

'Spirit of Sacrifice' Sets the Tone of the General Service Conference

As far back as 1951, when the first General Service Conference was launched on a "five-year trial period," co-founder Bill W. foresaw that while no one person can speak for A.A. officially, the Conference could "come close to being A.A.'s voice." As delegates from across the United States and Canada prepare for the 44th annual meeting of the Conference, to be held from April 17-23 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in New York City, that voice is stronger than ever.

The theme of this year's Conference is "Spirit of Sacrifice" and, like Conferences before it, calls for unsparing self-inventory. However, while last year's participants concentrated on examining the strengths and weaknesses of the Conference structure, the thrust of the 1994 meeting will be on spiritual inventory as evoked in the Twelve Traditions, which Bill W. saw as "a list of sacrifices which . . . we must make, individually and collectively, if A.A. itself is to stay alive and healthy."



Thus, the Conference members will be asking themselves and each other a lot of searching questions: In today's world, do we still uphold anonymity as the spiritual key to our way of life? Are we vigilant in maintaining a public-relations policy based on attraction rather than promotion? Are we holding our tongues when it comes to expressing opinions on outside issues and public controversies? Within our leadership, how are we abiding by the Rights of Decision and Participation of our members in service as outlined respectively in Concepts III and IV—rights that go to the heart of mutual trust, harmony and effective leadership at all levels of A.A.'s world affairs?



The list is long, the questions are myriad. At the core are two that reflect A.A.'s reason for being: How well are we carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers? What can we do better, and how? No matter how diverse the viewpoints, each individual, each committee and element of the Conference structure is closely linked through our primary purpose. When put together like the pieces of a puzzle, the sharings will form a true "group conscience"—one that offers a wide-angled picture of where Alcoholics Anonymous is right now and whether we are steering a sound and spiritual course into the 21st century.

Arriving at a group conscience in big matters or small is a process that can take a long time. This is because the minority, or dissenting, view of each person is considered essential to the unity, effectiveness and very survival of the Fellowship.

Oldtimer Kerry L., who served as a delegate from Nebraska in the mid-sixties, still remembers the thrill of the 1966 General Service Conference. For 11 years running, there had been a motion before the Conference to alter the majority ratio of nonalcoholic to A.A. trustees on the General Service Board. In 1938, when the board was set up, there were eight nonalcoholics and seven A.A.s—this because none of the alcoholics had more than three years' sobriety and they didn't trust themselves.

But now a large contingent of Conference participants, led by Bill W., felt that A.A. had accrued enough experience (and sobriety) to run its own affairs. At the same time, A.A. was growing by leaps and bounds; and so the resolution before the Conference called for increasing the total number of trustees from 15 to 21—

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seven nonalcoholics and 14 A.A.s.

Says Kerry: "My recollection of the restructuring brouhaha is vivid, primarily because of its importance to the future of A.A. On the opening day of the 1966 Conference, I listened to others talk, and was astonished to hear charges from opponents to the change that Bill W. was 'trying to run the show' . . . 'have things his own way' . . . was 'greedy and self-centered.'

"At 32, I was the youngest, most inexperienced delegate, up to that time, to serve. I was astonished! I idolized this man I was soon to meet for the first time. But I soon sensed that there were two factions on this issue.

"All day long I listened to their endless debates. We'd taken a straw vote and it looked as though the 'nays' had it. That night, unable to sleep and not wanting to awaken my wife, I stepped out into the hotel corridor to do some pacing, ponder the issue, and pray for guidance from a Higher Power. Imagine my amazement upon finding that other delegates were outside their doors too, . . . some pacing, others just sitting on the floor with their backs to the wall."

The next day, Kerry relates, "we assembled for the actual vote. Knowing that the overpowering straw vote the previous night had negated any change, I was astounded as vote after vote was recorded as 'YES.' Finally, after more than a decade's deliberation, the Conference had passed the restructuring resolution resoundingly. I shall never forget the look I saw on Bill's face—it was almost as if to say, 'A.A. has indeed come of age! I've done all I can do.'"

This year, as the 133 voting members of the Conference—delegates, trustees and directors, along with members of the General Service Office and Grapevine staffs—go about the business of working toward consensus on matters vital to A.A., many will be acting out the words of the late nonalcoholic trustee Bernard Smith at the 1954 Conference: "We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism.

"We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth which brought us back to life."

Remembering the Basics: Our Co-founders' Legacy

Back in 1960, when A.A. was celebrating its 25th Anniversary, co-founder Bill, asked: "Have we really kept A.A. simple? Or, unwittingly, have we blundered?" As members of a society that has not only flourished but whose initial success was tied to certain fundamental principles, we might periodically ask ourselves that same question.

"Genuine simplicity for today is to be found, I think, in whatever principles, practices, and services can permanently insure our widespread harmony and effectiveness," Bill wrote in the July Grapevine of that year. A lot had happened, he wrote, since the Fellowship's early days—when "Home parlors were meeting places. Social life ranged around coffeepots and kitchen tables."

Change was not always welcome. In fact, at each crucial turn, when decisions had to be made, there were outcries of alarm. Should A.A. publish its Twelve Steps? Should it establish a world services organization, or finalize agreement on the clearly-outlined Twelve A.A. Traditions? These were burning issues in the early years and in 1950, Bill wrote, similar fears were expressed—and not just by a few—over whether a General Service Conference should be held. "For some, the event spelled disaster, wholesale brawling and politicking would now be the rule," Bill wrote.

At each step along the way, he tells us, the co-founders asked themselves: "What, in the long run . . . would really be better—and therefore the simpler?"

As we all know, it was Dr. Bob who first talked about keeping things simple. Dr. Bob was very specific about what he meant by 'simple.' "Let's not louse it all up," he said. "Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words *love* and *service*."

As the Fellowship gears itself up for its 44th annual Conference, whose theme is "The Spirit of Sacrifice," it might be interesting to take a closer look at Dr. Bob's 'simple' approach to how he believed the A.A. program had worked for him.

"I think the kind of service that really counts is giving of yourself, and that almost invariably requires effort and time. It isn't a matter of just putting a little quiet money in the dish," Dr. Bob said. ("The Co-Founders of Alcoholics Anonymous," p. 16). Giving of our "effort

and strength and time” was what made all the difference, he said. “None of us would be here today if somebody hadn’t taken time to explain things to us, given us a little pat on the back,” taken us to a meeting. In that context, Dr. Bob warned against a kind of “smug complacency” that would affect our willingness to extend a helping hand to suffering alcoholics.

Before A.A.’s Twelve Steps had been formulated, there were four yardsticks that had guided Dr. Bob, and continued to serve him throughout his life, he said. These were “absolute honesty, absolute unselfishness, absolute purity, and absolute love.” They were goals and standards of measurements that, even when unattained, nonetheless helped to keep him on track. Even if “it’s very difficult to have absolute love . . . that doesn’t mean we can’t *try* to get it.” (ibid., p. 17)

The A.A. program was workable and bore fruit for him if he practiced it in a spirit of humility and tolerance, he said on several occasions. He stressed that daily practice of the program, with humility and tolerance—were the mainstays of a serene and healthy sobriety. If a recovering alcoholic wanted to do a good job of practicing A.A. principles, he needed to acquire “the spirit of service,” Dr. Bob said, and this, in turn, required faith. This, too, sometimes took effort. “I think faith can be acquired . . . it has to be cultivated.”

The humility Dr. Bob spoke of had to do with his faith in a Higher Power. “I should have a very, very humble attitude toward the source of my strength,” he said. Tolerance, he noted, was often a characteristic that developed in a person as a result of his or her working the program well. It was apparent in an individual’s kindness toward someone just beginning on the spiritual path. Tolerance was linked to an understanding of those who are less fortunate, as well as a sympathy toward others with differing views. These three qualities—tolerance, understanding and sympathy—were the fabric of a general open-mindedness.

Dr. Bob had once asked himself, he wrote, if he was “giving a good account of my stewardship” if he took six hours to explain how things were to an active drunk, which could, when *simplified*, have taken one hour. As the years passed he forged the fundamental concepts that he believed were at the heart of his continued sobriety, serenity and peace of mind. In a sentence, they were: keeping things simple, caring for others, getting to the core of things, practicing tolerance and humility, maintaining a strong faith, and guarding his own as well as others’ anonymity.

As a physician, Dr. Bob had come to realize how little his own profession understood about the alcoholism that afflicted him. In those early years of his sobriety, because there was practically no competent medical literature on the subject, he thought long and hard on what could help suffering drunks. The answer always boiled down to the those qualities cited above.

So too, with us. These many decades later, we who have hundreds of publications on the subject at our fingertips, know that *all* we can do—and the best we can do—is to keep it simple, to share our experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic, in the spirit of humility, and with the knowledge that the love that motivates us, tied to our simple, generous, honest and direct approach, is helping *us*, every bit as much as it may help another. Love and Service, these two, experience tells us, give us continued sobriety and the peace of mind we never could attain until we put the bottle down.

While it’s true that bigger can sometimes be better or the seemingly more complicated does often end up being more simple, it might be helpful when facing challenges ahead—whatever they may be—to ask ourselves the same question Bill W., did: “What, in the long run . . . would really be better—and therefore simpler?”

Getting Struck Sober

The A.A. message, like lightning, strikes us drunks in any number of ways, times and places. We’ll be sitting at a meeting and a way out will suddenly dawn on us or, in the middle of the night, in a cold sweat, we’ll solemnly resolve to make that call. What’s surprising is that we’re surprised when—seemingly out of the blue—we get it! *Hey, I can stop*, we’ll suddenly realize. *I don’t have to drink! Isn’t that amazing?*

But what about lightning that strikes, not when we have a terrible hangover and we’re consumed with guilt and fear, but when we’re three sheets to the wind? Now, that’s something!

Such was the case with Ruben A., a Spanish-speaking farm worker living in Cutler, California, who wrote to G.S.O. last November asking for help. Danny M., staff member on the Spanish Services desk, sent Ruben some pamphlets, along with the Big Book and some encouraging words.

“The day the mailman brought the package, and I opened it, I was drinking a few beers. I began to read it and have not had a drink since then,” Ruben wrote. “I’m in so much agreement with what this book has to say, and I believe that God sent me this book, for without it, I would not have stopped drinking as I did.”

Ruben wrote that he was out of work when the A.A. literature came, but planned to send \$5.00 as soon as his paycheck came. The newly-sober man said he also needed some advice. The Big Book recommended attendance at A.A. meetings and there were these meetings in Cutler. Was that a good idea? Danny wrote Ruben a letter of congratulations on his new sobriety and the speed with which he’d understood. “Now,” Danny suggested, “get to as many meetings as you can.”

Brainstorming Clears Path to an Informed Group Conscience

An informed group conscience is A.A. lingo for "consensus." Some of the time, it evolves slowly as members with differing viewpoints on an issue strive for unanimity through discussions in which everybody's voice is heard and heeded. But a lot of the time, members aren't quite sure how it happened, except that everyone got tired of talking and agreed to agree so they could all go home.

Now comes an exercise, appropriately called brainstorming, that provides a way to keep "principles before personalities" and reach a consensus. It was demonstrated last September in a workshop on "Communication," at the 29th Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador Assembly of A.A., by district committee members Craig H. and David B.—the latter having used it successfully in his work.

Explains David: "At the workshop we divided the group of about 40 participants into four small groups and asked a series of questions, from 'What qualities should a communicator have?' to 'How can we improve communication between the group and the district?' After allowing 10 to 15 minutes of discussion about each question, we proceeded to write one (different) answer from each group on a flip chart. Then we started all over again, asking each group in turn to give an answer that was not already listed. After all the answers were put up on the chart, they were read aloud and a tally was made of the number of groups having each one somewhere on its list." The resultant score, he notes, formed the consensus of the whole, as in the following example:

Question: How can we improve communications with the still-suffering alcoholic?:

Answers:

1. Good committee work by Public Information and Cooperation With the Professional Community (4)
2. Honesty with own story (1)
3. Setting a good example (1)
4. Pamphlets and literature (1)
5. Efficient intergroup office (1)
6. Greeters at door (2)
7. Looking after struggling members (2)
8. Real live answering service (1)

"Number 1 clearly forms the consensus," David observes. Noting that the question is a fairly nonsubjective one and therefore lends itself easily to consensus, he stresses that the brainstorming method works as well with more complex issues. "Each time I use this formula, it works," he reports, "and others who have tried it are amazed. After the Communication workshop, a number of participants were very excited. One A.A. said

she couldn't wait to try the method in a group sharing session. Another figured he'd use it to settle arguments at home."

Here David smiles, adding, "What I've found is that communication is the key to consensus every time. Let me share with you a simple rhyme I read that tells it like it is: 'A wise old owl lived in an oak/The more he saw, the less he spoke/The less he spoke, the more he heard/O, make me like that wise old bird.' Yes indeed!"

Direct Phone Number for Literature Orders

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This number may also be used to get ordering information and current prices. Please do *not* use this number if you wish to be sent a catalog.

Iceland Celebrates Forty Years of A.A.

This spring the frosty little island republic of Iceland will mark its 40th A.A. anniversary. According to old-timer Gudmunder J. who was there and chronicled the event, "the formal foundation day was April 16, 1954, which happened to fall on Good Friday. All 14 people present for the meeting signed a declaration that stated: 'We the undersigned hereby decide to found a society whose objective is to help alcoholics to stop drinking alcoholic drinks. As a basis, we propose the 12 rules of A.A. and entrust in other respects the prospective board of our society to compose rules for our work.'

"There is an apt Icelandic proverb," Gudmunder adds. "It says, 'A little body often harbors a great soul,' and surely the A.A. bud that was planted in Iceland was like a weak straw in the beginning. But before long, it started to grow and prosper, and today it has become a big tree that stretches its branches and limbs across Iceland."

It all started back in 1948, when Gudrun C., an Icelandic woman married to an American and active in New York A.A., visited her homeland and held a public meeting. Subsequently, a few Icelanders found their way to the United States for detox and rehabilitation. When two of these now sober alcoholics, Jonas G. and Gudni A., returned to Iceland, A.A. received public-

ity—but no group formed.

Meanwhile, Gudmunder J., a self-described drunk in the capital of Reykjavik, stopped imbibing on his own in 1950; several years later, after reading a newspaper account of Gudni's recovery, he wrote to him. Together they contacted Jonas G. and held the first "official" A.A. meeting.

For a long time, A.A. in Iceland seemed contained in this one group. The members generally stayed sober but engaged in little Twelfth Stepping and no service work. A.A. literature translated into Icelandic was almost nonexistent. Then a breakthrough occurred in the early 1970s, when a government-sponsored program began flying alcoholics to the U.S. for help on a regular basis. Almost invariably, they returned eager to carry the A.A. message at home, and their efforts led to publication of the Big Book in Icelandic in 1976. Explosive growth churned up considerable confusion and turmoil but resulted eventually in the formation of intergroups, a general service office, a board of trustees, and more than 236 groups with at least 4,500 members.

Former board member and World Service Meeting delegate, Bjarni D., reports that the history of A.A. in Iceland is now being written. It is a heartwarming part of Fellowship lore that in this cold little country under the Arctic Circle and no bigger than the state of Kentucky, A.A. started with one drunk sharing with another, just as it did here when Bill W. shared with Dr. Bob some 20 years before.

A Group Celebration in Norway

Vi Hygger Oss Pa A.A.-Vis! (We Are Enjoying Ourselves the A.A. Way!) So, come, everybody—med godt humor! (with good humor). And they did—all 70 of them. First there was blomkalsuppe (cauliflower soup), then biffindrefilet (filet mignon), followed by thick slices of iskake (ice cake), all of it washed down with lots of—you might have guessed it—mineralvann (mineral water) and pots and pots of kaffe (an international drink A.A.s are familiar with). Afterwards came Underholdnings-Innslag o dans (entertainment and dance). And everyone had a merry old, sober time of it.

All of the above dishes had been tastefully prepared, and were gratefully shared, by members of the Fellowship celebrating the 25th anniversary of The Kongsgardgruppa (The King's Garden Group) in the seaport town of Kristiansand, in south Norway, last October. We got news of the celebration—with its distinctive local flavor yet, at its core, like so many others around the globe—from staff member Susan U., who was visit-

ing the country with her husband, Erik, a Norwegian, and former member of the group, who was celebrating his 20th A.A. anniversary.

The group was actually started in 1968, at a clinic for alcoholics, through the initiative of a local A.A. member and a few patients in the clinic. Besides offering sobriety, the group wanted to give patients as strong a grounding in the A.A. program, through its slogans and Twelve Steps, as they could muster before the patients' release to their various hometowns. Dr. Oscar Olsen, the clinic's medical director, not only gave the group his enthusiastic endorsement, but he has been an active, nonalcoholic supporter of A.A. ever since.



Dr. Olsen, now 85, was the evening's first speaker and he spoke with warmth of his work with alcoholics during the last 40 years, as a former nonalcoholic trustee on Norway's General Service Board, and a delegate to World Service Meetings, from 1978 to 1982. Now retired, he told the assembled group celebrants that he wholeheartedly agreed with our co-founder Dr. Bob's dictum to "keep it simple."

There had been a time, Dr. Olsen said, when he'd thought he knew a lot about alcoholism, but he had realized he had better discard all of his supposed expertise. Instead, he said, he had learned more about alcoholism from talking to the alcoholics in treatment than from any other source. Now, he told the assembled guests, he had difficulty stopping from talking about A.A.! As to how to keep things simple, he said the best way was to: "Keep active, go to meetings, use the Steps, the Traditions—and pass it on to others."

Thanks to the Kongsgardgruppa's starting up 25 years ago, there are now groups meeting every night of the week in Kristiansand and in nearby towns.

Before the dancing started and, in fact, in between courses of the meal, there was lots of singing. Here's a sample:

Bedre og bedre ar for ar
Better and better year after year

avhold og fred og trygge kar.
abstinence, peace and safe haven.

Aldri rner skal vare penger
Never more shall our money end up

ga til "Polet"—nei nu skal de na lenger.
in the liquor store—now it will reach longer.

Sa syng med velbehag,
So sing we joy and happiness,

A.A. . . . det er A.A. som viser vei i dag.
A.A. . . . A.A. shows us the way today.

An interesting footnote to this anniversary group celebration is that A.A. first began in Norway, more than 50 years ago—strangely, enough—via Greenwich, Connecticut! A Norwegian immigrant, George F., who had found sobriety there and who owned a small coffee shop in the town, received word from Oslo that his brother was in pretty bad shape due to alcohol abuse. George and his wife sold their coffee shop and rushed home. George's brother was indeed in terrible condition, but he refused help. Finally, running out of money, George and his wife decided to return to America. But as they were leaving, the brother called out, "Tell me more about that Alcoholics Anonymous. Explain again their Twelve Steps."

The brother sobered up and eventually saw George and his wife off at the airport. He returned to work as a typesetter and began to run small ads in the newspaper regarding his fledgling A.A. meeting. When Bill W. and Lois visited Norway three years later, they were greeted by 50 sober A.A. members.

Ailing Florida Group Gets Back to Basics

With attendance at meetings scraping bottom, officers all but invisible and contributions averaging 35 cents per person, it was clear that a venerable north Florida group was suffering from either extensive ennui or advanced hardening of the arteries. "A few of us members were determined to be part of the solution, any solution," says J.H., "but we had the sense to realize that we first had to target the problems."

A close look at the group's history revealed clearly that cracks in the fabric of its unity and strength had

not happened overnight, J. relates. "Started in 1941, when A.A. itself was only six, the group grew at a slow but steady pace. Then in 1986, the landlord gave members a choice: 'Either convert to nonsmoking meetings or move.' They elected to move, to spacious quarters where the group proceeded to hold meetings three nights a week and attendance reached its zenith."

Then, in 1990, J. continues, "the six or seven regulars who showed up for business meetings took a group conscience. They voted to hire someone to make the coffee and clean up after meetings, reasoning that this would make it easier to find people to chair the meetings. But what actually happened was that with relatively little hands-on work to do, hardly anybody showed up to do it and, as before, the usual handful of faithful members took up the slack.

"Meanwhile, an influx of people from local treatment centers and rehabs swelled attendance at meetings from about 50 to 100 or more. The patients came, but few joined the group. Even fewer contributed to the basket; and because we had a paid set-up/clean-up person, who thought to lend a hand?"

"Not surprisingly," J. reports, "the group seemed to be coming unglued. Many of the regular members drifted away. Some blamed the smoke in the air, others caviled against the wave of newcomers from treatment. But the real problem, we came to see, lay strictly with us. We had gotten spoiled and complacent; we had forgotten that staying sober in A.A. means seizing every opportunity to learn, serve and carry the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who still suffers.

"Once the group took inventory and faced up to the results, things started to turn around slowly," according to J. "Our feeling," she explains, "is that we've gotten away from the basics—everything from sponsorship to sharing sessions to general service—and we're doing something about it. We have changed the Tuesday night closed discussion meeting to a Step meeting, and we are careful to stress the importance and joys of unity and service. For a time, we even had a P.M.S. meeting—with P.M.S. standing for Physical, Mental and Spiritual. It was short-lived because we already had too much on our plates, but it certainly attracted interest."

A thin wallet forced the group to drop its clean-up person. Now, says J., "the members are again assuming housekeeping chores; at the same time, they press newcomers into service and a sense of belonging. And these days, the newcomers from the local treatment center are almost always eager to help.

"As we celebrated our 52nd group anniversary last December, we were filled with gratitude and optimism. For each of us members, the group is our world in microcosm—if we can stand close and handle our problems together here, we can handle them anywhere."

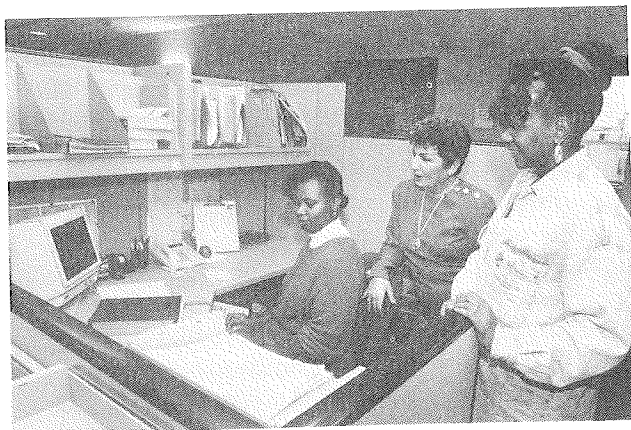
SERVICES AT G.S.O.

Records Department: Keeping Track of A.A. Groups

Mary D. and George P. decide they want to start a new A.A. group in Helena, Montana, say, or St. Louis, Missouri, or in a remote rural village in the hills of Vermont. They meet a few times, new members begin to trickle in, and at their first business meeting they give themselves a name: "Sober Hillbillies," or "Saturday Nite Jugheads" or "Letting Go."

They let G.S.O. know of their proud new existence and, to their surprise, learn that their name won't work—it's already being used in the same town; or there's some other hitch they'll need to get straightened out before they can be registered.

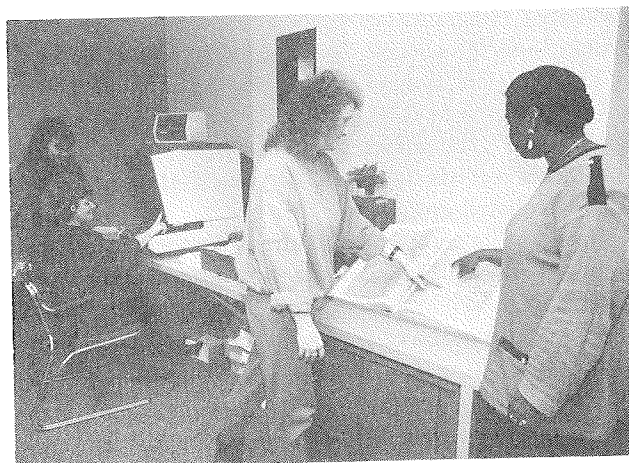
Few A.A.s have any idea of the intricate checking, rechecking, research and continuous overhaul of computerized listings that are involved in keeping track of A.A.'s thousands of groups worldwide. Lena Machado (nonalcoholic), a twenty-year veteran of G.S.O.'s Records Department, and currently its supervisor, heads a staff of eight (including herself), whose job it is to keep the record not only straight, but to catch the glitches as soon as possible.



Jennifer John makes changes to group records as Lena Machado and Vanessa Richardson look on. All employees in the Records Department are nonalcoholics.

Here's how it works: "Notification of new groups can come by phone, letter, a memo to a staff member, from the group itself or from an area's delegate or registrar. Right off, a group's chosen name can raise a red flag," Lena says. The group may not know that it's duplicating its name, or that it is using a name the General Service Conference has shown opposition to, *i.e.*, groups named

after facilities in which they meet; double trouble groups, because of our Tradition of nonaffiliation; group names that include the word "family," because of the implied affiliation with Al-Anon; alcohol and pill groups; or groups with names that imply a dual purpose, such as "Clean and Dry" or "Clean and Sober." It was the sense of the Conference that groups named after an individual, either living or deceased, are contrary to the spirit of our Tradition of anonymity. This includes groups named after Bill W. or Dr. Bob. Sometimes groups move, and believe that by doing so they've been deactivated, then reregister with another name and find out they're still registered, or a group's new officers may not be aware of a previous registration.



From left: Elsie Glennon shows temp Roxanne Portella how to research group information on microfiche, while Carol Nielsen and Susan Donnor check overseas groups. Georgia Hazel and Carlotta Grovell were not present for photo.

Since going on computer, G.S.O. has given groups a registration number, an essential factor in keeping track of groups, but a number of problems can arise anyway. For example, a group can decide to use another group's number, believing it's all right to do so, since groups are in the same area. "It's a continuing education process," Lena says. "We learn about them and they learn about us, how G.S.O. works and what our staff does."

A Conference Action of a few years ago, has helped to smooth over some of the problems and has, at the same time, saved money. Whereas groups used to automatically be registered after an initial, cursory check, and the Records Department immediately sent it a Group Handbook, there is now a 30-day waiting period. The group's area delegate or area registrar uses this time to check out the information the group has sent G.S.O., on a specific form, and "generally makes sure it's an A.A. group."

"At the termination of the 30-day waiting period," Lena explains, "the new group is given its own registration number and Group Handbook." Except for this

new procedure “things haven’t changed much over the years.”

Carol Nielsen (nonalcoholic), who’s been with the Records Department for twenty-seven years, remembers doing all of this meticulous record-keeping by hand, via Rolodex, mailings by stencil and typed letters. “It’s more streamlined now, the computer makes things easier—sometimes—to track down duplications, but there’s more volume of work because there are more and more groups being registered,” Carol says. Since the opening up of Eastern Europe, anywhere from two to three hundred new groups can be formed annually, she reports.

The names groups choose for themselves can give the department a good laugh now and then. “Leather and Lace,” one motorcycle group called themselves. “Us Drunks” and “You Booze, You Lose” also come to mind.

The question is sometimes asked, “Does a group have to be registered at G.S.O. to be considered a bona fide A.A. group?” The answer is no. However, groups listed in G.S.O.’s records do receive services that are unavailable to unlisted groups.

For all of its computerized streamlining, the department’s workload is increasing, not decreasing—a testimony to the Fellowship’s continuing growth. “We’re busy twelve months of the year, non-stop,” Lena says.

Paying Our Way In the Home Group: How Are We Doing?

Our groups are spiritual entities, not business organizations. As such, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, “we are fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” At the same time, the costs of A.A. services—local, area and worldwide—keep climbing, and we have only ourselves to foot the bill. In the home group where self-support happens, do most of us join in? Or do too many of us understand the need—and then forget?

Recently *Box 4-5-9* asked two of our Class B (alcoholic) trustees to share the experience of their home groups in matters of self-support. Both stressed the need for clear, continuing communication within the group.

Gerry F., of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, who serves as Western Canada regional trustee, vigorously disclaims the canard that “as we progress in sobriety, our pockets get deeper and our arms shorter.” In his experience, “most of us were freeloaders on society during our drinking days, and I believe that we gain a lot of comfort and satisfaction by paying our own way when sober.”

Some time ago, Gerry relates, “our group made two

decisions: to be self-supporting not only at home but at all levels of service in carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic; and to avoid ‘gimmicky’ ways of collecting money. We simply started educating our group members on an ongoing basis as to what the average cost-per-person is at the district, area and general service levels for keeping A.A. alive and well for the next generation—and reminding them that barely half of all A.A. groups avail themselves of the good feelings that self-support brings.”

Communication is absolutely vital to self-support, Gerry points out. On many occasions, he explains, “I have seen the contributions in my home group dwindle when the coffers were swelled. But I also have watched the basket overflow when word went out that the current rent check was short. The response is equally generous when intergroup lets us know that an important Public Information project, say, is hurting for funds. If a need is expressed loud and clear, our members’ hands reach right to the bottom of their pockets.”

Larry N. of Imperial Beach, California, is trustee-at-large/U.S. He says that gratitude, which plays such a big role in giving, was in short supply at his home group for several years:

“By any standard, our group is poor to begin with. Meetings are held in the downtown area near a detox center, halfway house and long-term treatment center. Every year, it seems that more and more newcomers are coming from these agencies and we have many with court slips and other papers that require the group’s stamp to document attendance. Our meetings are long on love but short on money.

“Furthermore, even as our group’s rent was going up, our personal incomes were hurting in a lean economy. For a long time, contributions barely met rent and coffee expenses. There was nothing extra for the General Service Office, central office, the area assembly or our institutions committee. We could feel hope and gratitude slipping like wet soap.”

Then, thanks to the sharing of a group member, Larry says, “things started to turn around. Following the example of a group one member had belonged to years before, our steering committee gave the group a weekly accounting of each and every expense facing us; and following the group conscience, we sought to collect a set amount each week in order to pay both our immediate group expenses and our service obligations. We started passing the basket after the opening announcements—and again, if necessary, at the end of the meeting. It worked!

“Knowing that we are reaching our goals gives each of us the sense that we have done our part. At meetings, you can feel the spirit and enthusiasm. Without hesitation, I can say that my home group today is a group full of gratitude.”

Sobriety, Friends, Hope, The Stuff of Gratitude

"My name is Tom J. and I'm an alcoholic. I am 22 years old, recently celebrated five years of sobriety in A.A., and my life has turned around 180 degrees. I have a job working in the treatment facility I went through in 1987. My relationships with my family are so much better. I have real friends and real goals and dreams that can come true."

Before he hit bottom, Tom remembers in a letter to the General Service Office, "I had no job, no responsibilities, no life. Today I live out on my own and pay my bills. Slowly but surely, I am growing up. But I don't ever want to forget how it once was, how I went down to the bottom and wanted to end it all.

"Today I know that with the help of God, A.A. and the Twelve Steps, I never have to go back to hell on earth."

A.A. Sharing Among Many Nations: European and Ibero-American Meetings

Representatives from 19 European countries, plus the United States and Canada, attended the seventh European Service Meeting, October 15–17, 1993, in Frankfurt, Germany. Following the meeting's theme of "Sponsorship,"—nation-to-nation sharing and cooperation—representatives discussed a variety of issues arising in countries where A.A. has developed strong roots and is growing rapidly, as well as in others, where A.A. is thriving but where economic conditions may put a damper on growth. Several Eastern European countries' service structures did not have the money to send representatives.

George D., general manager of G.S.O., who was the European meeting's keynoter, reports he found the meeting a wonderful opportunity to observe developing A.A. in such countries as Poland, Russia and Denmark. For example, Denmark now has 200 groups and growth continues at a rate of three to four new groups a week.

Most countries' representatives stated that they faced no real problems regarding the Seventh Tradition. There is a need, however, to better disseminate information on what the contributions are used for in intergroups and G.S.O.s. The point was illustrated during one sharing session, where it was reported that the majority of countries received approximately 90% of their contributions from approximately 50% of existing groups. This

is what is happening currently in Holland, Belgium and Germany.

Other highlights included 1) a discussion of the many ways anonymity helps us grow spiritually and how, when anonymity is broken at a public level, the best response to such breaks is a loving, personal approach; 2) praise of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated," for providing an excellent introduction to an understanding of our spiritual principles and a helpful tool in sponsoring new members into service.



In addition, representatives discussed the great value and "objectivity" of nonalcoholic trustees serving on their countries' board of trustees.

While the primary purpose of the European Service Meeting is to carry the message through a regularly held forum for sharing experience, strength and hope, E.S.M.'s statement of purpose in 1993 added: "Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively" and the E.S.M. encourages sound planning along those lines.

Ten days later, October 27–30, representatives from six countries—Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and U.S.A./Canada (the latter participating as observers)—took part in the eighth Ibero-American Meeting, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The meeting's theme was "Serving in Unity We Grow."

At the Ibero-American Meeting, delegates explored the need and the ways to maintain unity, particularly where the Fellowship is growing at a rapid rate. (Mexico, for example, now has 11,000 groups and more than 200,000 members.) One question that needs to be asked frequently (just as Bill W. did), the delegate from Brazil noted, is: "Is the Ibero-American Meeting really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or we'll "fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A." To save costs and make literature more accessible throughout the region, the Argentinian delegate suggested pooling several countries' resources to print literature. Similarly, the meeting's general discussion on literature brought out the importance of sharing information on translations and revisions.

The Ibero-American Meeting and the E.S.M. are held

during the year between the biennial World Service Meeting. The site of the latter meeting alternates between New York City and a foreign country. The next World Service Meeting is scheduled for October 1994, in Cartagena, Columbia.

News and Notes from G.S.O.

Many A.A.s who have called G.S.O. regarding area and directory updates will remember speaking with Bill Brennan (nonalcoholic), Special Projects manager. Bill left G.S.O. last October after many years of dedicated service; he will be missed and we wish him well. Our new manager of Special Projects is Elaine Soroka (nonalcoholic), who joins G.S.O. with over 25 years of supervisory experience in the airline industry.

And we are happy to welcome back staff member Phyllis M., who has returned to work two days a week (after seven years of retirement) on the Treatment Facilities desk. Prior to her retirement, Phyllis served on most of the G.S.O. staff assignments.

Lillianna Murphy (nonalcoholic) has become manager of the Information Services Department (formerly the Data Processing Department), which serves the increasing informational needs throughout G.S.O., including Group Services, Finance, Publications and Human Resources. The new supervisor within the Informational Services Department is Steve Turchyn (nonalcoholic), who comes to G.S.O. from the Gestetner Corporation.

Correctional Facilities

Colorado Groups Support Their Corrections Committee

The Colorado Corrections Committee reports that during its last fiscal year—spanning the period from December 1, 1992 to November 30, 1993—contributions from 186 groups to purchase literature for those behind walls totaled \$20,000.94. The committee must be doing something right, but just what is it? In a pared-down economy, what makes the “pink cans” such effective fund raisers?

“For starters,” explains treasurer Don G., “we have

a highly active committee. Our members attend meetings around the area to talk about our high prison population and the need for literature, and people are very receptive. Also, we emphasize the fact that proceeds from the pink cans are used to buy A.A. Conference-approved books and pamphlets only, thus eliminating possible hassles over the pros and cons of outside literature.”

Where contributions run strong, Don says, “we encourage groups to send in their pink-can money more frequently. Some groups have found that the money may disappear if left in the can too long.” Ideally, he notes, “I’d like to send a ‘thank you’ note for every donation that comes in, something that time doesn’t permit. But when I see a consistent pattern of giving emerge, I do write.”

In the interest of clarity and communication, the Corrections committee makes detailed quarterly and annual “Pink Can Reports” available to the groups. “Our members know exactly how much money is collected and where every penny is spent,” Don observes, “and they are enthusiastic about being a part of this important effort.”

Every week, he adds, “we take A.A. meetings into more than 140 federal, state, county and juvenile correctional facilities. We do our best to keep the libraries well stocked, and in some places we have introduced an approach that is proving popular. If inmates attend ten meetings, they are given their own softcover edition of the Big Book that they can read, annotate and take with them upon release. It’s true of many prisoners that this is the only book they own.

“The inmates may be behind concrete walls,” Don says thoughtfully, “but there are few if any psychic walls between the A.A.s inside and out because of a high degree of involvement and interaction on both sides.” For example, he cites the ongoing Correspondence and Release Contact programs: “To date, we have received more than 121 requests from inmates for corresponding contacts and have filled 83 of them, thanks to volunteers from more than 30 groups. There also have been 31 requests for release contacts, which are being filled as quickly as possible.”

Members of the Corrections committee make it a point to attend as many workshops, round robins and district meetings as possible to share what is going on in corrections with each other and with potential volunteers. “Additionally,” notes Don, “some of us facility-contact people meet informally once a month. It’s a great way to open lines of communication, resolve problems, and think up new ways to improve our Twelfth Stepping on the inside.

“Carrying the message in corrections is a lot like staying sober—we don’t have to do it alone. I’ve found it to be a rewarding way to make friends, learn a lot, feel useful—and stay away from a drink a day at a time.”

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.

April

- 1-3 — *Grand Rapids, Michigan.* GLRCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 1063, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- 1-3 — *New Orleans, Louisiana.* Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 4041 Tulane Ave., Ste. 301, New Orleans, LA 70199
- 1-3 — *Albuquerque, New Mexico.* Red Road Conv. Write: Ch., 7717 Zuni SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108
- 1-3 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* 17th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1031, Station A, 757 W. Hastings St., Vancouver, BC V6C 2P1
- 1-3 — *Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada.* 11th Roundup. Write: Ch., Comp. 22, Site 8, RR #4, Williams Lake, BC V2G 4M8
- 1-3 — *Benoni, South Africa.* National Conv. Write: Ch., Box 538, Benoni, SA 1500
- 1-3 — *Amarillo, Texas.* Old Timers Reunion. Write: Ch., Box 32302, Amarillo, TX 79120
- 1-3 — *Buffalo, New York.* GSO Spring Conv., Write: Ch., 4675 Gasport Rd., Gasport, NY 14067
- 8-10 — *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.* Southern Alberta Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 212, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Y5
- 8-10 — *Lake Charles, Louisiana.* 41st Conv. Write: Ch., 260 Armistead Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70611
- 8-10 — *Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 453, Dauphin, MB R7N 2V3
- 8-10 — *Cape May, New Jersey.* 27th Roundup. Write: Ch., 1218 Chestnut St., #1004, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- 8-10 — *Dublin, Ohio.* Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 360446, Columbus, OH 43236
- 15-17 — *Eureka Springs, Arkansas.* Springtime in the Ozarks. Write: Tr., Box 1691, Harrison, AR 72601
- 15-17 — *Ridgecrest, California.* Seventh Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6157, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
- 15-17 — *Santa Cruz, California.* 22nd Annual H&A Conf. Write: Ch., Box 533, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0533
- 15-17 — *Eatonton, Georgia.* 10th Women's Recovery Workshop. Write: Ch., 3109 Tadmore Ct., Dacula, GA 30211
- 15-17 — *Marietta, Georgia.* Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 669995, Marietta, GA 30057
- 15-17 — *Kaiserslautern, Germany.* 17th Annual Roundup. Write: ch., 2nd Gen. Hos-

- pital, CMR 402, Box 1131 APO AE 09180
- 15-17 — *Camp Maluhi, Hawaii.* Maui Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 652, Kihei, HI 96753
- 15-17 — *Wichita, Kansas.* Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1814, Wichita, KS 67202
- 15-17 — *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.* Big Book Comes Alive. Write: Ch., 70 Snowdon Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2K 3G8
- 15-17 — *Jackson, Mississippi.* Golden Jubilee. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289-1664
- 15-17 — *Jackson's Mill, West Virginia.* Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302
- 22-24 — *San Jose, California.* Sober and free Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4707, San Jose, CA 95150-4707
- 22-24 — *Banff, Alberta, Canada.* 21st Banff Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6744, Station D, Calgary, AB T2P 2E6
- 22-24 — *Nelson, British Columbia, Canada.* Seventh Roundup. Write: Ch., 908 #2 Vernon St., Nelson, BC V1L 4G8
- 22-24 — *Palm Beach, Florida.* Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 325, Boca Raton, FL 33429
- 22-24 — *Kapuskasing, Ontario, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., 19 Brunelle Rd. Sud., Kapuskasing, ON P5N 2T3
- 22-24 — *Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada.* Eastside Group Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 848, Flin Flon, MB R8A 1N6
- 22-24 — *Lincoln, Nebraska.* Spring Fling. Write: Ch., Box 30852, Lincoln, NE 68503
- 22-24 — *Tulsa, Oklahoma.* Fourth Annual Oklahoma Indian Conv. Write: Ch., Box 675, Tulsa, OK 74101
- 22-24 — *Superior, Wisconsin.* 49th Annual Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 996, Superior, WI 54880
- 29-May 1 — *Oliver, British Columbia, Canada.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1154, Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
- 29-May 1 — *Pocatello, Idaho.* Spring Assem-

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

April (page 35): Spiritual Experience.

May (page 48): Our primary purpose.

- bly. Write: Ch., Box 142, Pocatello, ID 83204
- 29-May 1 — *Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.* Intergroup Roundup. Write: Ch., Lot 15 Kingsway Kort, 1640 Fernwood Ave., Brandon, MB R7A 5Y1
- 29-May 1 — *Greenville, Mississippi.* Delta Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2, Greenville, MS 38702-0002
- 29-May 1 — *Helena, Montana.* 1994 Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 4686, Helena, MT 59604
- 29-May 1 — *Laughlin, Nevada.* 10th Annual Tri-State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1809, Bullhead City, AZ 86442
- 29-May 1 — *Grand Rapids, Minnesota.* 24th Annual Iron Range Get-Together. Write: Ch., Box 469, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- 29-May 1 — *Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.* 28th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 73, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4V5
- 29-May 1 — *Greensboro, Pennsylvania.* 40th Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., 1169 Colgate Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146
- 29-May 1 — *Lancaster, Pennsylvania.* Second

Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on June, July or August events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by April 10, the calendar deadline for the June-July issue of Box 4-5-9.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 19_____

Name of event: _____

Place (city, state or prov.): _____

For information, write: (exact mailing address) _____

Contact phone # (for office use only): _____

Flip up this end of page — for events on reverse side

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

April (cont.)

- Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 189, Rising Sun, MD 21911-0189*
- 29-May 1 — *Mont. Tremblant, Quebec, Canada.* 50 Years of New Life. Write: Ch., 31 rue Larocque, Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, QC J8C 1H8
- 29-May 1 — *Huron, South Dakota.* Dist. 8 Spring Conf. Write: ch., Box 112, DeSmet, SD 57231
- 29-May 1 — *Waco, Texas.* Heart of Texas Conf. Write: ch., Box 21171, Waco, TX 76702
- 29-May 1 — *Vernal, Utah.* 40th Annual Little Skyline. Write: Ch., 510 East Main, Vernal, UT 84008
- 30-May 1 — *Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada.* Dist. 88-03, 10th Congress. Write: Ch., 59, rue Monfette (Local 112), Victoriaville, QC G6P 1J8

May

- 6-7 — *Orlando, Florida.* Celebrate Sobriety VI. Write: Ch., Box 536784, Orlando, FL 32853-6784
- 6-7 — *Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada.* 43rd Comox Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 132, Black Creek, BC V9J 1K8
- 6-7 — *Killarney, Co. Kerry.* All Ireland Conv. Write: Ch., 6 Cedar Grove, Bishoptown, Co. Cork, Eire, Ireland
- 6-7 — *Montreal, Quebec, Canada.* Ninth Congress. Write: Ch., 90-10 Est Le District De St. Laurent, Bordeaux, QC H4L 3N3
- 6-8 — *Golden, British Columbia, Canada.* Golden Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 1405, Golden, BC V0A 1H0
- 6-8 — *Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.* Blossom Time Conv. Write: Ch., Box 851, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6Y6
- 6-8 — *Memphis, Tennessee.* Mid-South Spring Fling. Write: Ch., 3592 Trezevant, Memphis, TN 38127
- 13-15 — *Daytona Beach, Florida.* Fourth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 4911, South Daytona, FL 32121
- 13-15 — *Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.* Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 20061, Fredericton, NB E3B 6Y8
- 13-15 — *Big Prairie, Ohio.* Conf. Write: Ch., Box 284, Wooster, OH 44691
- 13-15 — *Dayton, Ohio.* Women's Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 208, Mid-City Station, Dayton, OH 45402
- 13-15 — *Tulsa, Oklahoma.* State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1237, Tulsa, OK 74101
- 13-15 — *Lake Brownwood, Texas.* 11th Annual Man to Man. Write: Ch., 618 Cambridge, Irving, TX 75061
- 13-15 — *San Antonio, Texas.* Weekend in San Antonio. Write: Ch., Box 791995, San Antonio, TX 78279-1995
- 13-15 — *Bolton Valley, Vermont.* Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1994, Wallingford, VT 05773

- 13-15 — *Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.* 43rd Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 63, Dane, WI 53529
- 19-22 — *Guntersville, Alabama.* 15th Mtn. Top Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 836, Ashville, AL 35935
- 20-22 — *Little Current, Ontario, Canada.* Rainbow Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 820, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
- 20-22 — *Longueuil, Quebec, Canada.* 12th Congress. Write: Ch., C.P. 123, Station Longueuil, Longueuil, QC J4K 4X8
- 20-22 — *Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada.* 36th NFDL and Labrador Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 276, Port au Port, NF A0N 1T0
- 20-22 — *Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.* 34 Annual Delaware Conv. Write: Sec., 379 Angola By The Bay, Lewes, DE 19958
- 20-22 — *Clearwater, Florida.* Fifth Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2571, Pinellas Park, FL 34664-2571
- 20-22 — *Cody, Wyoming.* Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1092, Cody, WY 82414
- 27-29 — *Castlegar, British Columbia, Canada.* 21st Intergroup Roundup. Write: Ch., 301 7th Avenue, Castlegar, BC V1N 1P8
- 27-29 — *San Jose, California.* XIX Hispanic State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 28682, San Jose, CA 95159
- 27-29 — *Bowling Green, Kentucky.* Sponsorship Rally. Write: Ch., Box 20033, Bowling Green, KY 42102
- 27-29 — *Hammond, Louisiana.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 894, Springfield, LA 70462
- 27-29 — *Minden, Louisiana.* 15th Lake Party. Write: Ch., Box 385, Cullen, LA 71021
- 27-29 — *Boyer Mountain, Michigan.* 42nd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2691, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2691
- 27-29 — *Bloomington, Minnesota.* Gopher State Roundup XXI. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165-0295
- 27-29 — *New York, New York.* Big Book Study. Write: Ch., Box 2080, New York, NY 10027
- 27-29 — *Chomedey, Laval, Quebec, Canada.* 16th Conv. of Laval and Banlieue Dist. Write: Ch., C.P. 1502, Succursale Chomedey, Laval, QC H7V 1A0
- 27-29 — *Strathroy, Ontario, Canada.* Strathroy Watford Camp-Out. Write: Ch., Box 203, Strathroy, ON N7G 1J2
- 27-29 — *Nashville, Tennessee.* State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 680821, Franklin, TN 37068-0821

June

- 3-5 — *Chicago, Illinois.* Ninth Annual Chicago Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 180, 3023 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60657
- 10-12 — *Vernon, British Columbia, Canada.* 22nd Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., #8-1809 40th Ave., Vernon, BC V1T 7X4

- 10-12 — *Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 29th Provincial Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2, Paradise, NS B0S 1R0
- 10-12 — *Bronx, New York.* Ninth BOTWCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 243, Bronx, NY 10461-0243
- 17-19 — *Mason City, Iowa.* Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 466, Clear Lake, IA 50428
- 17-19 — *Medford, New Jersey.* SJCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 84, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
- 17-19 — *Akron, Ohio.* 12th Loners Internationalists Conf. Write: Ch., Box 360446, Columbus, OH 43236
- 23-26 — *Birmingham, Alabama.* SERCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 130807, Birmingham, AL 35213-0807
- 24-26 — *Alpine, Arizona.* Sixth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 98, Springville, AZ 85938
- 24-26 — *Sept-Iles, Quebec, Canada.* 15th District Congress. Write: Ch., C.P. 1289, Sept-Iles, QC G4R 4X7

July

- 1-3 — *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.* OSRYPAA Conf. Write: Ch., Box 54634, Oklahoma City, OK 73154
- 6-10 — *Naples, Florida.* 38th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2901, Naples, FL 33939
- 8-10 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* 50th Anniversary. Write: Ch., 360 East 16th St., North Vancouver, BC V7L 2T2
- 15-17 — *Olean, New York.* 28th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 64, Allegany, NY 14706
- 22-24 — *Wichita, Kansas.* Wichita, Summer Roundup. Write: ch., 2812 E. English, Wichita, KS 67211
- 22-24 — *Binghamton, New York.* NYS-CYPAA VIII. Write: Ch., Box 1304, Binghamton, NY 13902
- 22-24 — *York, Pennsylvania.* PENNSCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 7382, York, PA 17404
- 23-25 — *Sawyer, Michigan.* GLRCYPAA Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 0042, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
- 23-25 — *Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.* Courage Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 63, Halifax, NS B3J 2L4
- 23-25 — *Mansfield, Ohio.* OYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 162, Mansfield, OH 44901
- 23-25 — *Windsor, Ontario, Canada.* Essex County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1502 Station "A," Windsor, ON N9A 6R5
- 24-25 — *Aberdeen, South Dakota.* Dakota Prairie Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 545, Aberdeen, SD 57402
- 30-August 1 — *Los Angeles, California.* Foothill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 796, Montrose, CA 91021
- 30-August 1 — *Rochester, New York.* 14th Annual New York State. Write: Ch., Box 887, Rochester, NY 14603