

They're Doing the Rotation Rock At G.S.O.

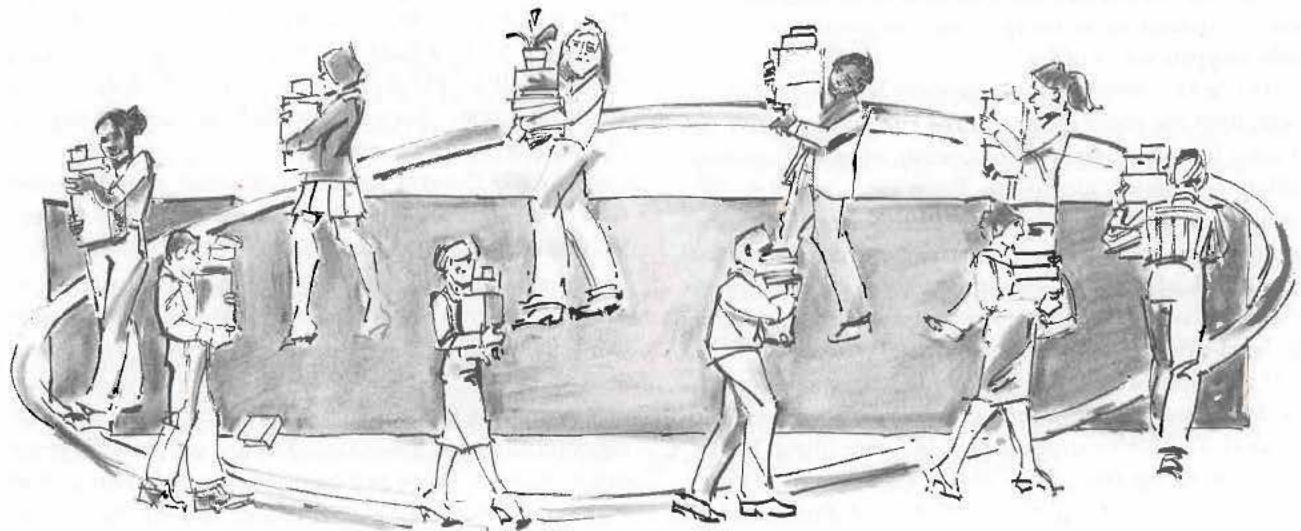
They're not really rocking, those staff members at the General Service Office, just engaging in orderly chaos as they switch assignments to the rhythm of that A.A. phenomenon called rotation. Every two years, they take hearts and hands off their current projects, pick up their plants and personal effects and move on to other offices, other responsibilities.

Most organizations are set up to encourage and reward personal power and prestige. But for the recovering alcoholic in A.A., these ego enhancers can be toxic substances, hazardous both to the individual's sobriety and to the health of the Fellowship as a whole. The early members evolved several solutions to the seductions of power; for example, anonymity at the public level, and the rotation of service jobs, setting a time limit on every one, from making coffee at a meeting to chairing a group. Rotation has proved a simple, effective way to prevent individual accumulation of power and, importantly, to keep "principles above personalities." Whether in the home group or the area assembly, rotation gives more people a chance to serve, encourages participation in decision-making and ensures that none can impose their personal values on the Fellowship. The Long Form of Tradition Nine succinctly states, "Rotating leadership is best." And as one A.A.

member observed with a grin, "it also limits the time some of us trusted servants have to mess things up!"

Many years ago, G.S.O. adopted the concept of rotation for A.A. staff assignments (the Conference Charter, article No. 8, recommends two-year terms of office for general service representatives, area committee members and delegates as well). According to retired staff member Beth K., a familiar presence at G.S.O. from 1959-1983, co-founder Bill W. leaned toward rotation "so that if anything happened to one person, the office could continue to function efficiently. It wouldn't fold up if somebody got drunk! The more each of us knew about the different assignments, the better."

Bill himself describes the events leading to rotation at G.S.O. in article No. 3 of Concept XI (*Twelve Concepts for World Service*, page 58): "We once had the conventional system of one highly paid staff member with assistants at much lower pay. Hers had been the principal voice in hiring them. Quite unconsciously, I'm certain, she engaged people who she felt would not be competitive with her. Meanwhile she kept a tight rein on all the important business of the place. A prodigy of wonderful work was done. But suddenly she collapsed, and shortly afterwards one of her assistants did the same. We were left with only one, partly trained assistant who knew



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anything whatever about the total operation.... Thereafter we installed the principle of rotation in a considerably larger staff.”

Today at G.S.O. there are approximately 82 employees, 10 of them rotating staff members. The only nonrotating staffer is Danny M., fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese, who heads Spanish Services. With the need for such specialization, the peripatetic Danny stays put (though never stationary) so that A.A. can provide its more than 40,000 Spanish speaking members in the U.S. and Canada, like all others, with the highest level of service possible.

Is rotation easy? Often not, report those who have experienced it. Is it essential to the A.A. way of life? Yes, says the collective voice of A.A. experience. Along with the Anonymity Tradition, it seems to be the best way we have of keeping the desire for personal recognition from distorting our best intentions. “While A.A. is important to the existence of the individual,” our first (nonalcoholic) trustee chairperson Bernard Smith cautioned back in 1956, “no individual must be vital to the existence of A.A.” With that, he acted upon his conviction and voluntarily stepped out of office.

At G.S.O. every staff assignment has expanded in scope with the rapid growth of the Fellowship which, as of now, has a worldwide membership of more than two million recovering alcoholics. Since 1968, membership has quadrupled in the U.S. and Canada alone, with the greatest numerical increase occurring during the 1980s. A handful of staff and support positions have been added to handle the extra workload unless you count the hard-driving, nonrotating computer system.

If rotation prevents specialization, it does seem to encourage more wide-ranging skills. Says staff member Richard B.: “We’re supposed to be generalists. We’re here to serve the Fellowship, and to do so we need to be a jack (or jill)-of-all-trades.” As a delegate once remarked, rotation keeps reemphasizing the importance

of the message over the messenger. And Sarah P., who was a staff member for 21 years before retiring in 1996, has remarked that the two-year rotation system is beneficial because it keeps the staff “a little off-balance” and forces them to ask for help. “Because we rotate,” she added, “we always have to depend on other people, include other people. Otherwise it becomes my assignment, done my way.”

The changing of the guard occurs like clockwork every other September, and the transition is amazingly smooth. Some staff members claim they never miss a former assignment because they’re so busy responding to the challenge of the new one. For those relinquishing assignments they’ve come to love, there is a consolation: Thanks to rotation, chances are they’re not saying goodbye, just *au revoir*.

Fourth Edition Big Book Project Moves Ahead

The proposed Fourth Edition Big Book project continues to develop, and the Fourth Edition subcommittee has spent the spring and summer deep in the process of choosing new stories. The subcommittee carefully reviewed 1,222 stories submitted for possible inclusion. Of that number, 95 stories have been selected from which the committee members are choosing the final candidates for a Fourth Edition.

It was determined last March that the Fourth Edition will contain some stories from the Third Edition and some new stories. No final decisions have been made as to which Third Edition stories will be retained. Stories that are not kept from the Third Edition will be published in a proposed anthology of Big Book stories that will also include stories from the First and Second Editions.

The 1999 General Service Conference recommended that a progress report and/or a draft of the Fourth Edition Big Book be brought back to the Conference Literature Committee in 2000. The question arose as to whether or not a Fourth Edition might be ready for the 2000 International Convention next July, and the answer was, quite simply, “No.” It is still too premature to set any target date for publication of this important text. The subcommittee on the Fourth Edition moves with great deliberation and care as it comes closer to consensus and makes its group conscience decisions on both the current and the new stories.



What: A.A.'s 65th Birthday Celebration. Theme: "Pass It On—Into the 21st Century."

When: June 29-July 2, 2000.

Where: Minneapolis, Minnesota (Convention Center, Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Hilton, Hyatt and Regal Headquarter Hotels in downtown Minneapolis).

What Is It? Beginning with the first, in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950, A.A.'s International Conventions have often been milestones in the growth of our Fellowship; high points in the celebration of sobriety; and moving spiritual experiences for those who attended. Held every five years to celebrate the anniversary of our founding, our International Conventions have grown to be some of the largest events of their kind in the world. The objectives of this International Convention are:

- To provide opportunities for a rededication of attendees to the primary purpose of A.A.
- To enable attendees to witness the success and growth of the A.A. program around the world.
- To let the world know that A.A. is alive, flourishing and available as a community resource, locally and internationally.

Who Is It For? The International Convention offers A.A. meetings to anyone who is interested in Alcoholics Anonymous—A.A. members, Al-Anon members, friends of A.A., media and other professionals, or anyone who would like to drop in on an "open" A.A. meeting.

Cost: The preregistration fee is \$85.00 (U.S.). After May 15, 2000, the on-site registration fee is \$95.00 (U.S.). You must be registered to attend any International Convention event.

Registration: In late August or early September 1999 your group G.S.R. will receive registration forms. Central Offices and Intergroups will also receive a generous supply. You will also be able to download a registration form from G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site: (www.alcoholics-anonymous.org). A preliminary program (to be mailed in late Spring 2000) will provide additional information about International Convention activities.

Registration opens, at the Convention Center, at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 28.

Hotel Rooms/Housing: You will receive a hotel/housing reservation form after you have registered and received your badge(s) in the mail. (Your badge is confirmation of your registration.) Fill out and return the housing form as soon as possible.

No hotel or housing assignments will take place before November 15, 1999. All reservation forms received prior to

November 15, 1999, either by regular mail, fax or e-mail, will be processed on November 15 by lottery. Everyone who applies by this date has the same chance of being assigned to a downtown hotel. After November 15, 1999, all hotel/housing reservation forms are processed in the order of the date received.

No hotel is farther than 15 miles from downtown and buses are provided to and from all hotels. A shuttle service between all International Convention activities and A.A. participating hotels will be provided. Special transportation will be available for physically-challenged attendees.

Why not go directly to hotels in Minneapolis? A.A. has signed contracts with most hotels in Minneapolis and surrounding communities. Thus Convention hotel rates are substantially lower. If you stay within this hotel/housing process, we can provide an adequate bus/shuttle service to A.A. participating hotels. Do not panic. A.A. has contracted more than enough hotel rooms for this Convention.

Special Events...

Thursday, June 29

- Enjoy the "Block Party" right outside the Convention Center and all along Nicollet Mall. Gotta Dance? Start right at the Convention Center. For the young and young at heart, there are other dances at the Hilton and Hyatt hotels. Meet and greet all your new and old friends as we stroll together and enjoy one of the world's largest "Block Parties."
- Marathon meetings in English and Spanish begin at midnight and run continuously until 7:15 a.m. Sunday, July 2nd.

Friday, June 30

- A.A. meetings begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday night is always very special. We will meet at the Metrodome Stadium and mark the Opening Ceremonies with a Parade of Flags of those countries in attendance at the Convention—probably over 80 flags—followed by the Big A.A. Meeting.
- Dance at the Stadium after the Big A.A. Meeting.

Saturday, July 1

- Meetings, meetings, meetings...
- Oldtimers A.A. Meeting, the Stadium, 8:00 p.m.
- Dancing at the Stadium, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 2

- Closing Meeting at Stadium.

Four New Trustees Share a Longtime Love of Service

Following the 1999 General Service Conference, A.A. welcomed four new Class B (alcoholic) trustees: Alex P., trustee-at-large/Canada; Beth R., Southwest regional trustee; Anton "Tony" T., Northeast regional trustee; and Gregory "Greg" T., general service trustee. All were introduced to service early in their sobriety and took to it like fish to, yes, water. And, in their new capacity, all share a common desire to serve the Fellowship in any way they can.

Alex P., of Abbotsford, British Columbia, succeeds Michel G. as the trustee-at-large/Canada. Continuously sober for 22 years, Alex first came to A.A. back in 1954. "At age 23," he recalls, "I was a logger, and I drank fast and furiously. One time I was sitting in a dingy hotel room on Skid Row and feeling awful when I heard a radio talk show host share his experience as a recovering alcoholic. That stuck with me, and a couple of months later I summoned the courage to phone the fellow, who met with me, gave me the pamphlet "20 Questions" and later accompanied me to my first meeting. It took, and I went to another, then another. Over the next 19 years, which proved a productive and happy time, I stayed dry, married my wife, Evelyn, got educated as a certified general accountant, had five children—and then it happened: I was on a plane one day, and when the flight attendant offered me a drink for the umpteenth time, I heard myself answer, 'Yes!'"

Alex says he has no words to express the misery of the next four years: "My priorities got all mixed up, and I couldn't stop drinking. I'd stand outside the Alano Club, planning to go in and get a meeting list, then turn around and stumble back to the bar." But on May 7, 1977 he did make it back to the Fellowship, where he "got all involved with the Steps, Big Book study and general service. I fell in love with A.A." With a grin he adds, "I was 23 when I got here, and exactly 23 years later I came back. If I'm still here this time next year, I'll be 23 years sober."

After serving in several group and area offices, Alex became a delegate (Panel 45) in 1995. "I so loved traveling to different towns in B.C., the Yukon, the States, and meeting wonderful A.A.s wherever I went," he says. "There are no borders in A.A., and as a trustee, I look forward to meeting more of our members and connecting with them through A.A.'s language of the heart. Whatever I'm asked to do, I'm ready."

Beth R., of Brazoria, Texas, follows the late Raul M. as Southwest regional trustee (eight regions are represented on A.A.'s trustee board, six U.S. and two Canadian).

Beth is a native Kansan who became a Texas transplant at age 10 when her family moved to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. "I started drinking right after high school," she remembers, "and finally my mother got after me. Not a drinker herself, she had good A.A. friends who took me to my first meetings. I sobered up in July 1978, and after a year or so connected with Olga M., who became my sponsor and is to this day.

"Just months after we met, Olga instructed me to bring three-dozen sandwiches to some afternoon meeting. I did, and when what turned out to be an assembly meeting ended, I was the new area treasurer—by default really, since no one else wanted to stand for the office at the time. A past delegate, Don A., slapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Y'all be at my house tomorrow night to start studying *The A.A. Service Manual*.' I didn't know what that was, but I showed up and began to learn about the amazing ways this Fellowship is structured and works."

Armed with a B.A. and M.A. from Texas A&M, Beth would become an English teacher and public school administrator. Active in A.A. service, she was a delegate (Panel 39) in 1989-90. "One of my most rewarding experiences occurred in 1990, when as a delegate I chaired the Conference Committee on Trustees," she says. "That was the year the Conference voted to allow general service trustees to come from all over the U.S./Canada, not just from the Greater New York City area."

The mother of a daughter and a son, and with three grandchildren, Beth has somehow made time for an eclectic list of activities ranging from long-term work with teens in gangs and serving as a nationally-certified master addictions counselor, to reading and embroidering, an art she says she learned when 6 years old at her grandmother's knee. Ten years ago she married fellow A.A. Rodney R., a former Panel 45 delegate (1995-96), "he well understands the demands on the time of a trustee," Beth observes. And that's a good thing, because she is raring "to do the best job I can, wherever A.A. puts me."

Tony T., of Berlin, Connecticut, succeeds MaryJane R. as Northeast regional trustee. His sobriety, he says, is closely tied to the major financial services organization he has been with for nearly 30 years. "After a stint in the Army in the 1960s, Tony explains, my drinking picked up and soon crossed the invisible line into alcoholism. I lost a wife, was estranged from our two kids and much else—all I did was drink, think and work. The rest of the time I passed out in what I called my palatial bachelor pad—one small room in a motel. Finally I turned to a counselor at my company for help and was sent off to a detox facility, all expenses paid. I had what I hope was my last drink on May 2, 1978." Six years later he married a fellow worker at his company, Hilary, who has been a member of A.A. for the past 10 years.

A nutmegger born and raised in Hartford, Tony was an only child. "My mother was an alcoholic and institutionalized for 20 years," he says. "But when she died, in 1994, she had been sober in A.A. for a decade." Understandably, he notes, "the treatment arena is very dear to me." Accordingly, he has served on the boards of a local hospital and an alcohol and drug recovery organization. Additionally he sponsors three A.A. men and is a service sponsor to area and district A.A. men and women.

Tony's fascination with A.A. archival work follows closely on the heels of his interest in treatment. "While serving as delegate (Panel 45, 1995-96) and on local service committees over an 18 year period," he relates, "I was an ex-officio member of the Connecticut Archives Committee. Preserving the Fellowship's history is so important. Only by looking to our past and learning from it can we safeguard the future of A.A. for those sick alcoholics to come."

Greg T., of South Orange, New Jersey, was a seasoned A.A. hand before being elected a general service trustee. (In all there are four; they are active on one or more of the corporate boards and must be available at all times to assist with A.A. affairs. They generally have expertise in some area—such as business, public relations or administration—that is particularly applicable to the challenges at hand.) A published author, Greg has long worked as an editor and publisher as well. He lent his talents to the Editorial Advisory Board of the A.A. Grapevine from 1991-94 and for the past three years has served as a nontrustee director of the Grapevine Corporate Board.

Looking back, Greg relates that his drinking started, and quickly escalated, during his undergraduate days at Yale. He turned to A.A. while sitting on a barstool, on a hot July day in 1986. The fellow drinking alongside told him, "You could use some help," then phoned an A.A. friend who took Greg to his first meeting. "My bar buddy sobered up later," Greg reports, "and we've stayed in touch."

He further notes that he "took to sobriety at once. I picked up, swept up, anything they asked me to do." Then, when his home group, the South Orange Sunday Night Group, the oldest in New Jersey, began to focus on its 50th anniversary celebration in November 1989, Greg was chosen to chair the ad hoc planning committee. "The assignment put me in touch with a lot of knowledgeable people who gave me tremendous insight into how A.A. functions," he says. "I was hooked on service." Greg is also hooked on family life with his wife, Maureen, and two sons, Patrick and Bryan, and has volunteered considerable time to work with Boy Scouts of America. As a trustee, he will sit on the Grapevine Board, he says, "but beyond that it's whatever I'm asked to do, just like those early days in my home group."

In A.A.'s early days the number of nonalcoholic (Class A) trustees actually exceeded the alcoholic ones by one. "Just in case!" remarked A.A. co-founder Bill W. in the November 1951 issue of the Grapevine. At the time, circa 1938, he explained, "none of the alcoholic members of the new board were sure they could stay sober. Who, then, would look after the money if all the drunks got drunk?" As time passed and both the Fellowship and its individual alcoholic trustees accrued some solid sobriety, the balance changed; today the General Service Board numbers seven nonalcoholic trustees, who serve six-year terms; and 14 alcoholics, serving four. Traditionally the chairperson is elected from the ranks of the nonalcoholic trustees.

Intergroups Ask: Where Have the Volunteers Gone?

"The most frustrating thing about answering intergroup's phones," says Bob R., manager of the Intergroup Association in New York City, "is finding an A.A. member willing to take a Twelfth Step call for some sick alcoholic who has phoned us for help. Sometimes it takes up to 20 calls to identify just one willing volunteer. Some of the responses we hear when a live member actually does answer the phone: 'What's a Twelfth Step call?'... 'How did you get my phone number?'... 'Do you mean you actually want me to talk to someone who's still drinking?' The saddest response came from a member who exclaimed, 'No, I can't do it. I'm busy all day. Today is my sobriety anniversary.' Other negative answers we get include: 'The number has been disconnected'... 'I'm no longer a member of that group'... 'I don't attend meetings anymore.'

"But occasionally," Bob adds, "something wonderful happens, as when we called upon an A.A. who answered our request for help by saying, 'Thanks for calling me—I was really feeling down and sorry for myself. I'll make the [Twelfth Step] call immediately.' One response like that offsets 500 of the negative kind and helps to keep us going."

The challenge of locating willing volunteers isn't new, he points out. "It seems to me we had similar, though less critical, challenges 21 years ago when I first answered Intergroup's phones. Nor is the solution to the problem necessarily with the A.A. groups. Intergroup needs to educate the groups and their members about what we are and do. This need is confirmed by information our Intergroup receives semi-annually from officers of our member groups.

The numbers tell a sad but interesting story. Presently our Intergroup lists 1,428 groups in its Meeting Book. At the end of the first quarter of this year, only 16% of the groups had given Intergroup the names, addresses and telephone numbers of group officers (who also are group Twelfth Step contacts). Moreover, 18% of the group officer information for Intergroup records was received back in 1998, and worst of all, 66% of the groups hadn't provided the requested group officer information in more than two years."

Part of the solution, Bob suggests, "lies in the power of repetition. A.A. being what it is, a fellowship with an astonishing turnover of people, means that Intergroup needs to tell its own story continuously. It's no accident that A.A. is a program of repetition. I still want to hear another member remind me yet again I don't have to drink, and it's the first drink that will get me drunk."

The need for volunteers, and for up-to-date Twelfth Step lists from individual groups, is shared by the 499 intergroups and central offices around the U.S. and Canada. Here are reports from a few of them:

Minneapolis Intergroup Association. "Because at its most basic, A.A. is one alcoholic working with another," says manager Rick W., "two of the main things Intergroup does are (1) having an alcoholic on hand to answer the A.A. phone and (2) having Twelfth Steppers available and on call to help those suffering alcoholics who get up the courage to call us. Of the almost 800 calls we receive monthly, roughly 120 people are looking for sobriety, ranging from those who have never had contact with A.A. before to people getting sober again after a slip and those with just days or weeks of sobriety who are drunk at that moment. In the first few chapters of the Big Book, the point that helping others is essential to our own sobriety is stated over and over. Our early members were emphatic about Twelfth Step work being 'vital' and 'imperative.'"

The Minneapolis Intergroup's Twelfth Step list "currently contains more than 600 names of A.A. members in the metropolitan area who are willing to share their time and experience with others," Rick reports. "We strive to make sure that every A.A. member in the area knows what the Twelfth Step list is. We utilize our intergroup representatives, our monthly newsletter, the *MIRUS*, and our phone volunteers and flyers to get the word out.

"Along with the guidelines in A.A. literature, our own experience as recovering alcoholics provides our expertise. Most of our volunteers understand that often we drunks don't hit bottom at convenient times. They know that visiting sick drunks at home, talking on the phone, offering sponsorship and helping people get to meetings... all of these extend the hand of A.A., assisting others to find the power that pulls us back from the gates of insanity and death."

Recently, Rick says, "our Intergroup formed a committee that is responsible for updating its Twelfth Step list. Members call each person on the list and record any changes regarding their status as volunteers. The committee also is working to encourage A.A.s to be on the list, especially in areas where we have few volunteers. As it does in personal recovery, the 'one drunk talking to another' approach works best."

San Francisco Intercounty Fellowship Central Office. Manager Bruce K. comments that "Twelfth Step lists, like all A.A. lists in the San Francisco service area, are very difficult to keep up-to-date. We have no trouble adding names of volunteers and do, but once on the list, they tend to stay there even though some may have lost interest, moved away, gotten drunk or died. Few ever call in to tell us their change of status, and the task of our phoning all 164 people on the list and assessing whether or not they wish to remain is daunting."

Bruce cites the difficulty of "actually getting people on the phone these days, either to update the list or to ask them to make a Twelfth Step call." Echoing Bob R. of the New York Intergroup, he reports that "our office volunteers may go through 10 to 20 calls before they find someone available and willing to take up the task. They get many 'no answers,' voice mail messages and—if they manage to talk to a real person—A.A.s who are too busy at the moment to take the call."

Cape/Atlantic Intergroups Phone Service (Somers Point, New Jersey). "We are considering a call forwarding service," reports Lon R. and Wendy B., who coordinate the phone volunteers in South Jersey. "This will enable home-bound recovering alcoholics to take calls at home." The Cape/Atlantic Phone Service—always on the lookout for volunteers—has Twelfth Step volunteer forms that are distributed to the groups.

Houston Intergroup Association, Inc. Manager Dick P. says that "Nightwatch is our program to answer the phones 24 hours a day. We handle calls at Intergroup from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the Nightwatch volunteer handles all incoming calls the rest of the night. Our Twelfth Step call list is 11 pages long, with seven of these pages containing men's numbers and the rest women's. About once a year we try to find individual volunteers to call each and every one of the numbers listed and explain that we're simply checking to make sure that person is still there. Sometimes we find people who have died, moved or want their names removed from the list."

As for group participation, Dick notes, "most of our groups have a phone listing of A.A. members willing to go on Twelfth Step calls. Lists are updated at least three times a year in my home group, and this holds true for at least six other groups in the area."

Annual Contribution Limit Increased

The annual amount that an individual A.A. member may contribute to the General Service Office has been raised to \$2,000, from \$1,000, as a result of an Advisory Action of the 1999 General Service Conference. This new limit also applies to bequests in wills; an A.A. member may leave \$2,000 on a one-time basis, not in perpetuity.

This increase does *not* indicate that G.S.O. is broke or in poor financial straits. It is the responsibility of the Conference Finance Committee to periodically review the limit that G.S.O. accepts; when it seems time to increase the limit a recommendation is made to the Conference as a whole.

It is not anticipated that this increase will have a significant impact on the office's finances. During 1998, 33 members contributed the \$1,000 limit. One reason for the increase was that of those who contributed \$1,000, many suggested they would like to contribute more but were restrained from doing so. Another consideration was that the limit had not been increased since 1986 (13 years).

Speaking of the contributions limit, recently, G.S.O.'s general manager, Greg M., had to advise a large foundation that we could not take a \$750,000 gift that the foundation intended to send to A.A. on behalf of a donor to the foundation. He informed the foundation of our Seventh Tradition and the principle of corporate poverty inherent in the Tradition.

The increase has also generated a question from Canadian members. Yes, G.S.O. will accept contributions in Canadian funds. For many years, the office has maintained bank accounts in Canada for the purpose of depositing checks received in Canadian funds. We have both U.S. dollar accounts and Canadian dollar accounts. We record the contributions in U.S. dollars on our books, however, we acknowledge the contributions in Canadian.

A.A.s in Japan Revel in Sobriety At Weekend Retreat

For anyone who doubts that sobriety can be fun, this report from Kobe, Japan, should set the record straight. In the November-December issue of *A.A. News in Japan*, a newsletter of the Kobe Intergroup, Angela of Kyoto describes a weekend gathering in Kasama.

"On Saturday, October 3," she writes, "27 recovering alcoholics and ALAnon members piled into a minibus

for the trip up a winding mountain road. Arriving at the lodge, we took in the craggy, blue-green mountains and unfiltered sunlight. Tiny hot-red flowers framed the cool, trim lawn, and dragonflies hung over our shoulders as we listened to the opening talk, which was basically instructing us to have a great time and to leave the place in even better shape than we'd found it."

Heading into the ample sleeping lodge, Angela says, "we left our footwear and family names at the door. For the next two days we were free to enjoy ourselves—we could choose to attend every meeting or none at all; the topics were selected by the whole group. There were inspiration, spirituality and meditation meetings, along with those on sponsorship, 'God's Will for Me,' 'Living in the Now' and more."

Much was happening outside the meetings too, she notes: "We were a fun-loving and talented group—fiddlers, guitarists, drummers, dancers, piano players, soccer players, storytellers, hikers and ping pong whizzes. People tried new things and taught others what they knew. Saturday night, around 9 o'clock, some fiddlers started playing in the second cabin down the road. At that point a group of us had been telling ghost stories, some eerie and some hilarious, when someone called us to come dance. It was chilly and dark as we followed the path of round stones to the cabin. The musicians played Irish and Scottish melodies, and we locked elbows with each other, turning and spinning and gasping for breath. Exuberant cheers filled the cabin. In our socks we slid across the polished floor as we slammed into each other and the folding chairs. We were just a bunch of sober people expressing our joy and freedom from the prison of alcoholism.

"Around 11 we returned to the lodge for the candlelight spirituality meeting. In a big circle we surrounded a funky, squatting candelabra, wider than it was tall and decorated with white candles. It was like a Christmas tree and a campfire melded into one glowing, festive lump. And it was perfect. Several hours later there was an earthquake, but most of us slept peacefully through it."

Angela recalls that "the meals were great and combined with the fellowship, exercise, music and sunlight to give us some of that nourishment for living that many of us used to reject. The comfort and beauty helped to clear our minds and make room for new ideas, more ways not to pick up a drink and a greater capacity for enjoying life." For a long time now, she adds, "the Kasama weekend has been a twice-a-year event. It used to be called a serenity weekend, but the organizers changed the name because it seemed like too much to promise. Yet for me and for everyone else I talked to, that's what it was: a weekend of true serenity."

Sarasota to Host Intergroup Seminar

The Central Office of Sara-Mana, in Sarasota, Florida, will host the 1999 Central Office/Intergroup Seminar, October 14-17, at the Holiday Inn Riverfront in Bradenton. The letter of welcome sent to prospective attendees notes that "the Seminar is a time of sharing and learning about problems and solutions common to most central offices/intergroups... a wonderful opportunity to benefit from the experience, strength and hope of those who serve in similar positions." Not to mention generous helpings of Southern hospitality that include lolling on the white sands of Lido Beach, guided boat excursions and shopping in boutiques bordering the waterfront.

The weekend of workshops, panel presentations, sharing, fellowship and fun in the sun is expected to attract as many as 150 intergroup/central office managers, employees and intergroup representatives. Together with trustees of the General Service Board and directors and staff of A.A. World Services and the Grapevine, they will examine key issues ranging from anonymity to online usage, from stretching shoestring budgets to effecting broader distribution of A.A. Conference-approved literature, and much more.

"Like past seminars," observes Phil R., manager of the Sara-Mana Central Office, "this one, we hope, will reinforce our sense of community. All of us have the same goals: to help the alcoholic still out there and to be responsive to the wishes of the A.A. membership. But to ascertain that we're functioning effectively, we are dependent upon the kind of feedback that comes from communication with each other." Adds Marcus E., who with Phil co-chairs the Intergroup Seminar: "It's a great opportunity to talk shop, to share our common problems and gain fresh insights into the job we're doing—of seeing ourselves as others see us."

In its information packet that included a Seminar "topic request form" and information about hotel reservations, the Sara-Mana Central Office also inserted a 1999 Intergroup Seminar Site Bid Form for Intergroups/Central Offices interested in hosting the event in the year 2000. A statement of purpose explains that "the Site Committee will make its recommendation based on accessibility, cost, facilities and accommodations. However, the Committee will also apply the principles of equitable rotation when making its recommendation." The 13 previous host cities were: Chicago, 1986; Los Angeles, '87; Dallas, '88; Toronto, '89; Newark, New Jersey, '90; Memphis, '91; Mesa, Arizona, '92; Baltimore, '93; Vancouver, B.C., '94; Atlanta, '95; Minneapolis/St. Paul, '96; Columbus, Ohio, '97; and San Mateo, California, '98.

For more information about the upcoming Intergroup Seminar, please write: Phil R., Central Office of Sara-Mana, Inc., 1748 Independence Blvd., Suite F-1, Sarasota, FL 34234; phone (941) 351-4818; or fax (941) 355-8932.

Members Are Older And Sober Longer, Survey Reveals

Results of the 1998 random Membership Survey are in, and the figures are amazingly consistent with those of the '96 survey. In most categories, variations span no more than two or three percentage points; these statistically have little or no significance but may confirm a past trend or foreshadow a new one. For example, the average A.A. member appears to be getting older at 45 years (up from 44 in 1996, from 42 in '92), has been sober more than 7 years (compared to 6 years in '96 and 4 years, 2 months in '89), has a sponsor (75%, down from 76% in '96), belongs to a home group (85%, down from 86% in '96) and attends about two meetings a week.

Anonymous surveys of the Fellowship have been conducted by the General Service Office every three years since 1968 (except for 1995, when the survey was deferred a year by General Service Conference Action). They offer an overview of current trends in membership characteristics as measured against the results of previous surveys, with the main purpose of giving A.A. more information about itself so that members worldwide can better help alcoholics who suffer. In its February-March 1975 issue *Box 4-5-9's* lead article, on the '74 Membership Survey, stated, "If you were one of the thousands of A.A. members who filled out anonymous questionnaires at meetings... you did a true Twelfth Step job, though you'll probably never see the full results." Déjà vu! A quarter-century later, it's still true, most would agree.

The 1998 questionnaires were distributed last summer to U.S./Canada Conference delegates. More than 6,800 questionnaires were completed by members—from teens to octogenarians—and returned to G.S.O. Questions covered personal statistics (age, sex, nature of job, dates of first meeting and last drink), A.A. activity (frequency of meeting attendance, group membership, sponsorship), factors that attracted the person to A.A. in the first place (A.A. members, family, etc.) and outside considerations such as experience with treatment facilities and health care professionals. From the preparation and mailing of the questionnaires to tabulation of the

results, all work was handled by G.S.O.'s staff, employees and its Electronic and Data Processing Department.

Interestingly, the survey reveals that the percentage of women in A.A., which climbed steadily from 22% in 1968 to 35% in '89, then dipped to 33% in '96, has held steady at the current 34%, while the percentage of men has also stabilized at 66%. This means that there is approximately one woman to every two men in A.A. and further confirms that the sharp increase of women in the past decades has leveled off. Among A.A.s aged 30 and under, the percentage of women, which climbed from 40% in '89 to 43% in '92, then back down to 40% in '96, has dropped still further to 38%. Some other findings:

Length of sobriety—Respondents who have been sober more than five years total 47% (up from 45% in the last survey); between one and five years, 26%; and less than one year, 27%.

Sponsorship—68% of sponsored respondents said they had found their sponsors within their first 90 days in the Fellowship (up 1%).

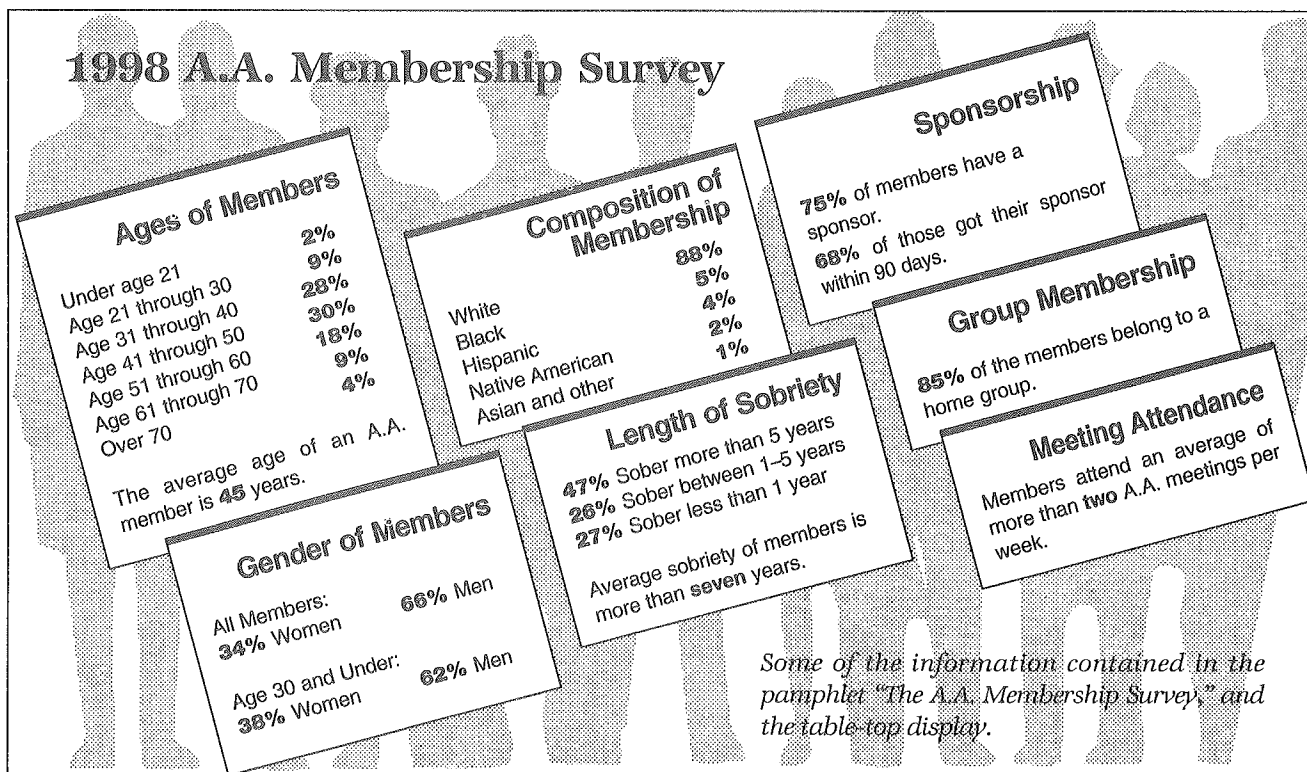
Introduction to A.A.—In this category there appears to be a meaningful discrepancy between present and past statistics, but that might be because the question this time around was reworded in the interest of eliciting a more accurate sampling. Fewer newcomers reported being self-motivated—34% (compared to 51% in 1996); 36% of the respondents were attracted to the program

by an A.A. member (down from 48%); 34% cited guidance from treatment facilities (down from 40%); 25% were guided by one or more family members (down from 39%). Still others were influenced by a counseling agency (9%), the courts (11%), an employer or fellow worker (5%), Al-Anon or Alateen members (3%), a correctional facility (3%), A.A. literature (2%), the media (2%), and the clergy (2%).

Additional help—60% of the respondents said that before coming to A.A. they had received some type of medical, psychological or spiritual treatment or counseling (no change from '96); 75% of those members said it had played a significant role in directing them to A.A. (down 2% from the last survey). As in the last survey, 62% received some type of treatment or counseling *after* joining A.A.; 83% of those same members considered it vital to their continuing recovery.

Relationship with health care professionals—75% report that their doctors know they are in A.A., a figure that has remained statistically constant since the 1992 survey. And 38% said they had been referred to A.A. by a health care professional.

Ages of members—The average age of members has risen 4% since the 1989 survey, from 41 to 45 years. Those who are under 21 constitute 2%; 21-30, 9%; 31-40, 28%; 41-50, 30%; 51-60, 18%; 61-70, 9%; and over 70, 4%.



Marital status—Statistics for this category remain virtually unchanged since the last survey: respondents who said they were married, 39%; single, 27%; divorced, 25%; and widowed, 5%.

Composition of membership—Figures for responses to this question, first asked in the 1996 survey, remain virtually the same: respondents who were white, 88%; black, 5%; Hispanic, 4%; Native American, 2%; and Asian and other, 1%.

Members' occupations—These continue to cover a broad spectrum and reflect statistically insignificant changes from the last survey: Professional/Technical, 13%; Other (including self-employed), 11%; Manager/Administrator, 10%; and Laborer, 8%. Some other statistics: Health Professional, 6%; Sales Worker, 5%; Craft and Service Workers, 4% each; Clerical Worker, Educator, Homemaker and Student, 3% respectively; and Transportation Workers (equipment operators), 2%. A total of 6% described themselves as unemployed; another 6% said they were disabled.

Key findings of the 1998 Membership Survey are available in an updated version of the leaflet "Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey (P-48, 15c each). Also available is a compact table-top display, 27" high and 39" wide (M-13). To order, write to the General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

Correctional Facilities

Recovery Is a Family Affair

It's known that the behavior of an active drunk can produce a negative ripple effect on the whole family, but the converse also holds true: The alcoholic recovering in A.A. often gives the family a new lease on life, as a letter that recently arrived at the General Service Office shows.

Writing in Spanish, Californian Regino G. says, "My brother Ramon, who is incarcerated in an East Coast correctional facility, has shared with my family and me his progress in recovering from alcoholism through the program of A.A. He says that corresponding with outside sponsors has made a tremendous change in his life."

Ramon participates in G.S.O.'s Corrections Correspondence Service, in which A.A. members on the "outside" correspond with fellow members behind the walls. In many instances the A.A.s 'inside' come to regard their pen pals as sponsors who share their own experience in sobriety and may help, upon the inmates'

release, to ease their crucial transition from prison to mainstream A.A.

Expressing his gratitude for the Fellowship, Regino concludes, "My brother took some roads that brought him and my family distress and sorrow, but now he has A.A. I want to thank your organization for the help you have given him—for the inspiration that has brought recovery and hope to Ramon. My entire family salutes you with all our hearts, and we celebrate your service to many who suffer."

Solving the Mystery of The Pink Can

It took a while to get there, but this is a mystery with a satisfactory ending—or, rather, beginning—thanks to Mike (not his real name), an A.A. at a midwestern prison who took the trouble to write the General Service Office about it.

"Back in January," explained Mike, "I was arrested for my third drunk-driving offense. As it was suggested, I went to A.A. the same day I was released from jail on bond. I picked up a Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and began reading them. I also started reading *Daily Reflections*. While attending A.A. meetings in the free world, I got myself a sponsor and a home group and attended its meetings regularly. As I sat there listening, I became familiar with a 'pink can' that sat on a table. I checked it out and found it served as a collection box for institutions. The G.S.R. [general service representative] told me all the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters were used to buy Big Books and other A.A. material for jails and prisons. So, besides putting money in the group collection hat, I began sticking some into the pink can every week. I'd feel guilty if I didn't give money to both."

Not long after, Mike was remanded to jail. "I was able to bring my own Big Book," he related, "and my sponsor brought in his Twelve and Twelve. I read and studied them until May, when I was sent here to prison and not allowed to keep my books. Hopefully, I'll get a Big Book from the money put in the 'pink can.'"

About that happy ending—the A.A. books are on the way.

As for that "pink can," the change that is filling up pink cans (or blue or whatever color or material) in A.A. groups from coast to coast keeps spilling out A.A. books and literature into prisons around the country. Best of all, Mike is sober. "It's kind of ironic," he mused in his letter, "but I feel freer now though confined to a cell. I have come to love A.A. and it has finally shown me the light to a happier and easier lifestyle that I never knew existed. It's great."

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

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1999

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.

August

- 5-8—*Raleigh, North Carolina.* 55th SE Conf./52nd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 72276, Durham, NC 27609
- 6-8—*Squamish, British Columbia, Canada.* Squamish Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 2015, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0
- 6-8—*Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada.* 15th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
- 6-8—*Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada.* 50th Anniversary Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 848, Flin Flon, MB R8A 1N6
- 6-8—*Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.* 13th Annual Algoma Dist. Family Campout. Write: Ch., 302-147 South Market, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6E5
- 6-8—*Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.* 30th Annual Central West Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23022, Westgate Postal Outlet, Cambridge, ON N1S 4Z6
- 6-8—*Payson, Arizona.* Seventh Payson Roundup. Write: Ch., 2575, Payson, AZ 85547
- 6-8—*Indian Wells, California.* 25th Annual Maad Dog Daze/Ninth District Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4383, Palm Desert, CA 92261-4383
- 6-8—*Oakhurst, California.* 14th Annual Mini Conference. Write: Ch., Box 23, Oakhurst, CA 93644
- 6-8—*Cromwell, Connecticut.* 16th Walk the Walk Roundup (hosted by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 1389, New Haven, CT 06505
- 6-8—*Lansing, Michigan.* 47th State Conf. and 21st East Central Regional Conf. Write: Ch., Box 135, Holt, MI 48842
- 6-8—*Ogallala Beach, Nebraska.* Sixth Annual Campout and Barbecue. Write: Ch., 1008 West A St., Ogallala, NE 69153
- 6-8—*Troy, New York.* State Informational Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 93, Lansingburgh, NY 12182
- 6-8—*Kutztown, Pennsylvania.* 14th Annual Reading Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 745, Reading, PA 19607
- 6-8—*Bristol, Virginia.* 50th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1182, Jonesville, VA 24263
- 6-8—*Seattle, Washington.* Emerald City Roundup (presented by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., 1122 East Pike St., Suite 1006, Seattle, WA 98122-3927
- 7-8—*Katherine, Australia.* Katherine Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 42263, Casuarina, Darwin, NT 0811 Australia
- 12-15—*Kaunahakai, Hawaii.* Molokai Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 992, Kaunahakai, HI 96748
- 12-15—*Louisville, Kentucky.* SERCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 39304, Louisville, KY 40233

- 13-15—*Saltspring Island, British Columbia, Canada.* Seventh Saltspring Rally. Write: Ch., Box 563, Station Main, Ganges, BC V8K 2H1
- 13-15—*White Rock, British Columbia, Canada.* 15th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 45085, Ocean Park RPO, Surrey, BC V4A 9L1
- 13-15—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.* Lakeshore District Conf. Write: Secy., 217 McNaughton Ave., Oshawa, ON L1H 3B7
- 13-15—*Alice Springs, Australia.* Centralian Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 42263, Casuarina, Darwin, NT 0811 Australia
- 13-15—*Tiel, The Netherlands.* 13th Annual Tiel Roundup. Write: Ch., Herderinestraat 13a, 2512 CZ, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 13-15—*Scottsdale, Arizona.* Salt River Intergroup Summer Roundup. Write: Ch., 4602 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014
- 13-15—*Cedar Falls, Iowa.* Serenity Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 605, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
- 13-15—*Erlanger, Kentucky.* Northern Kentucky Rule 62 Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 62, Covington, KY 41012
- 13-15—*Pittsfield, Massachusetts.* Joy of Living Campout. Write: Ch., 85 East St., Rm. 14-15, Pittsfield, MA 01201
- 13-15—*Beckley, West Virginia.* Summer Fun Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 500, Beckley, WV 25802-0500
- 19-22—*Poznan, Poland.* 25 Years in Poland. Write: Ch., Organizing Comm., Box 133, 60-967 Poznan 9 Poland
- 19-22—*Omaha, Nebraska.* Cornhusker Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 19-22—*Kettle Falls, Washington.* Hog Heaven Campout. Write: Ch., 634 Valley Westside Rd., Colville, WA 99114
- 20-22—*Green Lake 100 Mile House, British Columbia, Canada.* Green Lake Campout. Write: Ch., Box 10043, 108 Mile Ranch, BC V0K 2Z0
- 20-22—*Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.* 18th Marathon of Unity Conv. Write: Ch., Box 22002, Woodstock, ON N4S 6Y1

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

August (page 59): Along spiritual lines

September (page 46): Step Nine

- 20-22—*Paso Robles, California.* 32nd Annual 22nd Dist. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 20-22—*Jackson, Mississippi.* 13th Annual Old Timers Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289
- 20-22—*Glorietta, New Mexico.* NMCYPAA. Write: Ch., 22658, Santa Fe, NM 87502
- 20-22—*Powers, Oregon.* Annual Powers Campout. Write: Ch., Box 242, Coquille, OR 97423
- 20-22—*York, Pennsylvania.* Sunlight of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3538, York, PA 17402
- 20-22—*Chattanooga, Tennessee.* 12th Annual Choo Choo Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9362, Chattanooga, TN 37412
- 20-22—*Beaumont, Texas.* 18th Annual 9th Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 933, Beaumont, TX 77704
- 20-22—*Orcas Island, Washington.* Fourth Share the Miracle Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1677, Eastsound, WA 98245
- 21-22—*San Juan, Puerto Rico.* Special Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 21-22—*Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada.* Windsor & Area Groups 35th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 141 Hansport, NS B0P 1P0
- 26-29—*Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.* Eighth Annual Fireside Gathering. Write: Ch., Box 35536, Strathbarton P.O., Hamilton, ON L8H 7S6

Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on October, November and December events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by August 10, the calendar deadline for the October-November 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



- 27-29—*Writing-on-Stone Park, Alberta, Canada*. "Corn Roast." Write: Ch., Box 158, Shelby, MT 59474
- 27-29—*Flagstaff, Arizona*. Area Assembly. Write: Ch., 4940 E. Half Moon Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86004
- 27-29—*Rosemont, Illinois*. 26th Annual State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 81388, Chicago, IL 60681-0388
- 27-29—*Madison, Indiana*. SE Indiana Conf. Write: Ch., Box 502, Greensburg, IN 47240
- 27-29—*Joplin, Missouri*. 12th Annual Summer Hummer Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2075, Joplin, MO 64803
- 28-29—*Lewistown, Montana*. Area 40 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 316 Missouri St, Miles City, MT 59301

September

- 2-5—*Houston, Texas*. 42nd ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 2547, Houston, TX 77252-2547
- 3-5—*Penticton, British Columbia, Canada*. 34th Annual South Okanagan Labour Day Roundup. Write: Ch., 570 Wade W., Penticton, BC V2A 1V5
- 3-5—*Hessel, Michigan*. Les Cheneaux Area Anniversary Campout. Write: Ch., Box 610, Cedarville, MI 49719
- 3-5—*Sparks, Nevada*. 22nd Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5874, Sparks, NV 894342
- 3-5—*San Antonio, Texas*. Bridging the Gap. Write: Ch., Box 12093, San Antonio, TX 78212
- 3-6—*Tampa, Florida*. Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685
- 8-12—*Reno, Nevada*. Ninth Annual Native American Indian Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2932, Reno, NV 89505
- 10-12—*Angels Camp, California*. 13th Annual Gold Country Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 865, Angels Camp, CA 95222
- 10-12—*Santa Barbara, California*. 15th Annual Santa Barbara Conv. Write: Ch., 1094 San Marcos Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111
- 10-12—*Snowmass Village, Colorado*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 962, Basalt, CO 81621
- 10-12—*Cromwell, Connecticut*. 41st Annual Area 11 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 131, Beacon Falls, CT 06403
- 10-12—*Humble, Texas*. SE Texas Area 67 Correctional Conf. Write: CFC Trsr., Box 925241, Houston, TX 77292-5241
- 10-12—*Ashland, Wisconsin*. Area 74 50th Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 415, Ashland, WI 54806
- 10-12—*Sheridan, Wyoming*. West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 16-19—*Arlington Heights, Illinois*. Fourth Annual Archives Workshop. Write: Ch., c/o Chicago Area Service Off., 200 N. Michigan Ave., Rm 501, Chicago, IL 60601

- 17-18—*Kalispell, Montana*. Fall Refresher. Write: Ch., 5875 Hwy 2W, Kila, MT 59920
- 17-19—*Brampton, Ontario, Canada*. 17th Annual Brampton/Bramalea Conv. Write: Ch., Box 345, Brampton, ON L6V 2L3
- 17-19—*Launceston, Tasmania, Australia*. 50th Anniversary Conv. Write: Ch., Box 238, Newstead, Tasmania, 7250 Australia
- 17-19—*Grand Junction, Colorado*. Color-Daze '99. Write: Ch., Box 4013, Grand Junction, CO 81502
- 17-19—*Great Bend, Kansas*. 42nd Annual Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1928, Great Bend, KS 67530
- 17-19—*Lenox, Massachusetts*. Back to Basics Weekend. Write: Ch., Central Svce., 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210
- 17-19—*Taos, New Mexico*. Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 2465, Ranchos De Taos, NM 87557
- 17-19—*Lake Jackson, Texas*. Sixth Annual Mouth of the Brazos Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1641, Clute, TX 77531
- 24-26—*Naples, Florida*. Twelve Step Weekend. Write: Ch., 149 Happiness Ave., Lake Placid, FL 33852
- 24-26—*Atlanta, Georgia*. Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 361799, Decatur, GA 30036
- 24-26—*Ann Arbor, Michigan*. East Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 24-26—*Duluth, Minnesota*. 54th Annual Duluth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816
- 24-26—*Omaha, Nebraska*. Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact Workshop Weekend. Write: Ch., 7529 N. 36 Ave., Omaha, NE 68112
- 29-Oct. 3—*Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*. 28th "Fellowship by the Sea." Write: Ch., Box 818, Lowell, NC 28098-0818

October

- 1-3—*Page, Arizona*. Serenity on the Lake. Write: Ch., Box 2781, Page, AZ 86040
- 1-3—*Crescent City, California*. 13th Annual Sobriety By the Sea Rally. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531
- 7-10—*Norman Park, Georgia*. Woman-to-Woman. Write: Ch., Box 30344, Sea Island, GA 31561
- 8-9—*Window Rock, Arizona*. Special Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 8-10—*Sudbury, Ontario, Canada*. North-eastern Ontario Conf. Write: Ch., Box 27, Val Caron, ON P3N 1N6
- 8-10—*Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines*. Fourth Fall International Roundup. Write: Ch., 1012 Marcellus St., Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines 2009
- 8-10—*Morrilton (Petit Jean Mountain), Arkansas*. ARKYPAA XVII. Write: Secy., 121 Donna Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

- 8-10—*Dubuque, Iowa*. Area 24 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 12916 Rt. 52N, Dubuque, IA 52002
- 8-10—*Jamestown, New York*. Sailing with Sobriety. Write: Ch., Box 3214, Jamestown, NY 14701
- 14-17—*Savannah, Georgia*. 46th State Pre-Paid Conv. Write: Ch., Box 14256, Savannah, GA 31416
- 15-17—*Cromwell, Connecticut*. 29th North East Regional Conv. Write: Ch., 61 Laurel Lane, Ridgefield, CT 06877
- 15-17—*Dayton, Ohio*. 43rd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3595, Cincinnati, OH 45201
- 22-24—*Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada*. Area Assembly and Roundup. Write: Ch., 348 Cameron St., Moncton, NB E1C 5Z4
- 22-24—*Mackinac Island, Michigan*. 11th Annual Fall Weekend. Write: Ch., c/o Lansing Central Off., 302 S. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48911
- 22-24—*St. Cloud, Minnesota*. St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., 107 N. 2nd St., Cold Spring, MN 56320
- 22-24—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 52nd Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6, Bovard, PA 15619
- 29-31—*London, Ontario, Canada*. 46th Annual Western Ontario Conf. Write: Ch., 956 Dundas St., Box 46036, London, ON N5W 3A1
- 29-31—*St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*. 13th Annual Caribbean Conv. Write: Ch., Box 303435, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00803-3435

November

- 5-7—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. 55th Annual Manitoba Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., 100-595 River Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3L 0E6
- 5-7—*Jekyll Island, Georgia*. Second Gratitude Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 214911, South Daytona, FL 32121
- 5-7—*Casper, Wyoming*. 1999 Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1387, Casper, WY 82602-1387
- 12-14—*Okoboji, Iowa*. North West Iowa Pre-Winter Rally. Write: Ch., Box 992, Okoboji, IA 51355
- 12-14—*Fitchburg, Massachusetts*. 36th Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 344, Westminster, MA 01473-0344
- 12-14—*Cincinnati, Ohio*. Buckeye Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 5314, Cincinnati, OH 45205
- 19-21—*St. Petersburg, Florida*. The Big Book Comes Alive. Write: Ch., Box 86703, St. Petersburg, FL 33738