

AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

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

August-September 1965

Vol. 10 No. 4 • 305 East 45th Street, New York 17 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 •

'I AM RESPONSIBLE'

Greetings

To A.A.'s



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

It gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings from the Canadian Government to delegates attending the 30th Anniversary International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am pleased that you have chosen to meet in Canada, and I know that Canadian delegates will ensure all of you a warm welcome in our country.

Canadians appreciate the admirable work being done throughout the world by AA. Beyond your immediate achievements in areas of human and social health and relations, however, your international growth is contributing to better understanding and greater tolerance among peoples of all the nations in which AA has become a force.

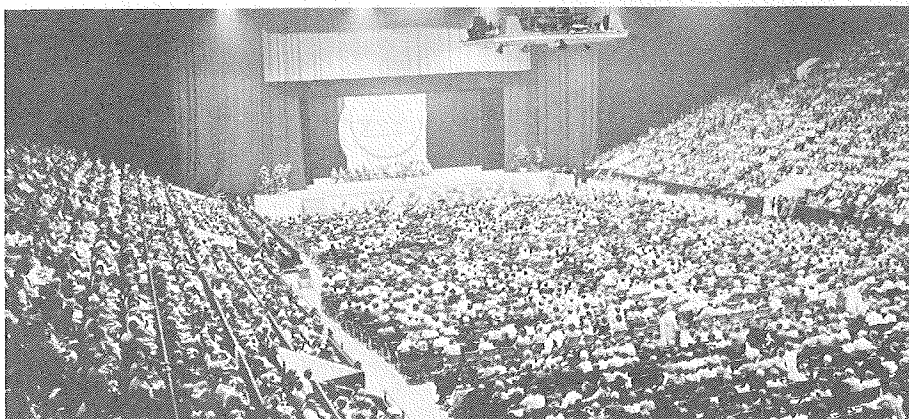
I wish all of you pleasant, successful and constructive deliberations as you pause to renew together the aspirations and ideals on which your groups continue to grow. Successful 12th stepping!

with best wishes and kind personal regards,

L. Pearson

Lester B. Pearson.

Ottawa
1965



TORONTO, ONT., JULY 4, 1965.
—A mighty message of hope for the world's suffering victims of alcoholism thundered forth from here at 10:25 p.m. last night, Saturday, July 3.

The largest assemblage in history of recovered, once-thought-hopeless drunks... more than 10,000 A.A. members, their families and friends representing 30 countries... at that instant solemnly clasped hands and led by Bill W. and Lois, clearly and loudly pronounced this promise of hope in one tremendous, strong voice.

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

It was the moving climax to the biggest A.A. gathering yet, the 30th Anniversary Year International Convention which brought together A.A., Al-Anon and Alateen members from all over the globe for three days

packed with opportunity to share experiences, strengths, hopes and fun.

In Toronto's vast Maple Leaf Gardens on Friday night a crowd mindful of its own size heard from their own lips the stories of Bill W., A.A.'s co-founder and author of the basic books; Lois W., his wife, the First Lady of the Al-Anon Family Groups; and Marty M., one of A.A.'s first women members.

On Saturday evening an even larger throng heard Bill and nonalcoholic Trustee Bernard Smith, describe one of the most glorious fruits of A.A. recovery from alcoholism; individual freedom to accept responsibility for ourselves and for our share in A.A. as a whole.

"Newcomers are approaching A.A. at the rate of tens of thousands yearly," Bill declared. "Let us not pressure anyone with our individual or collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love due to every human being.

"I trust we shall continue to have tremendous awareness of our responsibilities for improvement," Bill continued.

Attorney Smith, associated with A.A.'s General Service Board for 21 years, said, "You have something great and awesome going for you, treat it tenderly, respect what it has done for you and what it can do for others..."

(continued on page 2)

Dearest Friends:

Lois joins me in warmest greetings to all here present on this great occasion celebrating the 30th Anniversary of our Fellowship.

In wonder and in joy, we shall give thanks for all those priceless gifts that a loving God has bestowed upon us. In trust and in hope we shall pray that, in the years to come, we may be ever worthy of His bounty.

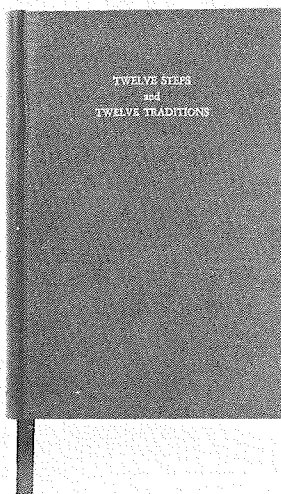
Together we shall review our progress. Here we shall freely confess our fears and our faults; here we shall highly resolve, under God's Grace, to faithfully meet each responsibility and to face every peril that the future may cast upon us.

May this wonderful meeting be remembered as among our finest hours.

In affection,

Bill

Pocket Size '12 & 12'



The brand new, handsome pocket-size edition of TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, beautifully bound in royal blue linen with gold stamping, with tint-edged pages and a blue silk place-marking ribbon, makes a perfect anniversary gift, travelling companion, or sponsor-to-pigeon present.

This exact (192 pages) but smaller (4 inches wide, 6 1/4 high, 1/2" thick) replica of the original was first introduced at the Toronto Convention. Priced for retail at \$3.00, it is now available from G.S.O. to Groups at \$2.75 each.

Many copies were bought in Toronto as mementos, or to be used as gratitude presentations to clergymen, doctors, and other non-A.A.'s, or as anniversary presents for those who couldn't get to Toronto.

It also makes the ideal pocket studyguide to A.A.'s basic principles of Recovery and Unity as interpreted by Bill W., and a fine daily meditation reader.

oOo

FOR A.A. TRAVELERS

"We are situated in a sparsely populated section and have to travel some 200 miles to visit another Group. We are on the Trans-Canada Highway and would greatly appreciate anyone dropping in to see us on their way through."—D. M., Marathon, Ont.

You Answered Our Questions, Gals

Thank you, gals, for sharing your experience with us in answer to our questions "For Ladies Only" in the May Bulletin.

Wish we could quote here entirely one particular answer; but space is limited, so here is a statistical summary of all the replies.

1. 90% of you said there are other women in your Groups, but 30% said you do not have mutually helpful and friendly relations with non-A.A. wives. Exception; relations seem best when there is a good Al-Anon Family Group for non-alcoholics.

2. Only 10% said you do not feel equally accepted by both men and women in your Group. Guess the old man-women double standard is hard to break down, even in A.A.

3. In 70% of the Groups who answered, there are calls for 12th-Step work among women, and all but one person said they are available.

4. In 60% of the Groups who answered service opportunities are available to women, and women take Third Legacy Leadership often. Sadly, though 40% report that only men are given these opportunities.

(continued from page 1)

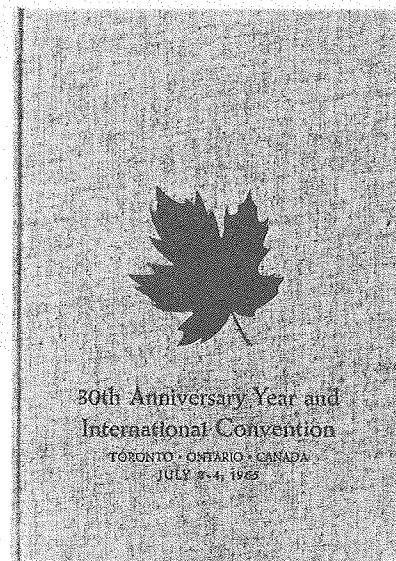
"As long as one man dwells in the darkness you once knew, you cannot rest; you must try to find him and help him become one of you... By the grace of God, may A.A. last for all time!"

Bill had already sketched in colorful terms a picture of A.A.'s fantastic history, and the "old days" were also mentioned amusingly over coffee cups, by hundreds of 20 and 25-year sober members to the thousands of newcomers here.

Their memories of early A.A. hardships contrasted sharply with the joyous human kaleidoscope in Canada's "Queen City" this last three days.

More than 150 A.A. members, 100 Al-Anons and Alateens, and 24 internationally known nonalcoholic authorities on alcoholism have addressed 69 jam-packed sessions at the Convention. Even when unspoken, the "I Am Responsible" theme seemed almost so present you could see it. A.A. at 30 is now so big and so highly respected it must live up to a tremendous reputation for selfless helpfulness — and it must expect and welcome constructive criticism and challenge both from within and outside its own ranks. Much that was said in Toronto will provide stimulating discussion material for thoughtful A.A.'s all over the world for many years to come.

'A.A. 30'



Sixty-six A.A. photographs (many never-before-published) fill the colorful pages of our newest book, A.A. 30. Having made its debut at our 30th birthday party in Toronto, it's now available from G.S.O. at \$2.00 a copy while a limited supply lasts.

From its front cloth cover to the surprise picture on its end papers, 'A.A. 30' is full of short, interesting stories, cartoons, and new pictures of historic A.A. places and memorabilia, plus new photos of distinguished nonalcoholic experts, including some unposed and most amusing shots of our non-A.A. Trustees!

You'll also find photographs of our first three International Conventions in 1950, '55, and '60; fascinating stories on A.A. around the world; the Steps and Traditions in eleven languages; a brief new highlights account of how A.A. has grown, and much, much more.

A.A. 30 is a fine addition for your own A.A. library and will be a deeply appreciated gift for A.A. friends and new members. It also does a wonderful job of showing non-A.A.'s "what we're all about" as a worldwide fellowship, on our 30th birthday!

* * *

Never miss an opportunity to make others happier—even if you have to leave them alone to do it.

CONVENTION MEMORIES

Can we ever forget...The air of nearly-intoxicating excitement Thursday night as merrymakers went from dance to dance?...The smooth arrangements those Host Committees had made (they must have worked round the clock for years)? Those patient coffee shop hostesses at the Royal York?...The overwhelming thrill of that gigantic crowd in the Garden?...The enthusiastic cheers A.A.'s gave guest speakers who challenged some old cliches?...That clean, smooth, silent subway?

The whoops you gave old friends from other conventions or from your own home Group first time you saw them?...Archie Roosevelt's introducing the priest in Latin yet?...The big autographing tangles when you found you'd signed your own copy of A.A./30 again?

The thrill when that enormous A.A. banner with the triangle and circle went up and showed that king-sized world?...The choke in your throat when Bill and Lois walked on the Garden stage?...The stirring way Canadians sang all the words of their national anthem?...The marvelous yoks Walter O'K. and the others of that star-spangled Variety Show gave us, from the "Drinking Song" overture on...Those poor trustees, unable to bear on the stage, just as in Long Beach?

Nonalcoholic Trustee Trice's story of asking for a beer in the Royal York bar and being sternly told by the bartender, "No slips in here, brother!"...Trying to get in to see the movie and being too late, again?...Lois' kissing the little girl who handed her the roses...The organ playing "The Gang's All Here" just before "God Save the Queen"?...Bill on his way to the next "whistle stop" with the ever-faithful Doug at hand?

The gooseflesh you felt when those doors on the big globe opened and 90 A.A.'s from many lands poured onstage?...The hands you gripped when you said, "I Am Responsible"?

Hanging around the lobby or drinking coffee with the Californians until the wee hours Monday, trying to keep it all from ending?...Those standing ovations for Alkathon speakers, for Sr. Mary Andrew, JP Miller, Bernard Smith, Dr. Jack, and others?

Summer Grapevines

(If you didn't get those miniature reprints of five of Bill's best *Grapevine* pieces at Toronto, you can still order them (40¢ for the set of 5) from P.O. Box 1980, New York, N.Y. 10017.)

THE AUGUST CROP

"My Psychiatrist, A.A., and Me"; "Boats and Booze" (especially for the sailing members); "Doctor's Report" by William Krouse, M.D.; and one of the most dramatic A.A. stories ever, "The Saga of William" from Oslo, Norway.

Also...a way to check up on your Group: is it cold or warm?

SEPTEMBER GLEANINGS

Dr. Harry Tiebout writes on anonymity in "When the Big 'I' Becomes Nobody." You can guess at the meaty contents of other articles with such titles as "Mother, You're a Drunken Bum!"; "The Trouble Was, I Wasn't Ornamental"; "To Tell or Not To Tell?"; "Over the Nineteenth Hole Under Par"; "A Hopeless Case"; and "I Nearly Quit" from Walla Walla, Wash.

SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

MAY - JULY 1965

AUSTRALIA: Queensland - 5th Australian Convention	\$ 69.26
CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles, All Groups in Al-Kansa Bldg.	\$ 6.80
Palm Springs, Desert Round-up	\$300.00
CANADA: Alberta, Film Showing	\$ 50.00
B.C., Kamloops Round-up	\$117.76
N.B., N.B. Round-up Committee	\$ 60.00
Toronto, Convention Members Luncheon	\$ 55.00
CONNECTICUT: Northfield Conference	\$ 10.75
DELAWARE: Newark, Delaware 4th & 5th State Assemblies	\$ 75.00
GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA: The Fellowship Intergroup of So. Ga. & S.C.	\$100.00
NEW YORK: Kingston, Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area	\$ 50.00
South East, Conference Assembly	\$1003.00
OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City, State Conference	\$352.10
PENNSYLVANIA: Indiana, Western Pa. Assembly	\$100.00
WEST INDIES: Trinidad, A.A. Groups of So. Trinidad	\$ 34.96

The patient G.S.O. staff?...The way Kleina and Dennis looked?...The taxi driver who said, "Do you really all know each other?"

Has anybody stopped to think of what miracle it was that all the speakers turned up faithfully on time in the right places? And very rarely did any speaker get the "red light" signal which meant his time was up!

One staff member didn't use the lights, but as a warning placed before the speaker a card with the big word TIME lettered on it. "If it makes you mad," she explained to her panel in advance, "Just turn it over." On the back was the Serenity Prayer!

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

CALIFORNIA: Credit of \$170.00 was given to the wrong Group. The Directory should read - Anonymous Speakers Group - \$1.00; Arlington Group - \$270.00.

CALIFORNIA: The Saturday Nite Group in Newport Beach should be credited with \$30.00 and the Newport Balboa #1 Group \$90.00.

CALIFORNIA: The Point Richmond Group in Richmond should be credited with \$30.00 and the Richmond Group \$30.00.

COLORADO: The Home Group in Colorado Springs should be credited with \$100.00 and Group #8 Home in Denver with no contribution.

CONNECTICUT: The St. Vincent's Group in Bridgeport should be credited with \$100.00.

GEORGIA: The \$5.00 credited to the Roccoa Group should have been credited to the Georgia-Carolina Group.

INDIANA: The Midtown Group in Gary should be credited with \$30.00 and the Northwest Group \$120.00.

KENTUCKY: The Central Office in Louisville should be credited with \$480.00 and the Central Group \$94.00.

NEW JERSEY: The \$340.00 credited to the Medical Professional Group should instead be credited to the Woodbridge Group.

NORTH DAKOTA: The Enderlin Group in Enderlin should be credited with \$18.00.

CANADA: The Sunday Morning Group in London, Ontario should be credited with \$200.00 and the Sunday Morning Breakfast Group \$5.52.

Convention Tapes

Tapes of Toronto sessions are available. Write for the order form to B.F.C., Inc., 900 Tri-State Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202.

A.A. CALENDAR

- 13-15 Second Annual New York State Conference, Schenectady, New York. Hotel Van Curler, Schenectady, N.Y. Write: Conference Committee, 32½ Lincoln Ave., Amsterdam, N. Y.
- 27-29 Twenty-fourth Anniversary Colorado Convention, Denver, Colorado. Grance Auditorium, 2475 West 26th Ave., Denver, Colo.
- 28-29 Southern Minnesota Conference, Fairmont, Minnesota. Write: Fairmont Alano Society, 101½ South Main, Fairmont, Minn.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-4 Twenty-first Southeastern and Eighth Louisiana State Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana. Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La. Write: Conference Secretary, P.O. Box 4378, Carrollton Branch, New Orleans, La.
- 4-5 European Roundup, Wiesbaden, Germany. General H. H. Arnold High School Hainesberg Housing Area, Wiesbaden, Germany.
- 4-5 Oregon Area Conference, The Dalles, Oregon. Junior High School, East 12th St., The Dalles, Ore. Write: Chairman, Box 612, The Dalles, Ore.
- 4-5 South Dakota Annual Fall Conference, Lead, South Dakota. National Guard Armory, Lead, S.D. Write: Box 378, Lead, S.D.
- 10-12 Sixth Annual Connecticut State Convention, Moodus, Connecticut. Banner Lodge, Moodus, Conn. Write: Banner Lodge, Moodus, Conn.
- 11-12 Eighth Annual "Session-by-the-Sea," Ocean City, Maryland, Plimhimmon Hotel, Ocean City, Md. Write: AA Chairman, The Plimhimmon, Ocean City, Md.
- 17-19 Ninth Annual Roundup of North-eastern Manitoba. Pine Falls, Manitoba. Chateau Theatre, Pine Falls, Man. Write: Roundup Secretary, P.O. Box 460, Pine Falls, Man.
- 18-19 Northern Wisconsin - Upper Michigan Fall Area Conference. Write: 218 South Oneida St., Green Bay, Wis.
- 24-26 Kansas State Conference, Wichita, Kansas. Broadview Hotel, Wichita, Kan. Write: Chairman, P.O. Box 1632, Wichita, Kan.
- 24-26 Third New England Conference, North Conway, New Hampshire. Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway, N.H. Write: Conference Chairman, Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway, N. H.

WHAT DOES THE BIG BOOK MEAN TO YOU?

Can you put in a few words what the book ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS means to you? Do you think a newcomer should read it? An old-timer? A middle-timer?

(Lots of folks don't know that it is called "The Big Book" because the first edition was printed on heavy, wartime paper and looked enormous.)

Here's what two people have written us:

From New Jersey:

"Sick, shaky and scared I went to my first A.A. meeting. I remember very little about it, but one thing stands out clearly to this day.

"There was a book raffle and a man sitting behind me won the Big Book. He had one and so asked, 'Is there a newcomer here?'"

"Like a shot I jumped to my feet and shouted, 'Here!' He gave me the book.

"Anonymity or admitting I was an alcoholic by this action never entered my head. The important thing was that I must have that book. Somehow I knew the answers to my problem were in that book. Now more than ten years later, this is still true. THE ANSWERS ARE IN THE BOOK!"—M.M.

From ? :

"You know that place we alcoholics get to after a period of sobriety—sort of

treading water? Still sober but not going anywhere?"

"I want to share with you a new and truly exuberant experience I found at this period several years ago.

I've gone through eight Big Books this way: I read with pencil in hand, underlining, circling places that hit home with me...and each time someone comes along who needs the Book, so I buy a new one start again.

"I just can't be without one, ever. So today I am so full of A.A. I could dance. I've started with the Preface and really want to read, study and absorb into my being what the book wants to tell me. I make an outline as I read, bringing out salient points with a red pen.

"You understand now why I get so exuberantly full of A.A., don't you? My cup runneth over."—J.W.

From Massachusetts:

The Neshoba Group, Chelmsford, Mass., has just given away its 500th copy of the Big Book, according to Frank R., new A.A. member of the General Service Board.

Like many other Groups, this one sells chances for the book at 25¢ each, and has a drawing at each meeting. At the Group's 10th anniversary in June, they reached the half-a-thousand mark.

Do let us hear from you, about YOU and the book.

- 24-26 Thirteenth Michigan State AA Conference, Saginaw, Michigan. Bancroft Hotel, Saginaw, Mich. Write: Conference Headquarters, P.O. Box 1465, Saginaw, Mich.

OCTOBER

- 1-2 Sixteenth Annual Virginia State Conference, Winchester, Virginia. George Washington Hotel, Winchester, Va. Write: Secretary, P.O. Box 206, Falls Church, Va.
- 1-3 Fourteenth Eastern Ontario Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Ont. Write: Box 38, Terminal "A" Ottawa, Ont.
- 1-3 15th Annual Alberta Conference, Calgary Inn, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Write: Conference Secretary, Central Service Office of A.A., 3 Executive Bldg., 503 Third Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Can.
- 2 Annual AA Intergroup Dinner in honor of Bill's Thirty-first Anniversary, New York, New York. Hotel Americana, New York, N.Y. Write: Dinner Committee, AA Intergroup, 337 East 33rd St., New York, N.Y.
- 7-10 Eighteenth Annual Top O' Texas Roundup, Amarillo, Texas. Holiday Inn West, Amarillo, Texas.

- Write: Roundup Committee, Box 1963, Amarillo, Texas.
- 8-10 Seventh Quebec Provincial Bilingual Conference, Montreal, Quebec. Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Que. Write: P.O. Box 1777, Station B, Montreal 2, Que.
- 8-10 Fifteenth Annual Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Area Conference, Kingston, New York. Governor Clinton Hotel, Kingston, N.Y.
- 15-17 Fall Conference and Twenty-fourth Anniversary Banquet, Buffalo, New York, Hotel Buffalo, Buffalo, N. Y. Write: Chairman, P.O. Box 208, Kenmore, N.Y.
- 15-17 Annual Eastern Pennsylvania, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Write: Chairman, Box 418, Robesonia, Pa.
- 16-17 Annual Western Missouri Fall Conference, St. Joseph Missouri. Robidoux Hotel, St. Joseph, Mo. Write: Convention Chairman, 2420 No. 32nd. St. Joseph, Mo.
- 16-17 Southern Wisconsin Fall Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Allis Chalmers Clubhouse, Milwaukee, Wis. Write: Conference Committee Secretary, AA Central Office, 1012 No. 3rd St., Milwaukee, Wis.