will continue throughout the year. There will be changes affecting literature ordering and fulfillment, how contributions are processed, and how service records are maintained. Eventually, the new systems will replace the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) system many members have become familiar with.

Ultimately, our hope is that members interacting with G.S.O. through this more modern platform will have an improved user experience. For now, this is just a “heads up” that change is on the way at G.S.O. It isn’t here yet, but it’s coming! And as we get closer to the actual roll-out of these important changes, we will communicate any details more fully.

I also wanted to highlight a situation we’ve been informed of by a number of our print suppliers, who have alerted us to a delay in paper manufacturing that may impact some of our book reprints. While we are taking every measure to avoid delays and being out of stock of any literature items, a paper manufacturing delay, even a temporary one, could have an immediate impact on our scheduling of book reprints. We will be monitoring the situation closely, however — over-ordering paper when possible and teaming up the printing of books and other items as feasible in order to keep any disruptions to a minimum.

On another front, due to the ongoing implementation and integration of the new ERP system, please note that G.S.O. will not be printing the confidential A.A. regional directories for Eastern U.S., Western U.S. and Canada in 2018. Group information will continue to be updated and maintained throughout the year as best as possible during the process, but will not be available in printed book form this year. As the new system comes online and the data has been migrated and housed in the ERP system, we will move forward with these directories once again.

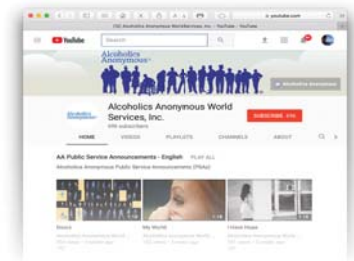
In all of these matters, we greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of the Fellowship, and will communicate updates as they become available on each of these situations.

Greg T., G.S.O. general manager

■ A.A.W.S./G.S.O. YouTube Channel

A YouTube channel has just been launched for A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and the A.A. General Service Office (G.S.O.). The new channel can be found at: www.youtube.com/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc.

The purpose of the channel is to provide an additional platform from which A.A.W.S.-produced videos can be easily shared with a broader audience in order to enhance carrying the message to alcoholics, the general public and the professional community.



Development of the channel was begun in early fall of 2017 as a response to an Advisory Action of the 2017 General Service Conference to create a YouTube channel, with comments disabled, that could be analyzed for effectiveness.

Staff is currently developing a process for displaying content on the channel, consistent with A.A. principles and A.A.W.S. copyrights. The channel was started with three engaging, Conference-approved PSAs: “Doors,” “My World” and “I Have Hope” (available in English, French and Spanish). Expansion of the YouTube collection is in process, with the ultimate goal of hosting all A.A.W.S. video content.

Stay tuned for additional video content and more information about the channel, including how to share the videos with professionals and other members.

Any questions or feedback related to the A.A.W.S./G.S.O. YouTube Channel should be sent to: commservices@aa.org.

■ Announcement

In response to the 2018 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members’ experiences with the Three Legacies, the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking current sharing from members in A.A. that reflects a broad range of experience and diversity with respect to the Three Legacies.

Manuscripts should be 500–800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. The author’s complete name, address and email/phone information should be included with the submission.

Submissions can be emailed to Literature@aa.org with “Three Legacies” in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is **November 19, 2018**.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication.

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.

Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site.

June

- 1-3—*Bozrah, Connecticut*. Soberfest. Write: Ch., 112 E. Main St., Meriden, CT 06450
- 1-3—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. Area 46 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6565, Albuquerque, NM 87197; www.nm-aa.org
- 8-10—*Tallahassee, Florida*. Founder's Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., Box 38034, Tallahassee, FL 32315-8034; www.foundersdayflorida.org
- 8-10—*Garden City, Kansas*. XVI Encuentro Hispano. Write: Ch., Box 633, Garden City, KS 67846
- 8-10—*Akron, Ohio*. 83rd Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309; foundersday@akronaa.org
- 8-10—*Kenton, Oklahoma*. 42nd Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 944, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
- 8-10—*Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada*. N.S. Provincial Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1394, Antigonish, NS B2G 2L7; district7@area82.aa.org
- 8-10—*Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Western Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org
- 9-11—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. Gratitude Roundup. Write: 4015 1st SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 4X7; gratituderoundupyc@gmail.com
- 15-16—*Joliette, Québec, Canada*. 42ième Congrès de Joliette et de Lanaudière Nord. Écrire: congres0326@aa90.org
- 15-17—*Sparks, Nebraska*. 10th Sober Float. Write: Ch., 512 N. Cherry St., Valentine, NE 69201; soberfloat@gmail.com
- 15-17—*Chevilly Larue, France*. Convention Paris Ile de France. Write: Ch., 7 rue de Poitiers, Paris, FR 75007
- 29-1—*Livingston, Montana*. Beartooth Mtn Conf. Write: Box 23406, Billings, MT 59104; www.beartoothmountainconference.com

July

- 13-15—*Soldotna, Alaska*. Wilderness Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 1625, Kenai, AK 99611; www.aakenaipeninsula.org

- 19-22—*Raleigh, North Carolina*. 71th NC State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 41451, Raleigh, NC 27629; www.aanconvention.com
- 19-22—*Lubbock, Texas*. 44th Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79493; caprockconvention@att.net
- 20-22—*Buena Park, California*. 22 Aniverario La Vina. Info: www.msca09aa.org
- 20-22—*Concord, California*. Unity and Service Conf. Info: www.unityandserviceconference.org
- 20-22—*Tehachapi, California*. Tehachapi Mtn Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 800, Tehachapi, CA 93581; www.tehachapiroundup.org
- 20-22—*White Haven, Pennsylvania*. Campout at Hickory Run. Write: Ch., Box 604, Riverside, PA 17868; www.hickoryruncampout.com
- 20-22—*Island Lake, Coleman, Alberta, Canada*. Crowsnest Pass Campout. Write: Box 402, Blairmore, AB T0K 0E0
- 20-22—*Victoriaville, Québec, Canada*. Eastern Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org
- 26-29—*Estes Park, Colorado*. Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 480642, Denver, CO 80248; www.fots.com
- 27-29—*Hot Springs, Arkansas*. Old Grandad Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2307, Searcy, AR 72145
- 27-29—*Perrysburg, Ohio*. OH State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 401, Toledo, OH 43697-0401; www.area55aa.org
- 27-29—*Charleston, West Virginia*. WV State Conv. Write: Ch., 112 Courtney Dr., Lewisburg, WV 24901; www.aawv.org
- 27-29—*Vilnius, Lithuania*. 9th European Conv. of YPAA. Info: www.eurypaa2018.org

August

- 3-5—*Boise, Idaho*. Gem State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 45505, Boise, ID 83713; www.gemstateroundup.org
- 3-5—*Hebron, Kentucky*. Rule 62. Write: Ch., Box 91, Hebron, KY 41048; rule62.eventsmart.com
- 3-5—*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*. PA State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 366, Lemoyne, PA 17043; www.aapastateconvention.com
- 3-5—*Baie-Comeau, Québec, Canada*. 48ème Congrès de Baie-Comeau. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 6052 Succursale, Mingan, Baie-Comeau, QC G5C 0B7; web.district8909@gmail.com
- 4-5—*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. 45ième Congrès 90-05. Écrire: 115 Boul. Sacré-cœur, bureau 105, Gatineau, QC Canada J8X 1C5
- 10-12—*Joplin, Missouri*. Summer Hummer Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2364, Joplin, MO 64803; summerhummer12@gmail.com
- 10-12—*Austin, Texas*. Capital of TX Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4946, Austin, TX 78765; www.capitaloftexasconference.org
- 15-19—*Fort Lauderdale, Florida*. FL State Conv. Write: Ch 2555 W. Copans Rd., Pompano Beach, FL 33069; floridastateconvention.com
- 17-19—*Decatur, Illinois*. IL State Conv. Info: www.area21aa.org
- 17-19—*Rogers, Ohio*. Beaver Creek Getaway Wknd. Write: Ch., Box 5174 East Liverpool, OH 43920; www.beavercreekgetawayweekend.com
- 17-19—*Beaumont, Texas*. 37th Dist. 90 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1591, Groves, TX 77619; www.aadistrict90.org
- 17-19—*Fort Worth, Texas*. Grupos de Recuperation Unidad y Servicio Conv. Info: convencionnacionalaatexas@gmail.com

Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the *Box 4-5-9* Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. four months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to Editor: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or literature@aa.org

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 20_____

Name of event: _____

Location: _____ CITY _____ STATE OR PROVINCE _____

Address to list: _____ P.O. BOX (OR NUMBER AND STREET) _____

CITY _____ STATE OR PROVINCE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Web site or email: _____ (NO PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: _____ NAME _____ PHONE # AND EMAIL _____

- 17-19—Woodstock, Ontario, Canada. 37th Marathon of Unity Conv. Info: oxfordaa.com
- 23-26—Jamestown, Tennessee. SMAACC. Write: Ch., Box 370 South Lowe Ave, Ste. 242, Cookeville, TN 38501; www.smaacc.org
- 24-26—Santa Isabel, California. Area 8 Local Forum. Write: Ch., Box 3670, San Diego, CA 92163; www.area8aa.org
- 24-26—Kalamazoo, Michigan. 66th MI State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 145, Marshall, MI 49068; www.wmaa34.org
- 24-26—Charleston, West Virginia. SE Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 431, Scott Depot, WV 25560; www.sewomantowoman.org
- 24-26—Reunion Flat, Wyoming. 17th Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2905, La Grande, OR 97850; tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com
- 24-26—Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 3rd Internat'l Secular Conf. Info: https://secularaa.com
- 30-3—Mill City, Oregon. In the Woods Campout. Write: Ch., Box 90425, Portland, OR 97290
- 31-2—Prescott, Arizona. AZ State Conv. Info: www.area03.org
- 31-2—San Francisco, California. Western Roundup Living Sober. Write: Ch., Box 14804, San Francisco, CA 94114; livingsober.org
- 31-2—Denver, Colorado. CO State Conv. Write: Box 852, Littleton, CO 80160; 2018.reg.chair@gmail.com
- 31-2—Polson, Montana. Ray of Hope Camporee. Write: Ch., 8 3rd Ave West, Polson, MT 59860
- 31-3—Torrance, California. South Bay Roundup. Write: Box 7786, Torrance, CA 90504; www.southbayroundup.org
- 31-7—Newport, Washington. Robbers Roost Campout. Info: dcm@district14-aa.org

September

- 1-2—Rivière-au-Renard, Québec, Canada. 34e Mini Congrès. Info: http://www.aa-quebec.org/region88/
- 7-8—Dunnville, Ontario, Canada. 52nd Dunnville Conv. & Campout. Write: Ch., Box 76, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0; dunnville-convention@outlook.com
- 7-8—Lévis, Québec, Canada. Congrès de Lévis. Write: Ch. CP 46059, Lévis, Québec G6V 8S3; www.aa89.org
- 7-9—San Jose, California. Pacific Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org
- 14-16—Mountain Home, Arkansas. Autumn In The Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 1166, Mountain Home, AR 72653; aacoar@gmail.com
- 14-16—Round Rock, Texas. Nat'l Tech Workshop. Write: Ch. Box 528, Georgetown, TX 78627; www.naatw.org
- 14-16—Wausau, Wisconsin. Area 74 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 455, Wausau, WI 54402; www.aawausauwi.org

- 14-16—Gatineau, Québec, Canada. 20e Congrès de Gatineau. Info: congress22@aa90.org
- 21-23—Rancho Mirage, California. South CA Conv. Write: Ch., 510 S. 2nd Ave, #10, Covina, CA 91723; www.aasocal.com
- 21-23—Agassiz, British Columbia, Canada. Upper Fraser Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 134, Chilliwack, BC V2P 2M9; events45aa@outlook.com
- 28-30—San Diego, California. Woman to Woman SD Conf. Info: www.womantowomansandiego.com
- 28-30—Sterling Heights, Michigan. Tri-County Conf. Write: Ch. Box 4324, Troy, MI 48099; www.tri-countyconference.org
- 28-30—Somerset, New Jersey. 62nd Area 44 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 404, West Orange, NJ 07052; www.nnjaa.org
- 28-30—Grosseto-Prugna, Corse, France. 2ème Conv. Int'l Francophone. Écrire: aa.conventioncorse2018@laposte.net

October

- 5-6—Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada. 48e Congrès de Sherbrooke. Info: www.aa-quebec.org/region88
- 5-7—Weston, West Virginia. Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302; www.jacksonsmillroundup.com
- 12-14—Borborough, Massachusetts. Woman to Woman NE Conf. Write: Ch., Box 259, Bellingham, MA 02019; www.womantowomannewengland.org
- 12-14—Rapid City, South Dakota. Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1382, Rapid City, SD 57709; 2018area63fallconf@gmail.com
- 12-14—Biarritz, France. Biarritz Internat'l Conv. Info: aaconventionbiarritz.com
- 19-21—Perrysburg, Ohio. Holy Toledo Conf. Write: Ch., Box 135, Glenshaw, PA 15116; www.holytoledoconference.com
- 26-27—St. Cloud, Minnesota. St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302; www.stcloudroundup.org

- 26-28—Quincy, Illinois. MS Valley Reg. Conf. Info: mvctristate@gmail.com
- 26-28—Branson, Missouri. Colors of Fall. Info: www.wamo-aa.org

November

- 1-4—Honolulu, Hawaii. 57th Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96834; www.annualhawaiiiconvention.com
- 2-4—Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Lake Havasu City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1692, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405; www.havasuaaroundup.org
- 2-4—South Portland, Maine. Nat'l Corrections Conf. Write: Box 125, Bath, ME 04530; 2018nationalcorrectionsconference.org
- 2-4—Cheektowaga, New York. 77th Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., 17 Getzville Street, Sloan, NY 14212; www.buffaloaa.org
- 2-4—White Plains, New York. NE Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 210341, Woodhaven, NY 11421; new2w2018@gmail.com
- 2-4—Bee Cave, Texas. Area 68 Fall Voting Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 170232, Austin, TX 78727; www.district3b3c.org
- 2-4—Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Area 75 Conf. Write: Ch., Box 14171, Madison, WI 53704; www.eventbrite.com
- 2-4—Repentigny, Québec, Canada. 36ème Congrès de Repentigny. Info: infopubliqueaa90.08.18@gmail.com
- 9-10—Houma, Louisiana. 38th Bayouland Jamboree. Write: Box 2251, Houma, LA 70361; www.thebayoulandjamboree.org
- 9-10—Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. 71st Cornwall & Area Dist. 50 Conf. Write: Ch., 1380 Lochiel St., Cornwall, ON K6H 6N2; cornwallaaconference@yahoo.com
- 16-18—Sterling, Virginia. Southeast Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org

New Grapevine Publication

AA in the Military

In this collection of stories from AA Grapevine, members write about their experiences with serving in the military. The book begins with letters from troops during World War II. The chapters that follow are filled with stories from men and women who served their country on land, sea and air. The book concludes with a powerful selection of stories by sober veteran A.A. members, titled "Coming Home."

To order this book or any other Grapevine product, go to AAGrapevine.org and click on Store or call (800) 631-6025 U.S./Canada, (818) 487-2091 International, or fax at (818) 487-4550.

