

BOX 4|5|9

News and Notes From the General Service Office of A.A.[®]

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1986 Conference Spotlights A.A. Responsibility

"A.A.'s Future: Our Responsibility" will be the theme of the 36th General Service Conference, to be held April 20-26 at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City.

Delegates from the 91 areas of the United States and Canada will convene for the supersize A.A. business meeting, along with trustees of the General Service Board, G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, and A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors. As they join in the true democracy of the Conference process, a number of those assembled will recall Bill W.'s succinct words on the Conference theme: "Clearly, our first duty to A.A.'s future . . . is to maintain in full strength what we now have. Only the most vigilant caretaking can assure this." Bill was also known to say that "all A.A. programs can be reckoned in terms of just two words: humility and responsibility."

The spring Conference, which will officially open with a keynote address by rotating Class A trustee W. J. (Jim) Estelle Jr., will be filled with presentations, discussions, workshops and committee meetings — plus luncheons, dinners and a visit to G.S.O. and Grapevine offices. It will be challenging, often tiring, yet exciting and heartwarming as attendees together seek to clarify and improve ways in which A.A. as a whole carries its message of sobriety.

Presentation/discussion sessions will focus on diverse subjects ranging from anonymity and archives to A.A. literature and copyrights. At one workshop, on "Letting Go of Old Ideas," participants will have the opportunity to explore "New Ways of Carrying the A.A. Message" and to ask themselves the question: "Are We Becoming Too Rigid?" At another, "A.A.'s Impact on the World" will be discussed.

Additionally, there will be reports from the General Service Board, its committees, and the A.A. World Services and Grapevine boards, a sharing session, and voting on regional trustees for the Pacific U.S. and Eastern Canada regions.

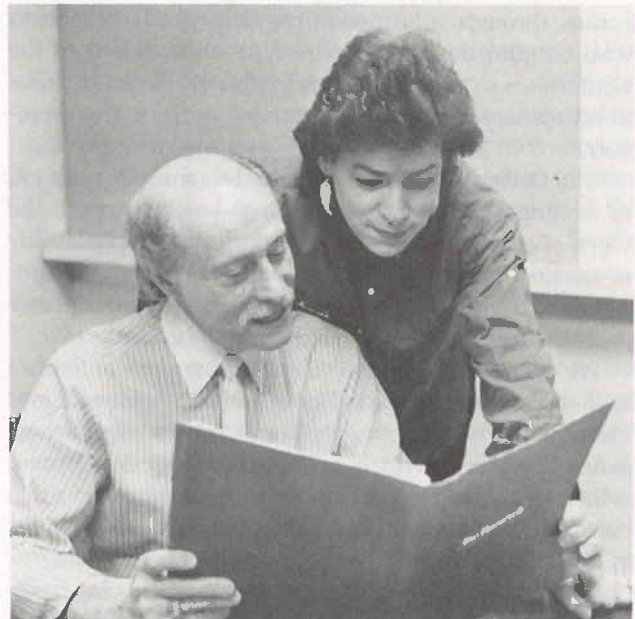
On the last two days of the Conference, the entire assemblage will consider recommendations of the various committees. From these discussions will emerge the Conference Advisory Actions which reflect the collective

conscience of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada, and may serve as basic guidelines for A.A. groups and individual members.

As a decision-making body, the General Service Conference seeks to reach "substantial unanimity" in its voting procedures. The quiet voices of gratitude and responsibility are a strong determining factor.

Behind-the-Scenes at the Conference

When the 36th General Service Conference draws to a close April 26, members will marvel at how six such full days, such complicated days, could have run so smoothly. Literally everyone at the General Service Office has a hand in bringing it off, so it is hard to give credit where credit is due without omitting someone who should have been recognized.



Office manager Tony Osnato and Elizabeth Garcia, manager of the stenographic department, confer on Conference week schedules.

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Probably the most visible wheelhorses of the Conference are the presiding officer, John B., and the Conference secretary, Susan D., who coordinates the content and scheduling of the week-long meeting. The agenda itself begins with the recommendations of the agenda committee from the previous year's Conference, supplemented by suggestions from many other sources in the service structure.

Throughout the planning year, every development is checked with the A.A. General Service Board through its trustees' Conference Committee, chaired this year by Jack F., Western Canada Regional Trustee.

For most delegates, the build-up to the Conference comes through voluminous mailings, and the person who handles these is Adeline Wilmot, assistant to the Conference secretary. Adeline is also visible on the dias at all plenary sessions, taking notes as recording secretary.

The Delegates Manuals, themselves a mammoth job of writing, typing and assembling — which entail the work of many people — are the primary responsibility of Dottie McGinity. Dottie, a Conference veteran, maintains the accuracy of all the data in the delegates' roster and the other rosters, among many other tasks.

As the delegates' fees come in from the Conference areas, it is the responsibility of John Kirwin, assistant controller of G.S.O., to keep the accounts straight, assisted by other members of the accounting department which he also supervises. John is there at the registration desk on the opening Sunday to give out delegates' expenses for the week.

These key people and many, many others play indispensable roles in the success of the Conference. However, there is still the physical planning, the complex logistics and the operational management of the myriad

details of the six-day meeting. These fall to two managers at G.S.O.: Tony Osnato and Elizabeth Garcia. Like Adeline, Dottie and John Kirwin above, they are nonalcoholics and work largely behind-the-scenes.

These responsibilities are in addition to their regular functions. As office manager, Tony is responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance, security and overall condition and physical operation of the General Service Office. Elizabeth is manager of the stenographic and clerical department, supervising 17 employees, the largest department at G.S.O. Furthermore, Tony and Elizabeth perform the same critically important task for the quarterly General Service Board weekends and the bi-annual World Service Meetings.

Tony's planning for this year's Conference began two years ago with his locking in the dates at New York's Roosevelt Hotel, and reserving the rooms A.A. will require: 11 committee/workshop meeting rooms and a steno workroom; the Grand Ballroom, for the opening dinner; the Terrace Room and Oval Room, all week; and 130 bedrooms. He holds at least three meetings with the hotel banquet manager and sales manager prior to the Conference.

Elizabeth begins several months ahead by referring to the working agenda of the previous year's Conference on which she has made copious notes of *who* was responsible for *what* and *when*. When the agenda is approved by the trustees' Conference Committee, at the end of January, she determines exactly what events affect her people, day by day, hour by hour. At the presentations, is there anything to be distributed? At the Committee meetings, what printed materials are needed for each? Consult with the staff/secretaries of the various Conference committees. Then advise the G.S.O. mail department what pamphlets, guidelines, etc. are needed and in what quantities.

What about the people? What stenographic assistant will be recording secretary for which committee? Elizabeth makes out an individual schedule for each for the full Conference week. Some stenos will remain back at 468 Park Ave. So. to keep the office open and to receive the hurry-up calls from the crew at the Roosevelt, "Pull the letter to the Alberta delegate from the file and bring it up . . ." or "they want to see the scripts of the 1980 public service spots. . . ."

Meanwhile, Tony has rented eight typewriters for the workroom at the hotel — the same model as the ones at G.S.O. to make the secretaries' job easier. And a copy machine. Every conceivable need is packed and trucked to the hotel, from paper clips and spare typewriter ribbons to pencils (and a sharpener) and paper, and including first aid supplies and two hats (for use at elections). "We even bring five square pillows because the hotel chairs are too low for the stenos. And a bar stool!" Why? "To keep the presiding officer from developing phlebitis from having to stand for hours at a time at the podium,



Elsie Oxman in a G.S.O. storeroom, packing one of the many cartons of supplies that will be trucked to the Roosevelt for Conference week.

day after day.”

Tony has also prepared various detailed schedules for the entire week for the hotel staff: Meals, including menus, rooms, day and time, head count and special requirements. Coffee breaks, same. Meeting rooms, same. Audiovisual requirements such as overhead projectors, slide-film projectors, movie projectors, VCRs; when and where each is required, who will operate it and what is to be shown. “I put everything in writing,” emphasizes Tony, “down to the wastebaskets and extension cords.”

As the Conference approaches, he furnishes the hotel with a complete rooming list with names and arrival and departure dates, arranges for check cashing privileges for the delegates, and selects a menu for every meal.

Tony, his assistant (“I can’t be in two places at once”) and Elizabeth work from before 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. or later every day of the Conference. On opening Sunday, they spend the morning with the Roosevelt housemen setting up the Terrace Room — with the banners, tables, microphones, etc. — the registration area in the Oval Room and the workroom on the second floor. Then they hurriedly change clothes to staff the registration desk at one p.m., handing out name badges and Delegates’ Kits. Later in the afternoon they change again to be on deck for the opening dinner.

The hardest day of Conference week is Wednesday. That’s when the new trustees are elected, and all the committee reports have to be done in final form to be distributed that night. New measures are taken every year to make this job run smoother and easier.

“We have to be ready for absolutely any emergency,” declares Tony, and Elizabeth concurs.

Other emergencies have included the loss of a briefcase containing \$10,000 in cash (later recovered), a heart attack by one of the delegates, a person breaking a bone in her hand and having to go to the hospital — and Tony, Elizabeth and the taper being accidentally locked in the taping room.

“The house staff at the Roosevelt is fantastically cooperative, which makes our job easier,” says Tony. “We have had the Conference and the board weekends there for so many years, they know our needs. In fact, some of the banquet waiters and housemen have been serving A.A. for 20 to 25 years, and they love us.

“The management of the hotel says that we are the most professional group they deal with. We give them the most complete and detailed instructions and we are the most dependable. Isn’t that ironic for an outfit that is traditionally nonprofessional and unorganized?”

The answer, of course, lies with Tony, Elizabeth and all the G.S.O. people who help them.

How ‘In-Town’ Trustees Are Chosen

At the General Service Conference, in addition to the other trustee elections, a General Service Trustee will be chosen. Both the title and the selection procedure may be unfamiliar to many in our service structure, so a brief review may be helpful.

The bylaws of the General Service Board specify there shall be four “General Service Trustees . . . from the New York commuting area.” The bylaws further explain that these trustees, in addition to providing their services at the quarterly board meetings as the other trustees do, “are expected to provide continued service to the board during all times of the year.” *The A.A. Service Manual* adds that “A sound business or professional background . . . would seem to be a must.”

The A.A. Service Manual clarifies the procedure by which they are chosen. First of all, they are alcoholic, or “Class B,” trustees. Secondly, they are chosen from among the nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards — A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Why? Because they serve as representatives of these two boards to the General Service Board — and vice versa. When an opening occurs (as it does this year), a candidate is proposed by vote of the corporate board on which he or she is serving (or has been serving). The resume of the candidate is submitted first to the trustees’ Nominating Committee, which passes

on it and submits it to the General Service Board for election at its annual meeting following the General Service Conference.

The trustees' Nominating Committee also forwards the name and resume to the Conference Committee on Trustees for review. The candidate is then presented to the Conference as a whole for "disapproval, if any." In other words, the Conference has a veto power, but if it is not exercised the candidate then goes automatically to the board for election.

Once elected, the General Service Trustee continues as a director of the subsidiary board he represents and (in the words of *The Service Manual*) "must be available, not only every quarter, but any week and sometimes any day for the solution of problems on which G.S.O. or Grapevine staff members need help. Because of this requirement, all originally came from New York City or its commuting area and were sometimes known as 'in-town trustees.' With today's faster transportation, a General Service Trustee may live either in the metropolitan area or within a convenient traveling distance from the city."

How Can A.A. Reach Out to the Elderly?

As young people in A.A. have pointed out, alcoholism is not an age; it's a disease. But just as young A.A.s have problems unique to their time of life, so do the elderly.

Most older A.A.s want to participate actively at meetings, but often the process of aging — sickness, increasing frailty, reduced means, less mobility and independence — proves to be overwhelming and, bit by bit, they quietly drop out.

"There is a lot of alcoholism among the aging," says Rick D., C.P.C. chairperson, So. California Area Assembly. "It's not just the active, long-time alcoholics we're talking about; it's the A.A.s who have been sober for years at one end of the spectrum and the people with a relatively short drinking history at the other. Despair is at the base. Maybe they have lost one loved one too many; they feel alone and vulnerable. They get into alcohol and drugs and depression. It's the 'waiting to die' syndrome and it's all too prevalent."

In his area, Rick reports, "the C.P.C. committee is expanding its established A.A. Contact Program, which provides temporary sponsorship for persons released from hospitals and treatment centers, to include those referred by employee assistance programs and senior citizen facilities and professionals — gerontologists, so-

cial workers and counselors."

To establish contact with the professionals, the C.P.C. committee has formed presentation groups. "Our people go directly into senior recreational centers, nursing homes and retirement facilities," says Rick, "and distribute the A.A. contact card to people who may want to come to the Fellowship but are foggy about how to get here. The card is a small foldover that fits into a shirt pocket. It tells what A.A. can and cannot do, and gives the 'contact' phone number. Once the alcoholic has our number, he or she has a place to begin. The phone is hooked up to an answering machine that is monitored closely. Although the program is fairly new, we're beginning to get some calls from the older people."

The A.A. Contact Program is made possible by support reaching back to the group level. At meetings, G.S.R.s ask for volunteers to act as sponsors — preferably members familiar with the Twelve Traditions. Hospitals and Institutions committee members, operating in panels of four or five A.A.s, carry word of the program to facilities all over Southern California. The H&I committees coordinate their outreach program with both the G.S.O. and the Los Angeles Central Service offices.

"Such was not always the case," notes Rick. "For some time, efforts to coordinate the contact work of these services were splintered at best. Now, thanks largely to Ann G. (Panel 35 delegate), there's been a major breakthrough in finding and achieving ways to work together effectively. And it's getting better all the time."

The Southern California C.P.C. is not alone in reaching out to the aging alcoholic. In New York, members of the Bronx Intergroup Institutions Committee, after overcoming some initial skepticism expressed by the staff, have been taking one weekly meeting, chaired by Ulyssice W., into a local nursing home, and are in the process of trying to introduce a second. The committee's experience underscores the importance of establishing ongoing communication with senior citizen facilities — to help them understand how A.A. can serve as a lifeline to the aging alcoholic.

From the Washington, D.C. Area, C.P.C. chairperson Gerry G. reports that what started out as a questionnaire to determine group services needed for the deaf has expanded into a vehicle for learning what facilities are available for disabled persons in general, including the aged. Mailed initially to 300 groups, the questionnaire asks for such information as: How many steps must you climb to get to the meeting? . . . Are there restroom facilities available on the same floor as the meeting? . . . Do you have off-street parking? . . . and Does your group have smokers' and nonsmokers' meetings?

Thus far, approximately 60 groups have responded, Gerry says, and "the canvassing and compiling continue as an ongoing procedure. The information received is

being transferred to 3x5 cards, filed by zip code and made available to intergroup desk workers." Armed with this knowledge, he points out, they can better steer the handicapped and aged to meetings appropriate to their physical conditions.

In San Jose, California, oldtimer Dave W. has found a way to surmount the problems of bringing A.A. and older people together. "I've started a Long Timers Group which meets every week in the home of a woman who is sick and can't get out," he writes. "At our last meeting, we had nine A.A.s (sober 26 to 37 years) and three Al-Anon oldtimers. Of these, only four drive, including one Al-Anon whose husband is blind, so we've arranged transportation." The members' ages vary, he explains, as does their physical health. All have done much service and Twelve-Step work. One reason the meetings are so popular, he adds, "is the opportunity they provide for socializing. Loneliness is a big problem that aging A.A.s face."

Some time ago, in the San Jose area newsletter, *Good News*, an 82-year-old A.A. sober 29 years shared her thoughts on problems of the aging in the Fellowship:

- If an older person is financially able to own a car, it still might be difficult for him or her to drive at night. It would be nice if someone would call and offer a ride to the meeting.

- Sometimes younger people are so busy with their own affairs that they unintentionally leave the older ones out of their sharing before and after meetings. There have been times I've wanted to quit going because I felt so left out.

- To the older A.A. member, it seems that the topics are getting far away from A.A. principles. We older people have emotional problems too, but they're just a little different from those of the young ones. Our need to share never ends, so maybe the answer is "golden years" or "over-62" groups.

Many older A.A. members adjust creatively to the changes and losses that occur as part of the aging experience. From Manson, Iowa, Marion B. writes: "I have emphysema and for over a year have had to give up my meetings because of smoke-filled rooms and steps to climb. I was about to give up everything. But, thanks to the grace of God and *L.I.M.* (*Loners-Internationalists Meeting*), I have more meetings now than before through the *L.I.M.* newsletter and letters from around the world. As it is said, when in trouble, ask for help."

From another *L.I.M.* member, 80-year-old Lily P. of Albuquerque, New Mexico — known to some of her friends as "Caracas Lil" — comes an expression of gratitude: "It has been a long time, but I haven't forgotten my *L.I.M.* friends. I've been dangerously ill with heart failure and all sorts of other medical problems, but I'm home from the hospital now and diligently trying to get better. Thank God for small mercies. I'm alive and still can think and hold a pen, although it

takes the longest time to write the shortest letter."

Loner George M., of Lakewood, Ohio, writes: "I haven't had much motivation in my solitary, deaf, silent life. Yet I am so grateful for A.A. and the Lord's having given me 29 years of sobriety."

Thousands of older A.A.s have a wealth of experience in living sober to share. In turn, they may need the hand of A.A. to be there for them and provide some of the strength that younger bodies take for granted.

Like A.A.s everywhere, Betsy M. of Chicago goes out of her way to help elderly members on a one-to-one basis. "The way I look at it," she says, "is that I'm 43 now. If I live to be old and infirm, I'll need the support of A.A. more than ever. The Twelfth-Step work I do now is really a deposit toward my own future."

Biography of Bill W. Inspires Anonymous 'Thank You'

"*Pass It On*," the definitive A.A. Conference-approved biography of Bill W. that was published a year ago, has attracted many tributes, including an especially moving and anonymous "thank you" to the authors — who, according to A.A. tradition, also remain anonymous.

"What you have produced," the writer observes, "is neither a cult figure nor an idealized portrait, but the picture of a likable, very fallible human being."

Sharing personal history, the writer notes that, "over the course of my own life — more than 20 years of which, thankfully, have been within the Fellowship — I have developed a special admiration for those people in all fields whose lives have been literally 'used up' in doing things that are worth the doing. My greatest respect is reserved for that tiny percentage who have accomplished their worthy goals against the grain of their own characteristic inclinations and defects.

"The gradual, and by no means consistent, development of the concept of anonymity in the consciousness — and eventually in the very pith and marrow — of [Bill W.], who throughout his life hungered and thirsted after personal recognition, is to my mind one of the most thrilling true stories in ethical history."

A.A. is "literally in a league of its own," the writer concludes. "It owes what it is in large measure to the spirit of anonymity that is at its very core. And it reached that core mainly through the most unlikely conduit of Bill W. So, to you anonymous author(s), an anonymous thank you for doing something that is well worth the doing."

Literature Discount Change

On May 1, 1986, the price of literature to A.A. central offices and intergroups, as well as to groups that order more than \$25 at a time, will be — reluctantly — raised by the elimination of the 6% discount which has been given to A.A.s on orders of that size since 1980.

This action, the first price increase of any kind since 1975 (before 1975, there had been no general price increase for 35 years!) has been forced by the arrival of the long-anticipated time when the costs of G.S.O. operations would exceed income under the inflationary pressures of our economy. Since 1975, consumer prices have more than doubled. Paper, printing, labor and other costs have behaved similarly; and the Fellowship's growth has added to the cost of G.S.O. services.

The bulk discounts given for large orders of individual items are not affected by this action.

A.A. Comes of Age Now on Tape

Just as the Big Book is the "bible" of individual recovery for millions of A.A.s, so *A.A. Comes of Age* is the spellbinding story of our collective sobriety — indeed, our very existence.

In March, *A.A. Comes of Age* will be available on tape (recorded by the same person who did the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve cassettes). You can lean back, eyes closed, and go back in time to 1934 when Dr. William Silkworth pronounced Bill W. a hopeless alcoholic . . . journey with him to his historic meeting in Akron with Dr. Bob . . . struggle with them through A.A.'s early efforts to survive . . . chuckle at their consternation when Albert Scott (a member of John D. Rockefeller's staff) asked, "Won't money spoil this thing?" — and so saved A.A. from professionalism. And then there is the moving account of Bill and Dr. Bob's last meeting, and Bob's words, "Remember, Bill, let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple!"

It's all there on tape: the history of the Fellowship laced with one heartwarming anecdote after another.

The first part of the book presents a panoramic sketch of the historic St. Louis Convention at which A.A. "came of age" and assumed full responsibility for all its affairs. The second part includes three talks on the history of A.A. Recovery, Unity and Service, which were given by Bill at the St. Louis gathering.

The third part includes addresses by a number of A.A.'s friends — people we've heard about such as Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, the psychiatrist; Father Edward Dowling, and the Rev. Samuel M. Shoemaker.

As Bill noted in the foreword, *A.A. Comes to Age* is

"for A.A. members and their friends — for all who are interested in knowing how A.A. started, how its principles of Recovery, Unity and Service evolved, and how the Fellowship has grown and spread its message around the world."

The tapes that comprise the book are packaged in sets of eight, and come with a twelve-page booklet of photographs depicting A.A. history. Available from G.S.O., \$25 per set.

In Memoriam: Janet G.

The office and the Fellowship suffered a loss in October 1985 with the death of Janet G., copy editor for both G.S.O. and *The A.A. Grapevine* since the early 1960s. Her contributions were many. She established and maintained exceptionally high editorial standards for A.A.'s publications, with a meticulous attention to detail and a gift for the right phrase to express any idea. As the years went by, she became a repository of information — handing something over to Janet was a guarantee not only of smooth style but of correct facts and absolute attention to every nuance of A.A. custom and principle.

Janet's first contact with the office came as a writer of occasional *Grapevine* articles, and she began part-time paid work for the *Grapevine* in 1962. Soon after that, the General Service Office claimed the rest of her time, and in addition to keeping everything from the Big Book to the briefest pamphlet error-free, she anonymously wrote several pamphlets and edited both *Box 4-5-9* and the *Conference Report*.

Janet was a "workaholic" in the most positive sense, one who was fortunate enough to do work she loved for the Fellowship that gave her back the ability to work. Until nearly the end, she was there at the other end of the telephone with answers and advice, and she continued to copy edit for the *Grapevine* at home for some months after she was unable to come to the office.

Janet was a quiet woman, with a smile that would appear unexpectedly to warm and delight. Not quite so unexpected were the boxes of Christmas cookies, baked according to an old family recipe, that appeared each year for the staff's enjoyment. She was a voracious reader and a lover of New York, who spent hours walking around exploring the city; and twice a year she would disappear for a week or so and take to the seas for her special treat, a cruise to the Caribbean.

Janet celebrated 27 years of sobriety three months before she died, and her quality of sobriety, always evident, became clearer to us all toward the end. Janet's acceptance of her own death was perhaps more complete than ours, and all who knew her call on that quiet quality of faith when we say, "We miss you, Janet, and God bless."

C.P.C.

What Do Professionals Want to Know About A.A.?

Through the vehicle of its 14-year-old newsletter *About A.A.*, the C.P.C. committee has sought to disseminate accurate, up-to-date information about the Fellowship, free of charge, to approximately 20,000 professionals in the alcoholism field and, in so doing, to enhance our cooperative efforts in helping the sick alcoholic to get well.

In 1978 and again in 1982, professionals on the mailing list were surveyed in order to further these aims. They included educators (teachers, administrators, guidance counselors); health care personnel (physicians, nurses, therapists, others); social workers; alcoholism counselors and treatment center personnel; the clergy; members of the armed services; and those in the legal field (lawyers, judges, parole officers and more).

Not surprisingly, medical personnel comprised the largest single group of professionals heard from, with treatment center personnel running second.

In the 1982 survey of more than 12,000 subscribers, respondents to the question, "What topics would be of particular interest to you?" most often requested were articles on dual addiction and other drug-related subjects. About as many asked for "general information" which, survey analysts say, could be interpreted as "a general plea for a better understanding of who and what A.A. really is." Throughout the survey, they add, runs a "strong current of 'We don't understand what A.A. can and cannot do.'"

This assessment is borne out in part by the fact that numerous respondents reveal ignorance of A.A. by asking for all kinds of information and material A.A. does not provide, such as: reports of medical/clinical breakthroughs in alcoholism; news about research in drug addiction; lists of teaching aids; lists of funding sources for alcoholism programs; and "more about group therapy dealing with guilt and the burnout syndrome."

The first issue of *About A.A.* went out in summer 1972 after a trustee action called for issuance of a periodic report to professionals on A.A. matters of real interest to them. By the time the second issue was published, in September 1973, the mailing list had doubled as the result of requests by professionals to receive the newsletter. It was further suggested that content might incorporate the experience of treatment programs reflecting successful cooperation between A.A. and their own professional staffs.

In response to results of the survey, which is being repeated every four years, *About A.A.* is endeavoring to furnish the kinds of information that professionals have asked for, through individual articles as well as special issues that provide in-depth coverage of specific subject areas.

P.I.

Conventions and Conferences — Opportunities to Inform the Public About A.A.

The 50th Anniversary International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Montreal last year was a tremendous and moving event. Before, during and after that weekend of July 4-7, it was also the occasion for an unprecedented outpouring of favorable information in the press about A.A.

Over 50,000 people attended the Convention and, from all reports, they made a lasting impression on the several hundred thousand citizens of Montreal. But through newspapers, magazines, radio and television, literally millions of others throughout the U.S. and Canada and in many overseas countries came away with two powerful messages about A.A.: it *works*, and it is *fun!*

Exceptional? Perhaps, but not unique. Your group anniversaries, intergroup banquets, state conferences and conventions and other A.A. get-togethers have always provided opportunities for carrying the A.A. message through the press. A.A. Archives' scrapbooks of clippings from the early years, and later files at G.S.O. abound with excellent stories about such occasions. Sometimes these are the work of one of the more than 700 area and local public information committees, sometimes of the P.I. chairperson of the event itself.

Broadly, there are three kinds of press stories: 1) News release or announcement story of the event; 2) Coverage of the program or description of the experience by a reporter; 3) Interviews with speakers or other visitors, in newspapers or on radio or TV. One of the best examples of (2) above was the beautiful, five-column account of the International Convention published in the *New York Times*. Under the banner headline "Birthday Party for Alcoholics Anonymous" and accompanied by a large and impressive photo of the huge stadium crowd, it

was a warm, enthusiastic article by Christopher Wren, a nonalcoholic reporter. When Sarah P., Convention Coordinator, wrote to thank him, Wren replied that he really should be thanking her. His letter ended with, "I always suspected that A.A.s would be courageous; I didn't expect that you all would be so much fun."

The organizers of the annual Gateway Roundup in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada, have consistently and successfully used this popular celebration for the maximum good for A.A. in their community. As the roundup is a very large gathering in a relatively small town, the committee has established, over the years, a strong base of good relations with members of the press. The P.I. activity begins Thursday night with a two-hour call-in show on TV, in which answers about drinking problems are provided by a panel of three out-of-town speakers (photographed with back-lighting to preserve their anonymity). On Friday, a P.I. luncheon is attended by press as well as by local government officials, social workers, medical people, etc. Saturday morning a radio interviewer calls up A.A. members from a breakfast meeting and records a lively and amusing show. Throughout the weekend newspaper stories follow the roundup program and there are additional radio interviews with visiting speakers. "I think the drunks know we are here," says Cec C., a Prince Albert A.A., with a smile.

Guidance and suggestions for handling public information for a news conference are contained in the P.I. Workbook, which can be obtained from G.S.O. for \$7.00. See also A.A. Guidelines on Conferences and Conventions, free from G.S.O.

At a recent General Service Board meeting, Jack W., East Central Regional trustee, shared a particularly effective experience with the handling of P.I. in connection with a state conference held in Decatur, Illinois. The story, headlined "Alcoholics Gather to Share Strength," resulted from a press conference attended by the local P.I. chairperson, the area delegate, regional trustee, trustee-at-large/U.S., a past trustee and a visiting G.S.O. staff member.

"An essential element in this case," said Jack W., "was the 'prepping' of the writer that had been done ahead of time. He had been well briefed with information about the convention and the Traditions, especially anonymity. It was obvious the P.I. person had nurtured his relationship with the press." All six participants in the press conference contributed to the interview, which was held early in the weekend so that the story appeared in the newspaper promptly, before the conferees departed.

Are there any "don'ts" that should be observed on this kind of occasion? Yes, these: Don't be drawn into answering questions about alcoholism; stick to your own experience and give answers relating to the A.A. program of recovery. Don't go over the line into promotion

and be tempted to comment on drunk driving legislation, treatment methods, drug addiction or other outside issues. Don't blow your anonymity and then ask the reporter to keep it (or anything else) "off the record." Don't ask to see the story before it is published.

If you avoid these simple pitfalls and follow the well-trodden path of countless other P.I. people, then A.A. gatherings can be marvelous vehicles for carrying the message.

Correctional Facilities

The Walls Came Tumbling Down

This is the story of how a dedicated member and his friends carried the message into a correctional facility in British Columbia for the first time — and opened the way for "A.A. inside" all over Canada. Colin M. of Vancouver tells it like it was:

"It was the spring of 1950. George S., after much correspondence, finally gained an interview with Warden Cummings at the B.C. penitentiary. He told him that he was a member of A.A., and that he and his fellow members would like to contact inmates who had an alcohol problem.

"The warden was amazed, but he promised to put the suggestion before the penal authorities in Ottawa. (Subsequent investigation revealed that 65 percent of the inmates were incarcerated because of alcohol-related offenses — a figure that today may be as high as 80 percent.)

"Several weeks later, George received a green light and made arrangements to hold the first A.A. meeting in a Canadian prison on July 8, 1950. From a comprehensive list of candidates, 13 inmates were handpicked for that first meeting. Six A.A.s were there from the 'outside' to share their stories.

"At first, the group was more of a secret society than an A.A. group. The men were afraid to say they had joined the Fellowship because their fellow inmates looked upon them as 'stool pigeons' or as 'shooting an angle.' As the outsiders continued to come, however, their fears diminished. At the end of the first year, the group numbered 45. Even men on the 'most wanted' list became faithful A.A. members.

"Visits by Bill D., the third member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and by Warden Clinton Duffy of San Quentin Prison soon opened the doors of the Fellowship to inmates at other institutions across Canada. Warden Duffy hailed A.A. as 'the finest program ever to enter the walls as a tool in helping us to rebuild lives in their transition to freedom.'"

In conclusion, Colin M. urges A.A.s on the outside: "Do not wait until the incarcerated alcoholic calls us before we go to help." Fortunately, he adds, "not all alcoholics go to jail — perhaps only because we didn't get caught."

Contact Sponsorship — No. California Coastal Area Is Making It Happen

The young woman leaves the security of a detox facility. Alone. Seized by raw terror, she calls an old drinking buddy. They meet for dinner and, when the waiter brings a liqueur, she tosses it down.

The phone rings at the Santa Clara, California Intergroup office. The voice at the other end belongs to a big man, and he is crying like a baby: "They let me out of San Quentin yesterday. I've gone through \$300 and I'm dead drunk in this phone booth. Help me, somebody, please, before they put me away again."

These scenarios are true. In one form or another, they occur many times daily all over the country, despite the efforts of dedicated A.A.s on the outside who want to help. Many groups sponsor A.A. meetings on the inside but neglect to coordinate contact-sponsorship activities on the outside with their local or district correctional facilities committee. The district committee, in turn, forgets to coordinate efforts with the area committee. And the ones who suffer are the incarcerated alcoholics who suddenly find themselves "out there," alone and frightened.

Now, in California's Northern Coastal Area, A.A.s have taken decisive steps "to ensure that no A.A. member here need ever again leave a treatment facility, a hospital, a jail, a prison, a detox or a long-term residential program without knowing that he or she can ask to be introduced to the great outside world of A.A. by a 'contact sponsor' — someone to meet him or her at the door or at the gate."

On December 28, 1985, members from many general service districts met in the Oakland Central Office to form the Northern California Contact Service Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous. The meeting was spearheaded by Bob H., hospitals and institutions chairperson for Northern California (including both the Coastal and

Interior areas). For the past 12 years, he has seen the need for an organized program and has never given up trying to make it happen.

In creating a service network, the group decided that existing general service districts would be designated as geographic service units. Each of the districts, or service units, will have a chairperson responsible for coordinating the activities of four liaison contact people. They, in turn, will work respectively with: the local intergroup office; the local hospital and institutions committee; the local general service committee; and the local P.I./C.P.C. committee.

In working to develop its contact sponsorship structure throughout California's Coastal and Interior areas, the committee will be self-supporting. "At our first meeting," reports delegate Diane O. (Panel 35), "we were only a baker's dozen, but we collected \$52.06. We're on our way." Noting that the new service network expects to be operational by July 1986, she says, "The availability of contact sponsorship to anyone who wants it is an integral part of carrying the A.A. message."

Treatment Facilities

Dilemmas Encountered by A.A.s Working in the Field of Alcoholism

A.A. members who work in the field of alcoholism (formerly called two hatters) confront many issues and are beset with many dilemmas not commonly found in other occupations. Professional practices may, at times, seem to conflict with A.A. principles and practices. For example, it may be a treatment facility practice to bus chemically-dependent nonalcoholic patients to local A.A. meetings. Should the counselor, knowing A.A.'s singleness of purpose, and that the only qualification for membership is "a desire to stop drinking," ask to be excused from performing this task? This is only one example of the dilemmas faced by a recovered alcoholic in the field.

When the recovered counselor attends A.A. meetings for self, he or she may be faced with other dilemmas. Very often, their fellow A.A.s may not look with favor on a recovered alcoholic who "makes money off other alcoholics" or who may be considered by other A.A.s as the "expert in alcoholism and other life problems."

The A.A. Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field points out, moreover, that it is best if A.A.s who work in treatment facilities do not attend or become involved with the A.A. meeting held in the facility.

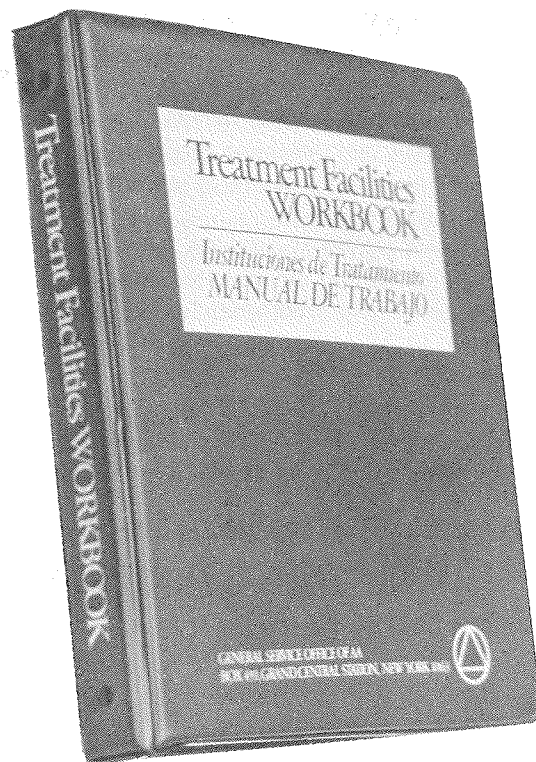
In a profession where there is a high degree of burn-out it is best if the individual keeps his or her personal program separate from their professional life. Jack C., EAP director for a large corporation, has a personal rule of not holding any group office for as long as he is professionally counseling alcoholics. "I need the meetings to refuel," Jack says. "I give out all day, and in the evening, when I go to my A.A. meetings I'm like a sponge. I have to soak it all up to fill what has been emptied out." Jack does not feel uncomfortable or inhibited about sharing if a client is at the same meeting — some counselors, however, find such situations difficult.

Other questions abound: Does the recovered A.A. disclose his or her own alcoholism when counseling patients? If self-disclosure is made, is it always only for the benefit of the client? Does self-disclosure subtly change the nature of the therapeutic relationship and, with self-disclosure, does the professional relationship become a Twelfth Step relationship? All these things, the counselor should consider. It is a difficult task; one that requires knowledge and a great deal of patience.

Jim A., a member of the trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee and himself a counselor, feels the answers to these and other dilemmas encountered in the field of alcoholism, may lie in the counselor knowing his or her limits. Knowledge of self and job, knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous, and knowledge of one's capacity to accomplish an assigned task, can contribute much to easing problems of personal life, occupation, health and recovery. "The key is in knowing which is which and when," Jim says. Above all, a daily Tenth Step will do wonders in helping the recovered counselor stay on an even keel. "Finding A.A. meetings where the members may not either know or be interested in your occupation is often helpful," Jim adds. "Keeping personal A.A. and professional practices as separate as possible is sound advice. When occupational demands seem to conflict with A.A. principles, talk it out with other health professionals who may have similar problems. Do it one day at a time!"

It is also helpful to join professional peer organizations, such as counselors associations, that often serve not only as a means of keeping up with the state of the art in alcoholism issues, but also as a safety valve by providing an opportunity to share with others.

Bernie L., A.A. member and director of an EAP program, started the Delaware Two Hatters several years ago. "Around the late 1970s," Bernie says, "we began to notice that counselors, due to the stress of their jobs, were beginning to drop like flies. They needed someone



The new Treatment Facilities Workbook, available from G.S.O., \$7.00. The plastic-coated maroon looseleaf notebook contains useful information and shared experience for members who carry the A.A. message into hospitals, detox centers and rehabilitation facilities.

to talk with; a forum for their common problems." Members of this group (which include treatment and EAP personnel, workers from family court programs, individual counselors and others) hold monthly dinner meetings where topics discussed include stress, burnout, spirituality, and A.A. principles. Twice a year they have a retreat, to unwind, share together and hold A.A. meetings.

Many A.A.s feel the need to attend more meetings once they begin working in the field; others may cut down and attend fewer. One A.A. member, who is in private practice, feels that, although he doesn't make as many meetings as he once did, there is a greater need to work on his spirituality.

In conclusion, Jim A. says, "Striking an appropriate balance between occupational demands and A.A. service is every counselor's goal. Employing the tools of the program and engaging in professional outlets can aid in accomplishing these goals. Using some of these simple practices should aid the counselor in avoiding pitfalls and dilemmas, and enable him or her to be there 'when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help.'"

For more information on this subject write to the General Service Office for the service piece A.A. Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field (free in quantities of ten or less).

BOX 4|5|9 BULLETIN BOARD

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

APRIL-MAY 1986

Calendar of Events

Deadline for Calendar Events Changed

We are moving up the deadline for calendar events, from the 15th of the month to the 10th.

Please be sure to send your information on June, July or August events in time to reach G.S.O. by *April 10*. This is the calendar deadline for the June-July issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed May 15).

Naturally, G.S.O. cannot check on all the information submitted. We must rely on local A.A.s to describe the events accurately.

April

- 3-6 — *Columbus, Georgia*. First Annual Valley Fellowship. Write: Ch., Lot 106, 3400 St. Mary's Rd., Columbus, GA 31906-4566
- 4-6 — *Lockport, New York*. Western N.Y. Spring Service Conv. Write: Ch., 16 Grant St., Lockport, NY 14094
- 4-6 — *Rice Lake, Wisconsin*. 45th Annual No. Wisc. & Upper Peninsula Mich. Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., Rt 3 — Box 3361, Spooner, WI 54801
- 4-6 — *Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada*. Eastside Group Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 7 Willow Crescent, Flin Flon, Man. R8A 1T5
- 4-6 — *Fort St. John, British Columbia, Canada*. 16th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., SS2, Site 18, Compartment 2, Grand Haven, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4M7
- 4-6 — *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*. Southern Alberta Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 212, Lethbridge, Alta. T1J 3Y5
- 4-6 — *Painesville, Ohio*. Northeast Ohio Spring Conf. Write: Swing Into Spring Comm., Box 262, Chesterland, OH 44026
- 4-6 — *Providence, Rhode Island*. Tenth State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Box 9342, Providence, RI 02940
- 4-6 — *Quebec, Quebec, Canada*. 11th Bilingual Congress NE Region. Write: Ch., Region Nord-Est du Québec, 2030 Père Lelièvre, Bureau 301, Que. G1P 2X1
- 4-6 — *Longview, Texas*. 17th E. Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2082, Longview, TX 75606
- 4-6 — *St. Paul, Minnesota*. 30th Annual St. Paul Intergroup Weekend. Write: Central Office, 951 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55106

- 5-6 — *Palm Bay, Florida*. N. Fl. Assembly Second Qtr. Write: Secy., 2052 Euclid St., Jacksonville, FL 32210
- 6 — *Zealandia, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Zealandia A.A. Group. Write: Ch., Box 22, Zealandia, Sask. S0L 3N0
- 11-13 — *Zion, Illinois*. Northern State Area Spring Conf. Write: NIA, Box 441, Waukegan, IL 60085
- 11-13 — *Wichita, Kansas*. 11th Annual Spring Roundup. Write: Spring Roundup, Box 18093, Wichita, KS 67218
- 11-13 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Celebrate Sobriety (sponsored by the gay groups). Write: Ch., Box 718, Sta. A. Vancouver, BC V6C 2N5
- 11-13 — *Seaside, Oregon*. Fourth Annual No. Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 923, Seaside, OR 97138
- 11-13 — *Fort Wayne, Indiana*. Fifth Annual NE Indiana Conv. (in conjunction with the 42nd Annual Banquet). Write: Conv. Ch., Box 11545, Fort Wayne, IN 46859
- 11-13 — *Kaiserslautern, West Germany*. Eighth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 661, APO, New York, NY 09009
- 11-13 — *Tarrytown, New York*. Southeast NY Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Box 1688, Madison Sq. Sta., New York, NY 10159
- 11-13 — *Superior, Wisconsin*. 41st Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., Box 996, Superior, WI 54880
- 13-15 — *Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada*. Annual Area Conf., Dauphin and Dist. A.A. Assy. Write: Ch., Box 453, Dauphin, Man.
- 17-20 — *Lincoln, Nebraska*. Spring Fling. Write: Ch., 408 S. 27th St., Lincoln, NE 68501
- 18-20 — *Lincoln, Montana*. 18th Wilderness Agape Weekend. Write: Coord., 23 Konley, Kalispell, MT 59901
- 18-20 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Jackson's Mill Roundup, Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 18-20 — *Tucson, Arizona*. Youth Enjoying Sobriety Conf., Write: Outreach Ch., 7351 E. Speedway, Apt. 14G, Tucson, AZ 85710
- 18-20 — *Eureka Springs, Arkansas*. Tenth Dist. #1 Conv. Write: Ch., RR #3, Box 209E., Siloam Springs, AR 72761
- 18-20 — *Grand Forks, North Dakota*. Third Annual Northern Spring Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., Box 1262, Grand Forks, ND 58206
- 18-20 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Apt. 706, 8620 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T5H 3S6
- 18-20 — *Shreveport, Louisiana*. Second Annual State Conf. of Young People in A.A. Write: Ch., Box 28, Shreveport, LA 71162-0028
- 18-20 — *Killarney, Ireland*. All-Ireland Conv. Write: Conv. Secy., General Service Office, 26 Essex Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

April (page 20): Spiritual awakenings; resentments; priorities; human kindness.

May (page 13): Young people in A.A.

- 18-20 — *Lake Charles, Louisiana*. 33rd Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6334, Lake Charles, LA 70606
- 18-20 — *Washington, D.C.* Birds of a Feather Int. Tenth Ann. Conv. Write: Ch., BOAF, 213 Glenridge La., Schaumburg, IL 60193
- 18-20 — *Trinity, Texas*. Spirit of the Pines. Write: Finance Comm., Rt. 1, Box 120A, Angleton, TX 77515
- 19-20 — *Broken Bow, Oklahoma*. Beavers Bend Round Robin. Write: Ch., Box 144, Hatfield, AR 71945
- 25-27 — *Stillwater, New Jersey*. Fourth Annual Young People's Conf. Write: Garden State Young People's Conf., Box 4018, Metuchen, NJ 08840
- 25-27 — *Cork City, Ireland*. Fourth Annual European Conv. Write: Ch., 10 Denroches Cross, Bandon Road, Cork, Ireland
- 25-27 — *Yankton, South Dakota*. State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 499, Yankton, SD 57078
- 25-27 — *Casa Grande, Arizona*. 31st Sahuaro Agape Weekend. Write: Secy., Box 43096, Tucson, AZ 85733
- 25-27 — *North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada*. 25th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 1271-96th St., North Battleford, Sask. S9A 0H2
- 25-27 — *Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. 1986 Banff Roundup. Write: Publicity Ch., 2932 Lindsay Dr., S.W., Calgary, Alta. T3E 6A8
- 25-27 — *Brookfield, Wisconsin*. 35th Annual Spring Southern Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., Rt 4, 578 W 31681 Windgate Ct., Mukwonago, WI 53149
- 25-27 — *Erie, Pennsylvania*. 11th Annual Swing Into Spring Conf. Write: Erie Area Conf., Box 148, Erie, PA 16512
- 25-27 — *Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Regina Central Office, 2049 Lorne St., Regina, Sask. S4P 2M4
- 25-27 — *Innsbruck, Austria*. 20th Anniv. A.A. in Austria. Write: Ch., Franz-Fischerstrabe 46, A-6020 Innsbruck

Flip up this end of page — more events listed on reverse side

- 25-27 — *Canandaigua, New York*. First Annual Conf. of the Lakes. Write: Ch., Box 890, Geneva, NY 14456
- 25-27 — *Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada*. Third Roundup Dist. 16 Assy. 82. Write: Ch., 709-896-8606 or Box 145, Goose Bay, Lab., AOP ISO

May

- May 10 Deadline for July 21-25*. Cruise Without Booze. From Miami to Nassau and Grand Bahama. Write: Ch., Box 8201, Buckland Sta., Manchester, CT 06040
- 2-3 — *Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Rosetown Tenth Annual Roundup. Write: Sec., Box 1493, Rosetown, Sask. S0L 2V0
- 2-4 — *Sun Valley, Idaho*. State Area Spring Assy. Write: Reg. Ch., Box 303, Gooding, ID 83330
- 2-4 — *Grand Rapids, Minnesota*. 16th Annual Iron Range Get-together. Write: Iron Range Get-together, Box 469, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- 2-4 — *Kanab, Utah*. Utah Area Spring Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1123, Kanab, UT 84741
- 2-4 — *El Segundo, California*. Fifth So. CA Hospitals & Insts. Conf. Write: Reg. Ch., Box 90367, Long Beach, CA 90809-0367
- 2-4 — *Fairlee, Vermont*. 18th State Conv. Write: Conv. '86, Box 386, Townshend, VT 05353
- 2-4 — *Glasgow, Scotland*. 30th Annual Scottish Conv., Write: Secy., 50 Wellington St., Glasgow, Scotland G2
- 2-4 — *Comox, British Columbia, Canada*. 35th Annual Comox Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1337, Comox, BC V9N 7Z8
- 2-4 — *Scottsbluff, Nebraska*. NE Panhandle Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 256, Scottsbluff, NE 68361
- 2-4 — *Wildwood Crest, New Jersey*. 19th Annual Phila. Intergroup Roundup. Write: Ch., 311 S. Juniper St., Rm 309, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- 2-4 — *Grants Pass, Oregon*. 11th Rogue Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1741, Grants Pass, OR 97526
- 3-4 — *Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Roundup. Ch., Box 1218, Estevan, Sask. S4A 1V4
- 8-11 — *Pompano Beach, Florida*. '86 Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Rock Group, 631 N.E. 45th Ct., Pompano Beach, FL 33064
- 9-11 — *Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*. 20th Annual Northwestern Ont. Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 73, Postal Sta. F, Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 4V5
- 9-11 — *Pembroke, Ontario, Canada*. Mother's Day Conf. Write: Ch., 202 Cecil St., Pembroke, Ont. K8A 7J6
- 9-11 — *Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada*. 22nd Annual Blossom Time Conv. Write: Ch., Box 851, Niagara Falls, Ont. L2E 6V6
- 16-18 — *Vernal, Utah*. '86 Little Skyline Conf. Write: Little Skyline Conf., 238 S. 300 W. #4, Vernal, UT 84078
- 16-18 — *Dayton, Ohio*. Women's Workshop VIII. Write: Ch., 24 Edith St., Dayton, OH 45417
- 16-18 — *Gillette, Wyoming*. State Spring Conf. Write: Spring Conf., Box 1225, Gillette, WY 82716

- 16-18 — *Little Current, Ontario, Canada*. 15th Annual Rainbow Roundup. Write: Pub. Ch., Box 1444, Espanola, Ont. P0P 1C0
- 16-18 — *Zion, Illinois*. Happiness Is — A.A.-Al-Anon Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 31, Lake Bluff, IL 60044
- 16-18 — *Laughlin, Nebraska*. Tri-State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6075, Mohave Valley, AZ 86440
- 16-18 — *Guntersville, Alabama*. Mountain Top Roundup VII. Write: Ch., 631 Elm St., Birmingham, AL 35206
- 16-18 — *Levelland, Texas*. Eighth Annual So. Plains Conf. Write: Secy., Box 1409, Level-land, TX 79336
- 16-18 — *Tulsa, Oklahoma*. 45th Anniv. State Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., Box 50409, Tulsa, OK 74150
- 16-18 — *Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Western Canada Regional Forum. Write: Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10163
- 16-18 — *Norfolk, Nebraska*. NE Nebraska Spring Classic, Open Conf. Write: Secy., Box 251, Norfolk, NE 68701
- 16-18 — *Chicopee, Massachusetts*. 17th Western MA Roundup. Write: Ch., 265 New Ludlow Rd., Apt. C-1, Chicopee, MA 01020
- 16-18 — *Ventura, California*. Ventura's First Roundup. Write: Ch., 998 Churst St., #2, Ventura, CA 93001
- 17-18 — *Hersman, Illinois*. Dist. 15 Fourth Annual Alcolthon. Write: Southern Area Spring Conf., Box 1253, Danville, IL 61832
- 22-25 — *Miami, Florida*. 29th Int. Conf. of Young People in A.A. Write: ICYPAA Comm., Box 024382, W. Palm Beach, FL 33402-4382
- 22-25 — *Memphis, Tennessee*. 35th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1795, Memphis, TN 38174-1795
- 23-25 — *Conroe, Texas*. Fifth Annual Golden Pines Conf. Write: Conf. Treas., 25810 Leafywood, Spring, TX 77386
- 23-25 — *Laval, Quebec, Canada*. Eighth Congress Dist. 90-02. Write: CP 123, Succursale Duvernay, Laval, Que. H7E 4P4
- 23-25 — *Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup XIII. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165-0295
- 23-25 — *Victoria, Texas*. Seventh ATRYP Annual TX Roundup. Write: Ch., YPSC, Box 5125, Victoria, TX 77901
- 23-25 — *Missoula, Montana*. Courage to Change Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5782, Missoula, MT 59806
- 23-26 — *Boston, Massachusetts*. Tenth Annual Boston Roundup '86 (gay people). Write: Secy., Box 8683, JFK Sta., Boston, MA 02114
- 23-26 — *Dallas, Texas*. Big D Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm., Box 191174, Dallas, TX 75219
- 23-26 — *Kauai, Hawaii*. Sixth Annual Kauai Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 815, Kilauea, HI 96754
- 24-25 — *Pueblo, Colorado*. Dist. Eight Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 1444, Pueblo, CO 81002
- 24-26 — *Songtan, Si, Korea*. Seventh Annual Intergroup-Korea Conv. Write: Conf. Ch., PSC Box 1924, A.P.O., San Francisco, CA 96366-0006

- 29 — *San Fernando, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies*. 30th Annual Conv., Write: Secy., Box 133, San Fernando, Trinidad
- 30-June 1 — *Mobile, Alabama*. Fifth Annual Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Azalea City Jamboree, Box 161166, Mobile, AL 36616
- 30-1 — *Breton Bay, St. Mary's County, Maryland*. 11th Annual Southern MD. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 258, Colton St., Leonardtown, MD 20650-0258
- 30-June 1 — *Ogden, Utah*. First Annual Rocky Mountain Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 894, Layton, UT 84041
- 30-June 1 — *Dalton, Ohio*. Big Prairie Conf. Write: Ch., 63 N. Kursen Rd., Dalton, OH 44618
- 31-June 1 — *Drumheller, Alberta, Canada*. Drumheller Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3093, Drumheller, Alta. T0J 0Y0

June

- 6-8 — *Irricana, Alberta, Canada*. Third Annual Dist. '86 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 390, Beiseker, Alta. T0M 0G0
- 6-8 — *Nova Scotia, Canada*. 21st Annual Nova Scotia Roundup. Write: Ch. Reg. Com., Box 596, Westville, Pictow Co., NS B0K 2A0
- 6-8 — *Kearney, Nebraska*. 27th Annual State Reunion. Write: Secy., R.R. 1, Box 11, Ericson, NE 68637
- 6-9 — *Cairns, North Queensland, Australia*. No. Queensland Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 962, Cairns, 4870, No. Queensland, Australia
- 13-15 — *Pendleton, Oregon*. Fourth Annual Pendleton Roundup. Write: Pendleton Area Intergroup, Box 321, Pendleton, OR 97801
- 13-15 — *Windsor, Ontario, Canada*. Mid-Season Campout. Write: Ch., Box 641, Sta. A, Windsor, Ont. N9A 6N4
- 13-15 — *Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. Annual Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 954, Sta. M, Calgary, Alta. T2P 2K4
- 13-15 — *Davenport, Iowa*. State Spring Conf. Write: Ch., 2716 Iowa St., Davenport, IA 52803
- 20-22 — *Akron, Ohio*. Fourth Annual Conf. Loners-Internationalists. Write: LIM Conf., Box 19814, Columbus, OH 43219
- 20-22 — *Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*. 25th Anniv. Kawartha Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 625 Cameron St., Peterborough, Ont. K9J 3Z9
- 20-22 — *Nashville, Tennessee*. Fifth Annual Music City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 173, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
- 20-22 — *Chicago, Illinois*. Chicago '86 Roundup (Sponsored by gay men & women in A.A.) Write: Chicago '86, 606 W. Barry St., #196, Chicago, IL 60657
- 21-22 — *Ponteix, Saskatchewan, Canada*. First Day of Summer Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm., Box 572, Ponteix, Sask. S0N 1Z0