

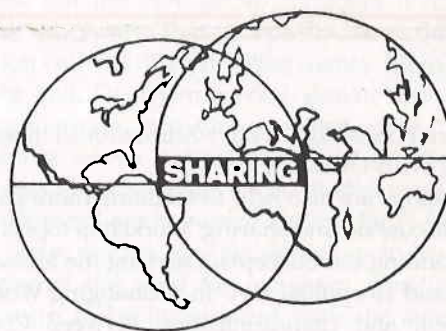
World A.A. Plans to Meet in Guatemala City

Surely one of the great miracles of A.A. is that it has spread to 114 countries around the world — transcending all barriers of language and culture, race and religion. Not only have our Legacies of Recovery and Unity — that is, our Steps and Traditions — been exported unchanged to suffering alcoholics everywhere, but our Third Legacy of Service is there as well.

From October 19 to 23, 1986, some 38 delegates will gather in the Camino Real Hotel, Guatemala City, Guatemala, to share A.A. service experience with each other. They represent 25 or more countries where Alcoholics Anonymous has a national service structure or a national service office.

This, the Ninth World Service Meeting, has as its theme, "Service Through Love and Humility." The theme expresses the tone and feeling of the meeting — for it is not a conference; it makes no decisions, performs no acts of government. What does take place is the kind of in-depth sharing of experience, strength and hope that is the heart of any A.A. gathering anywhere. In Guatemala, the countries where A.A. is large, long-standing and well-organized will be helping countries where A.A. is newer, smaller and less developed. Problems that are brand-new and troubling to a country with a new A.A. structure have usually been faced and solved successfully by an older country. And isn't that the way A.A. should work, whether person-to-person or country-to-country?

The forthcoming World Service Meeting is the outgrowth of a 1967 proposal by co-founder Bill W. to the U.S./Canada General Service Board. They gave him the go-ahead to poll 15 countries with some kind of general service structure to see if they would be interested in meeting in New York. The countries to which Bill then wrote approved the idea enthusiastically, as did the U.S./Canada 1968 General Service Conference. The first W.S.M. was then planned and held in 1969 in much the same form that has been followed ever since. The World Service delegates themselves decided they should meet every two years, alternating between New York and



other countries. Thus far, other A.A. host countries to the W.S.M. have included England, Finland, Mexico and now Guatemala.

Helen T., the staff member of G.S.O. for U.S./Canada who serves as coordinator of the Ninth W.S.M., reports that the countries which will be represented are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, England, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan (for the first time), Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad/Tobago, United States, and Uruguay. Though not definite as this is written, two other countries may be present — Poland and Costa Rica.

Jorge Roca y Roca, nonalcoholic chairperson of the General Service Board of Guatemala, will chair the meeting. However, John B., general manager of G.S.O./New York, will preside during most of the five days' sessions. Raymond McC. from Scotland will deliver the keynote address. As the W.S.M. grew out of experience of the U.S./Canada General Service Board and Conference, both of which function through a committee system, the W.S.M. does the same. Committees meet, deliberate and reach conclusions which are then reported to the general session. After discussion, a committee recommendation can be accepted, rejected or amended. This system enables the W.S.M. to cover a wide range of subjects in some depth. The committees are: Agenda,

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Workshops are also held to facilitate more participation in discussion and sharing. Workshop topics will be: Understanding the Concepts, Carrying the Message into Prisons and Hospitals, A.A. in a Changing World, Unstructured, and Communication Between Countries. The latter topic is unique to the W.S.M. It enables the delegates to divide up and meet along lines of language or geography where there may be strong common needs, as follows: Spanish-speaking countries, European countries, and other English-speaking countries.

It was out of the Communication Between Countries workshop in Helsinki, Finland, in 1978 that the concern was expressed that, although attendance at W.S.M.s is limited to countries having service structures, the countries *without* service structures would benefit most from the sharing. It was therefore recommended that *zonal* service meetings be held in the interim years between W.S.M.s, to which the less developed countries would be invited. Accordingly, three interim, zonal European Service Meetings have been held to date in Frankfurt, Germany; four Ibero-American service meetings have taken place in Colombia, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The countries in the Far East and the Pacific Basin (i.e., Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, etc.) have discussed the possibility of a zonal service meeting for their part of the globe.

From the beginning, the W.S.M. has tried to observe A.A.'s principle of self-support. Each country is required to submit a delegate's fee, and is encouraged to make an additional contribution according to its ability to pay. The General Service Board for U.S./Canada underwrites all expenses not covered by other member countries. In the same way, the board in Great Britain has underwritten the European Service Meetings.

To oversee the W.S.M. and to be a contact point for A.A. around the world generally (and especially for countries lacking service structures), the General Service Board for U.S./Canada has a standing International Committee. It acts as a host committee for W.S.M.s held in New York, and in 1984 its members met with the W.S.M. delegates for a reception, dinner and a most enjoyable sharing session.

Through staff reports to the International Committee, Helen T., secretary of the committee, keeps the board advised of developments among the newer countries in the A.A. family around the world. For example:

India has translated the Big Book into the Marathi dialect. In process is *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in Marathi and the Big Book in Hindi, the largest dialect.

Poland has 60 A.A. groups (a phenomenal growth from only a few years ago!) including one in a prison. It has a fledgling national service structure and the Big Book and other literature is in the process of being translated and published.

Russia — not yet! However, there are occasional inquiries and overtures. Meanwhile, a translation subcommittee of the trustees' International Committee is proceeding to translate and publish three of our basic A.A. pamphlets into Russian — as well as Chinese.

In his 1967 letter to A.A.s in other countries, Bill W. concluded with: "I sense a feeling of great growth in A.A. worldwide, even in the *thought* of a score or more of us gathered face-to-face — talking of the great vision of general service offices clear around the world." Bill, it is coming to pass.

Does Your Group Have a 'Traditional' Problem?

When A.A. groups run into problems, they often write the General Service Office for help or advice. We are delighted to share the experience of other A.A. groups with similar problems; that's one of G.S.O.'s services — to share accumulated A.A. experience over the years.

Many of the questions in the letters deal with one or another of the Twelve Traditions and how it applies to some particular situation that has arisen in the group. Even more frequently, the *answer* to a group problem lies in the Traditions. So it might be helpful to share some of these instances with you. Perhaps you can head off a potential problem in advance.

As A.A. has grown, the United Fund (a worthwhile, well-known charitable organization) sometimes has attempted to recognize its value to the community by

including an A.A. group in its budget. Some groups have questioned whether a contribution from the United Fund (or other such organization) isn't somehow "different" from an individual "outside contribution." However, the Seventh Tradition could not be more clear: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." And certainly United Fund is "outside."

In other cases in G.S.O. files, a company has tried to urge a generous check upon a group which had helped one of its key employees recover. Or a grateful widow wishes to express her gratitude for her late husband's many sober years by leaving a bequest to the A.A. group in *her* will. The Seventh Tradition applies.

These are clearly "outside"; but what if a member of the group itself wishes to turn benefactor?

The groups, acting through their General Service Conference, have set a limit of \$1,000 a year on what any individual A.A. member may contribute. (The same limit applies to bequests from an A.A.; i.e., \$1,000, only in the year of the member's death.)

A group in an eastern state once reported to us that a member who was a professional writer had sold a magazine article about his recovery, for which he was paid \$1,200. In gratitude, he wished to donate the money to his group. After some discussion and against the advice of G.S.O.'s shared experience from other groups, the group accepted the gift, more than it had ever had in its treasury. The result proved the wisdom of our Seventh Tradition, as the next several meetings — the regular meetings, not business meetings — were taken up largely with discussions and arguments about what to do with the money. "If there had been a newcomer there," they wrote, "he or she wouldn't have gotten much help!"

Which brings us to another kind of trouble for some groups — contributions *from* the group to outside enterprises. Not infrequently we hear of groups who make contributions to a local treatment center or halfway house — especially if a number of group members are graduates of those facilities. Another group wanted to contribute to a clubhouse building fund; still another, to a children's summer camp! Worthy causes, no doubt, for individual members to support financially — but hardly appropriate for A.A. group funds that have come out of the basket. The Sixth Tradition is quite explicit: "An A.A. group ought never finance . . . any related facility or outside enterprise. . . ."

An A.A. group's treasury ought to be used first of all for group expenses such as rent, coffee and refreshments, A.A. literature and local meeting lists, and a prudent reserve for emergencies. Any money left over after group expenses have been met should be used to support A.A. service: your local central office or intergroup; your local area and district committees' services; and the General Service Office. A suggested plan for

group support of A.A. services and other useful information is found in the pamphlet "Supporting the A.A. Support System." It is also suggested that groups use treasury funds to reimburse their general service representative's expenses to attend district or area service meetings.

When a group meets in a place that does not accept rent — a church, hospital, or civic building, for example — how does the group meet its responsibility to be self-supporting (Seventh Tradition) without violating the Sixth Tradition's admonition that it should not give money to an outside enterprise? This question comes to G.S.O. in many, many letters.

However, it has long been the practice for A.A. groups to make regular donations to the landlord, in these instances, *in lieu of rent* (the landlord may call it a donation, but the A.A. group considers it rent). And there are other ways that groups discharge their "rent" obligation without directly giving money. Members may paint the hall. Or, when needed, donate new chairs, a drinking fountain, or a film projector, etc.

Churches where A.A. groups meet are faced with rising costs for heat, lights and custodial services. Consequently, they have increased the rent for A.A. meeting rooms. Some groups, making donations in lieu of rent, have ignored the need for increased donations. This would seem to be inconsistent with the spirit of the Seventh Tradition.

Disruptive members have always posed a special problem in groups which are conscientious about following the Third Tradition: "The only requirement . . . is a desire to stop drinking." Traditionally, of course, A.A. welcomes anyone with a drinking problem and loves them into recovery. Occasionally, however, a person shows up whose behavior is so objectionable that it disrupts the meeting. Sometimes it's a drunk talking loudly, interrupting, trying to pick a fight. Sometimes it's clearly someone with "a grave emotional or mental disorder" who exhibits bizarre behavior such as shouting obscenities.

It is recommended that the seriously disruptive member be taken aside and talked to with as much love and compassion as you can muster up. And then, if necessary, forcibly escort them out. In this case, the First Tradition must take precedence over the Third: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity."

If your group is running into problems involving Traditions, it might help to take a group inventory — either at a business meeting or by gathering a half hour before the regular meeting. Suggestions on how to take a group inventory — including questions to ask yourself — are contained in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet. And if you have had an experience with this kind of problem and would like to share how you handled it, please let us know. We will share it with other groups.

'An A.A. Group Has the Right to Be Wrong'

The A.A. Archives has an exchange of letters between co-founder Bill W. and A.A. member Katie W. of Ohio, that illustrates the adage that there's nothing new under the sun. A.A. group problems and their solutions remain the same, and this 1969 correspondence is just as applicable today:

"For 15 years," Katie writes, "our women's group has flourished under the slogans Easy Does It and Keep It Simple, with an overall attitude of gratitude and the feeling that harmony has always existed because God has reigned. . . . Now we are faced with our first bit of honest doubt."

The problem, Katie explains, is caused by "women asking to become members of our closed group who are wearing many different colors. Some are strictly alcoholics (fewer in number each year); some have both alcohol and pill problems; some are alcoholic and mental; some are just mental; and some are just pills. Some have gone off the alcohol but are still under heavy sedation."

Katie cites two cases in point: Mrs. A. "extols A.A. to the heavens, she is regular in attendance, she sponsors, she leads, she talks out of turn, and she is on pills." Mrs. B., a former psychiatric hospital patient, is off alcohol but still under medication. She "not only sleeps but snores during the meeting. . . . Should she wait to attend until such time as she can stay awake?"

Katie's prime concern is "the group welfare. We know that anyone who says she is a member is one, but we question whether these people have the right to attend meetings if they, as a result of too much medication, are a disturbing influence."

She admits to feeling baffled, overwhelmed and discouraged. "We can help the alcoholic because we can identify," she tells Bill. "This is not true in the case of the person with just the mental problem or just the pill problem." Then she asks, "Should those who are in need but are *not* alcoholics attend our closed meetings?" and closes with "Our sincerest gratitude for your continued sobriety. . . ."

Responding, Bill observes that, "In general, A.A. really has to deal with alcoholics no matter what their other complications. You would be the first to agree that there is no such thing as an alcoholic who has no emotional 'complications.' So the question boils down to this: Shall A.A. try to help those with severe mental and addictive problems, provided they are alcoholics? The answer is 'yes,' we should try."

However, he assures Katie, "This amount of charity does not mean that we cannot exclude those who disturb meetings or seriously interfere with the functioning of the group. Such people can be asked to quiet down or

go elsewhere, or, to come back when they are better able to participate."

There are "no pat answers," Bill admits. "As you know, an A.A. group even has the 'right' to be wrong." Nevertheless, "A.A. has never been of any use to drug addicts and the like who are not alcoholics. They cannot identify with us, nor we with them. To try to treat them or include them in A.A. membership would be to depart from our single purpose — sobriety. While individual A.A.s often help such people, A.A. groups can do little about them except to admit them to open meetings, provided they are not disturbers."

In closing, Bill advises Katie to "play things by ear. Don't be afraid of making mistakes. Trial and error, according to your circumstances, is probably your best choice."

Self-Support—Our Seventh Tradition

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

This Tradition applies not only to the individual A.A. groups, but to intergroups and central offices, at the district and area levels, and to the General Service Office.

Contributions received at G.S.O. are used solely to offset the cost of services to the A.A. structure, but for many years now there has been a shortfall in contributions and G.S.O. has been dependent on income from literature sales to make up the difference.

The use of income from literature to help support A.A. services goes back to the publication *Alcoholics Anonymous*. In 1950 Bill said, in a plea for support to the Fellowship, that a deficit of the preceding two years had been paid out of income derived from sales of the Big Book.

Until recent years, most sales were to A.A. members or prospective members; however, today an increasing percentage of our sales has been to non-A.A. entities.

There has been little increase in literature prices over the years. Taking inflation into account, the real price of literature has decreased. Even so, to the extent that literature pays for services supplied to the Fellowship by G.S.O., we may be accepting in part "outside contributions." If contributions to G.S.O. are increased so that they pay entirely for the cost of services, we could eventually sell our literature at cost and there would be no question of "outside contributions" in this respect.

At the urging of chairperson Gordon Patrick, the A.A. General Service Board is seeking an effective new approach to this situation.

G.S.O.'s Ed Gordon Heads Finance/Business

"I look forward each day to the challenges I confront," says Ed Gordon. "The Fellowship is expanding so rapidly that there are bound to be growing pains. My philosophy with the job is that there are no problems, only opportunities."

This philosophy, coupled with a seemingly inexhaustible capacity for work, makes every day an adventure for Ed, a veteran staffer who last November succeeded retired controller/business administrator Dennis Manders. In his new capacity as director of finance/business administration of the General Service Office, Ed works closely with Charles Columbia, who has assumed Dennis' responsibilities as controller.

"I've known Dennis since I came to G.S.O., in April 1975, as assistant controller," Ed recalls. "He has been my part-time mentor, my part-time father and my full-time friend. I miss his presence here at G.S.O. Charles and I," he adds, "have been associated for a long time under Dennis, and we're doing our best to live up to his trust."

A nonalcoholic like his predecessor, Ed nonetheless feels a kinship with the A.A.s he serves. After spending time in public accounting, he ventured into the quasi-public arena as an accountant/auditor for the New York/New Jersey Port Authority. Later, while working for a New Jersey bank, Ed relates, "I became administrative director of its outside data processing service bureau. My professional interests changed and expanded as I became fascinated with data processing and developed a working knowledge of the design and implementation of various systems."

Ed's arrival at G.S.O. coincided with a decision to computerize the office. His first assignment was to oversee a systems study for the conceptualization and design of a computer installation. "With my background in finance and administration, plus a working knowledge of data processing," he says, "it made for a happy marriage all the way around." In 1978 Ed was named manager of supporting departments in addition to his responsibilities as assistant controller.

A New Jersey native, "born, bred and schooled there," Ed graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University/Teaneck campus with a B.S. degree in business administration and a major in accounting. Although he works in Manhattan, all roads lead home to Jersey. Total commuting time is three hours to his home in Parsippany which he shares with his wife of 24 years, Sheila; their son, Jay, 20; and their daughter, Abby, 17.

"Sheila and I even met in Jersey," Ed notes, "on a blind date. The state's been great to me." He treasures weekends home with his family, enjoys family vacations and going to the Meadowlands to watch the "New



"Part of the satisfaction of working at G.S.O. is that I see the results of the product — not only in the A.A.s who work here, but in the A.A.s who visit the office."

Jersey" Giants, when he's not "in the city" for a board weekend or some other matter related to his primary work purpose: making sure that G.S.O. will endure to carry the message of sobriety for years to come.

From the Mailbag

The latest G.S.O. mailbags bulge with expressions of gratitude and humor, and offer heartwarming glimpses into the lives of A.A.s living sober around the world. A sampling:

"I am 12 years old and have been sober since December 1985," writes Jodi T. from Fort Worth, Texas. "I've been wondering if anyone in the program is younger than me." Jodi relates that "A.A. has opened up a lot of fields for me. I am learning to sign for the deaf alcoholic, and soon will be speaking for schools. Thanks a bunch for your help."

Frances from Webster Groves, Missouri, writes, "I am 83 now and recently celebrated my 40th birthday in A.A. I got sober through reading the Big Book — for my husband, the first time. In chapter three, with the second reading, I finally recognized myself as an alcoholic. After that, I read the Big Book every day. I

thought of Bill W. as my sponsor, though I never got in touch with him." After eight months, she continues, "my husband decided to try A.A. and then I was able to go and enjoy the meetings. I still attend them regularly and lately have been asked to speak at quite a few. It seems to be the best way I can share with others my experience, strength, hope and gratitude for what A.A. has brought me."

Upon ending his term as a D.C.M., Canadian A.A. Ken J. expressed his sentiments in the minutes of the December G.S.R. meeting at Wawota: "I am grateful to the people in District No. 6 for letting me serve, and to those who stayed with the committee through thick and thin. You are the heart of A.A. and your pulse can be felt in the active groups." He notes his regret that "not all the groups chose to participate in district affairs. I think that if the members of those groups shared with the district, we would all be richer in love and experience. Even though each group is autonomous — read Tradition Four — we must carefully consider the experience of other groups and committees in A.A. By so doing, we might spare ourselves and future members a lot of trouble." Ken concludes with "thanks to the G.S.R.s, alternate D.C.M. . . . and all the interested people who attended the meetings, did the dirty work and stayed sober, which is what it's all about."

U.S./Canada Intergroups Broaden Their Reach

Back in 1941, the response to Jack Alexander's now legendary *Saturday Evening Post* article caused A.A. membership to jump from 2,000 to 8,000 within a matter of months. In Chicago, the response was so great that group members rented a one-room office, complete with secretary, to handle the deluge of calls for help — and thus the first A.A. central office, or intergroup, was born.

Today there are 425 intergroups in cities and towns across the United States and Canada, and 270 in other countries around the globe. Whether they operate out of large, well-organized offices or a volunteer's home phone, the greeting is still the same: "A.A. — May I help you?"

Over the years, the intergroups, like the Fellowship itself, have become more far-reaching than ever before. They still serve as a focal point for the active alcoholic who wants help, or just someone to talk to on a one-to-one basis. They distribute A.A. literature, publish local meeting lists and set up special meetings in treatment and correctional facilities. Significantly, however, they are no longer talking almost exclusively to the alcoholic. They're talking to the entire community.

Increasingly, the local intergroup, working through

its C.P.C. and P.I. committees, acts as a conduit for professionals who seek information and help for their clients; directs court referrals to meetings; arranges outside sponsorship for newly released inmates; cooperates with employee assistance programs; and constantly talks to the media, stressing A.A.'s tradition of anonymity at the public level.

The majority of calls to the intergroups are placed by the alcoholic's family members, friends and, increasingly, the boss. They want to know about the disease and how they can help. Says Mike S., active in Chicago service work for over a decade: "Volunteers staffing the intergroup phones can feel the pain of the person they're talking to. If there's an alcoholic at the other end of the line, we can share, because we've been there ourselves. If it's a family member, I point out that 'there is a program for you, too, in Al-Anon.' I sense a far greater awareness these days of alcoholism as a disease, and a greater desire to help."

Stella M., manager of the Intergroup Central Office in El Paso, Texas, reports that "there isn't the stigma about alcoholism we used to see. Both alcoholics and their families worry less about being 'disgraced.' They've learned that alcoholism is a disease, not a moral weakness." Stella notes that fewer requests for Twelfth Step calls are coming in. "Alcoholics are recognizing their problem before they hit bottom," she says. "They want to know where there's a meeting, and they get themselves there."

Every intergroup operates autonomously, building a structure that best serves its community needs. At the Toronto, Canada Intergroup, for example, a non-alcoholic, Carole Blais, has served as executive secretary for over a year. Says Frank O'D., former chairperson of the finance committee, which supervises the operation: "We've found that having a non-A.A. in charge cuts down on the politics." He says that the Toronto Intergroup has evolved from "what was chiefly a drop-in center into an office that deals more efficiently with A.A. activities." There are rooms in back where C.P.C., P.I., correctional facilities, young people and other committees hold their meetings. "We also have a Toronto Intergroup meeting every month," adds Carole. "Minutes are taken of each meeting and sent to all 160 group representatives."

She has high praise for the volunteer A.A.s who staff the constantly ringing phones. "They do a tremendous job," she comments. "Some have been here continuously for two and three years. We work as a family and pull together."

In Eugene, Oregon, the Emerald Valley Intergroup has served ten communities with an estimated A.A. membership of 3,000 — and continues to do so even though the building it occupied was burned out at the beginning of April. Office manager Earl S., the sole paid employee, presently is operating out of his home.

Earl reports that the area's first C.P.C. committee has just been formed with the immediate purpose of straightening out problems related to court referrals. "The committee is working with judges in the court's mental health division," he explains. "Quite a number of the referrals do not come of their own accord and consequently tend to be disruptive at meetings. But we're hopeful of improving the situation."

At Chicago's busy Central Office, headed by Cathy W., an innovative program for court referrals has worked wonders: Resentful DWIs forced by the courts to "go to A.A." are presented with a series of six special meetings with their particular problems the focal point of sharing and discussion. These meetings have proved so successful that a high percentage of attendees continue to go to regular A.A. meetings voluntarily when their enforced attendance is over.

Chicago's Central Office also has found a way to reduce confusion that occurs when drug addicts attempt to participate in A.A. discussion meetings. "We publish a separate meeting book that lists open meetings only," Cathy relates, "and give it to the drug addict who may or may not have a problem with alcohol. A separate listing of closed meetings is published for alcoholics only. Both groups seem happier with this solution, which helps to defuse the whole issue."

From the Central Office in Atlanta, Georgia, manager Helen R. reports that more than half the callers request information about A.A., speakers, or help for someone other than themselves. "We also are hearing from a lot of people who describe themselves as 'adult children of alcoholics,'" she says. "They apparently read stories in the media about 'genetic connections' or see ads placed by professional counselors and therapists offering help for 'inherited addiction.' Then they call us. We tell them what A.A. is and what it isn't, just as we did a few years back when we were flooded with calls from drug addicts. If we've reached one suffering alcoholic out of a day's calls, we've done our job."

'... an example that will not be forgotten'

On May 4, 1986, A.A. lost the lady whom co-founder Bill W. called "one of A.A.'s real pioneers": Ruth Hock Crecelius. As Bill's first nonalcoholic secretary, young Ruth Hock typed the first manuscripts of the Big Book, and helped shape the wording of references to God in the Twelve Steps. As the first "staff member" at the office which became the General Service Office, Ruth was the pioneer of all the staff members and other employees who have followed.

Those who attended the opening ceremonies of the 50th Anniversary International Convention in Montreal last year gave Ruth a tumultuous standing ovation as she was presented with the five-millionth copy of the Big Book. And those who packed into the Archives Workshop at the Convention will never forget her moving talk. They recall her as an attractive, warm and vivacious woman whose appearance belied her years.

For Ruth Hock was 24 years old when she answered a newspaper ad in 1937 and was hired as a secretary at an enterprise called Honor Dealers at 17 William Street, Newark, New Jersey. She didn't know what she was getting into, for the proprietors were Bill W. and Hank P., the very first drunk to follow Bill into sobriety in New York. Ruth soon discovered the office had more to do with "helping a number of nameless drunks" than with Honor Dealers.

Bill began work on the Big Book in March or April of 1938. Ruth, who typed the manuscript, recalled that he would arrive at the office with yellow scratch pads of notes outlining each chapter. "Those notes were the result of long thought after hours of discussion, pro and con, with everybody who might be interested." Bill would stand or pace behind Ruth and dictate while she typed. Just before the manuscript was completed (as Bill tells it in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*) another of many "battles over the book" took place at the office in Newark. Present were Fitz M., Hank P., Ruth and Bill, and they were arguing over the Twelve Steps. The emphasis on the word "God" and, in one place, the words "on our knees" were an affront to Hank, and Jimmy B. (another early member) concurred;

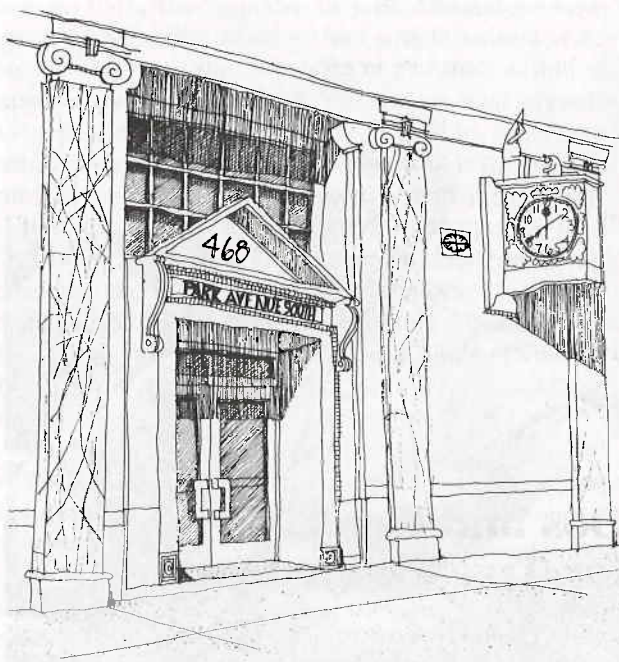


Ruth Hock Crecelius with the 5-millionth copy of the Big Book.

they both were sure we would scare off alcoholics by the thousands. Bill had "refused to budge . . . and would not change a word" and was backed up by Fitz. Ruth, in the middle, "trying to reflect the reaction of the nonalcoholic," urged compromise and spoke up for "very little" doctrinal wording. Thus the words "Power greater than ourselves" and "God as we understood Him" came to be added; the words "on our knees" were deleted; and the lead-in sentence was inserted, "Here are the Steps we took, etc."

Ruth Hock appeared in one of the group photos illustrating the famous *Saturday Evening Post* article, and afterward helped organize the volunteers who answered the resulting flood of inquiries. She left in 1942 to be married, but kept in touch by mail and an occasional visit through the decades. Bill wrote the best obituary for Ruth on pages 16 and 195 of *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*:

"Ruth Hock [was] the devoted nonalcoholic girl who had taken reams of dictation and had done months of typing and retyping when the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* was in preparation. She often went without pay, taking the then seemingly worthless stock of Works Publishing instead. I recall with deep gratitude how her wise advice and her good humor and patience helped settle the endless squabbles about the book's content. Many an old-timer remembered with gratitude those warm letters Ruth had written to him when he was a loner struggling to stay sober . . . [She left] carrying the affectionate wishes of thousands of members. [She] set us an example that will never be forgotten."



**Open House at G.S.O.
Saturday, November 15, 1986**



Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, the book chronicling A.A.'s first 25 years, is now available on tape cassettes. The book-like container of eight tapes comes with a twelve-page booklet of photographs from A.A. history. Available from G.S.O., \$25.00 per set.

Treatment Facilities

For New G.S.O. Staffer 'Sharing Is the Key'

"I've been at G.S.O. since January," says Maureen C., "and I still can't believe I'm getting paid to do what I love best."

Outgoing and energetic, the "new" staff member is "wide-eyed, thrilled and absorbing megatons of information" about her assignment on the Treatment Facilities Desk. She succeeds Phyllis M., who retired late last year after 14 years at G.S.O.

Fresh from the 1986 General Service Conference — her first — Maureen says that the experience of seeing the Fellowship in action was "powerful and humbling." She especially enjoyed meeting delegates from across the United States and Canada. "I had corresponded with any number of them," she explains, "and it was heartwarming to connect names with faces and to be able to communicate in person."

Maureen comes to her new position from a large alcoholism treatment and training center in New York City. "My experience there, developing industrial referral sources in a helping environment, was excellent preparation for my present assignment," she observes. "I was

delighted when G.S.O. offered me the opportunity to use my skills to help carry the message of A.A.”

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Maureen spent the larger part of her childhood in Norfolk, Virginia, then headed for St. Joseph College in Maryland. “I became a bottle baby at age 19,” she remembers, “and I was a real blackout drinker.” Returning to New York in 1969, she “tried everything in an attempt to get my life in order.” She spent time in VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), earned a master’s degree in counseling and psychology from New York University in 1974, and “kept on drinking. I wanted to stop but didn’t know how.”

Thanks to the help of an A.A. member she met through a cousin — and her own willingness to make the crucial phone call — Maureen had her last drink in January 1980. Active in her Brooklyn Heights group, she has sponsored others “ever since I felt I had something to share.”

Building a bridge back to life wasn’t easy. Maureen coped with the loss of her parents. “When my mother died I had been sober two years, and four years when my father died. I was grateful to be sober, too, painful as the passage was.”

In May 1985, Maureen married Laurence S., a member of her home group. The Fellowship is a family affair — Laurence’s 22-year-old daughter has been a member of A.A. for three years. “We all know the pain and degradation of our active alcoholism,” says Maureen, “and now we share in the dailies of living sober — the roses and the thorns, too!”

In her G.S.O. assignment on the Treatment Facilities Desk, she finds the same issues keep cropping up. “People write in asking about how to start a contact sponsorship program. Or they want to know the difference between a regular A.A. meeting held in a treatment-oriented facility and a treatment facility meeting. I refer to the G.S.O. guidelines: A regular A.A. meeting held in a treatment-oriented facility is open to A.A.s in the community as well as to patients in treatment. A treatment facility meeting, on the other hand, is open only to patients in treatment and to the A.A.s carrying the message to them.”

There has been “a lot of positive response” to the recently released Treatment Facilities Workbook, she reports. Keeping in touch by mail with A.A.s doing service work in treatment facilities is a large and rewarding part of her job, Maureen says. “We welcome every letter at G.S.O., which serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, problems and, often, their solutions.”

“Sharing is the key to what A.A. is all about,” she adds quietly. “That came home to me when I went to the opening dinner of the General Service Conference with my husband. It was wonderful to share with him the broad experience of A.A. fellowship that affects me every day at G.S.O.”

Won't You Send Us Your Experience . . .

We would like to do an article on a question that frequently comes to the Treatment Facilities Desk:

What do A.A.s employed in the alcoholism field do, particularly those who live in small communities, when they and their patients attend the same meetings and the professionals need to share their professional conflicts and personal pain?

Please let us know how you handle this problem and we will share your experience to help others.

Correctional Facilities

The Power of the Big Book

“I am a prisoner on death row. I am an alcoholic and a previous A.A. member who stopped going to A.A.”

Addressing a “Dear A.A. Member,” Richard B. writes to G.S.O. from a correctional facility in Virginia. “I was 19 when I started going to A.A.,” he relates. “I was an alkie long before then, and a drug abuser.

“A.A. has not gone so far as to reach us men on death row. I am very interested in getting myself a copy of the Big Book — first, second or third edition, though I would like to have the latest one.”

“If you want to donate a Big Book to me,” he explains, “you can. But first I must have your address so I can fill out the approval form. The same thing applies if I have to buy the book from you.”

In closing, Richard urges, “Please send me your address, etc., so I can acquire the Big Book. And more information about prison A.A.! Thank you.”

Dos and Don'ts for Twelfth-Steppers

Some common-sense guidelines for institutional Twelfth-steppers recently appeared as follows in *Sounding Board 1986*, the newsletter of the Los Angeles Hospitals and Institutions Committee:

- A minimum of six months sobriety is required for hospitals; one year for correctional facilities.

- We only carry the message of A.A. We do not give prolonged drunkalogues, talk down to the group, use profane or vulgar language, or make derogatory remarks about officials. If drugs are a part of your story, then talk about them; but remember that sobriety — freedom from alcohol — is the sole goal of any A.A. group.

- Do not promise employment or aid of any kind. Take a variety of speakers and be sure that ex-inmates are properly cleared.

- Be sure you don't have any outstanding warrants or traffic tickets before going into a correctional facility — otherwise, you might not come out!

- Do not take anything in or out of an institution. Do not exchange addresses or telephone numbers with inmates.

- If you have a friend or relative in a correctional facility, or if you are corresponding with an inmate, you may not go into that facility as a leader or a speaker.

- Respect the chain of command at the institutions. If there is a problem of any kind and an inmate or patient tells you about it, go to the leader who will inform the panel chairperson who will take care of it.

- Check with the panel leader about the dress code at the facility where you will be speaking, and dress appropriately.

P.I.

How Can A.A. Better Serve Minority Group Members?

Finding more and better ways to reach out to minority group members was a chief focus of consideration at the February sharing session of the A.A. General Service Board.

One of the springboards for discussion was a report prepared by the Public Information Committee and published in the fall 1981 issue of the old *P.I./C.P.C. Bulletin*. It was based on responses to a letter sent to all P.I. committees, asking them to share their experience, feelings and suggestions on how communication with minority members might be improved. Although it was prepared five years ago, the report is just as applicable today and contains ideas that may help you reach out to minority group members in your area.

Respondents were at no loss for ideas that ranged from starting neighborhood groups to holding P.I. meet-

ings in minority communities and listing "special" groups in an identifiable way as a means of attraction. Not all respondents favored specialization, though the majority saw special groups as a realistic approach. Many felt that such groups not only are essential for newcomers but ultimately serve as feeder groups to mainstream A.A.

Although many showed keen interest in carrying the message to minorities, they also expressed frustration and bewilderment, the report states. "There were fewer suggestions on how to do this than there were inquiries on how it might be done." Moreover, "the responses indicated efforts on the part of individuals to carry the message to minorities but showed an almost total lack of organized P.I. activities in this direction."

Again and again, the report states, respondents emphasized the need for the A.A. principles of love, acceptance, sharing and caring as the only ways to overcome the problems and frustrations experienced in most Twelfth Step work — but highlighted in the case of members of minority groups. A black respondent put it succinctly: "Don't be snowed by 'I'm different.' We're all different. Our disease is our likeness — it makes us unique."

New Radio PSAs

Two new 60-second radio public service announcements targeting young people are now available. Both spots appear on one unit — available in the following three forms: R-06 Cassette \$5.00; R-07 1/4" Tape \$5.00; R-08 7" Record \$5.00.

C.P.C.

C.P.C. Workbook Available in Spanish

The C.P.C. Workbook has been prepared in Spanish to facilitate cooperation with the growing Hispanic professional community. At present, there are approximately 600 Spanish-speaking groups in the United States and Canada.

The workbook will help to clarify many questions and issues that arise in working with helping professionals. It is free of charge to all C.P.C. committee chairpersons; additional copies are available from G.S.O. at \$7.00 each.

Calendar of Events

August

- 1-3 — *Cawston, British Columbia, Canada.* Keremeos/Cawston Third Annual Campout. Write: Ch., Box 4, Keremeos, B.C., VOX 1N0
- 1-3 — *Fraser, Colorado.* Fourth Annual Y.E.S. Campout (Young People's). Write: Ch., Box 654, Fraser, CO 80442
- 1-3 — *Harrisonburg, Virginia.* 37th State Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., Box 2511, Staunton, VA 24401
- 1-3 — *Windsor, Ontario, Canada.* 11th Annual Essex Co. Conv. Write: Essex Co. Conv., Box 1502, Sta. A, Windsor, Ont. N9A 6R5
- 1-3 — *Bowling Green, Ohio.* 30th Annual State Conf. Write: State Conf., Box 8788, Toledo, OH 43623
- 1-3 — *College Station, Texas.* Third Annual Bryan-College St. AA/AL-Anon Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2652, Bryan, TX 77805
- 1-3 — *Sparks, Nevada.* Ninth Annual Sierra Roundup. Write: Reg. Ch., Box 3529, Sparks, NV 89432
- 1-3 — *Winston-Salem, North Carolina.* 39th NC/Bermuda State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27619
- 1-3 — *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.* Sixth Beaver Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 803-2900 Carling Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K2B 7J6
- 1-3 — *Harvey, Illinois.* '86 State Conf. Write: '86 State Conf., Box 2666, Joliet, IL 60436
- 1-3 — *Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada.* 12th Annual Rally. Write: Ch., 71 Utah Pl., Campbell River, B.C. V9W 6T1
- 1-3 — *Havre, Montana.* Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 1361 Boulevard Ave., Havre, MT 59501

Planning an October, November or December Event?

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

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

- 1-3 — *Elbow, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Elbow Family Campout. Write: Ch., Box 173, Elbow, Sask. S0H 1J0
- 1-3 — *Durango, Colorado.* First International Serenity Run. Write: Ch., 407 Pawnee Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829
- 1-3 — *Indio (Palm Springs), California.* 12th Annual — 9th Dist. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1552, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
- 1-3 — *Los Angeles, California.* AALA Roundup '86 (gay men and women of So. CA). Write: Publicity Ch., 14755 Ventura Blvd., Suite 101, Box 756, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
- 2-3 — *Hamilton, Montana.* Bitterroot Inter-group Campout. Write: Ch., Box 1435, Hamilton, MT 59840
- 2-3 — *La Ronge, Saskatchewan, Canada.* La Ronge Roundup Write: Ch., Box 115, La Ronge, Sask. S0J 1L0
- 5-9 — *Crested Butte, Colorado.* Mountain Conf. Write: Ch., Box 7349, Dallas, TX 75209
- 7-10 — *Hot Springs, Arkansas.* 46th Annual "Old Granddad" Area Conv. Write: Treas., 2611 Shady Grove, Pine Bluff, AR 71603
- 7-10 — *San Diego, California.* International Doctors in A.A. Write: Info. Secy. IDAA, 1950 Volney Rd., Youngstown, OH 44511
- 8-9 — *Granby, Quebec, Canada.* Huitième Congress Annual Des AA Dans L'Estrie à Granby, Dist. 87-21. Write: Ch., Dist. 87-21, Box 222, Granby, Que. J2G 8E4
- 8-10 — *Tulameen, British Columbia, Canada.* Campout Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1396, Princeton, B.C. VOX 1W0
- 8-10 — *Onoway, Alberta, Canada.* 11th Annual Dist. 9 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 13, Site 4, RR #2, Onoway, Alta. T0E 1V0
- 8-10 — *Guelph, Ontario, Canada.* 17th Annual Central West Ont. Conv. Write: Reg. Ch., 58 Lowrey No., Cambridge, Ont. N1R 5A3
- 8-10 — *Lake Whitney, Texas.* 40th Quarterly Conf. of TCYPAA. Write: Secy., 611-8 Laramie, Granbury, TX 76048
- 8-10 — *Delisle, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Fifth Annual Pike Lake-Delisle Triple A Campout. Write: Ch., Box 578, Delisle, Sask. S0L 0P0
- 8-10 — *Moorhead, Minnesota.* 13th Annual Red River Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 9 — *Santa Clara, California.* 45th Anniv. of A.A. Santa Clara Valley. Write: Archives-Heritage Banquet, 2097 Tampa Way, San Jose, CA 95122
- 9-10 — *Bradford, Pennsylvania.* Day of Learning. Write: Ch., Box 894, Olean, NY 14760
- 9-10 — *Bozeman, Montana.* Mt. Summer Conf. Write: Conf. Comm., 607 S. Black Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715
- 9-11 — *Odessa, Texas.* West TX Roundup. Write: Ch., 1801 E. 13th St., Odessa, TX 79761

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

August (page 23): Equal opportunity; newcomers; spouses; amends.
September (page 16): Rallying points; age limits?; coming in from the cold; betwixt and between.

- 15-17 — *Dallas, Texas.* Lone Star Roundup. Write: Reg. Ch., Box 5112, Richardson, TX 75080
- 15-17 — *Cartersville, Georgia.* Ninth Annual Allatoona Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 856, Cartersville, GA 30120
- 15-17 — *Tofino-Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada.* West Coast Second Annual Rally. Write: Ch., Box 136, Tofino, B.C. V0R 2Z0
- 15-17 — *Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada.* Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 348, Revelstoke, B.C. V0E 2S0
- 15-17 — *Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.* Red Deer Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., #204, 54 Bell St., Red Deer, Alta. T4R 1M8
- 15-17 — *Meeker, Colorado.* White River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1036, Meeker, CO 81641
- 15-17 — *Clearwater Beach, Florida.* 12th Suncoast Conv. Write: Secy., 13998 Tern La., Clearwater, FL 33520
- 15-17 — *St. Peter, Minnesota.* Southern State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 104, Fairmont, MN 56031
- 15-17 — *Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada.* Cranbrook Roundup. Write: Secy., 205 Cranbrook St. N., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 3R1
- 16-17 — *Grenfell, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Grenfell Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 68, Grenfell, Sask. S0G 2B0
- 20-24 — *Biloxi, Mississippi.* 42nd Southeastern Reg. Conf. Write: S.E. Reg. Conf., Box 3275, Gulfport, MS 39505
- 21-24 — *St. Petersburg, Florida.* Sixth-Ever State Conv. for Young People. Write: Ch., FCYPAA, Box 15102, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-5102
- 22-24 — *Beaumont, Texas.* Fifth Annual Ninth Dist. Conf. Write: Treas., Box 2243, Nederland, TX 77627
- 22-24 — *Flagstaff, Arizona.* State Area Assy. Write: Ch., Box 26, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 22-24 — *San Luis Obispo, California.* 19th Annual 22nd Dist. '86 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 22-24 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.* 36th Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., Box 6033, Wetaskiwin, Alta. T9A 2E8
- 22-24 — *Green Lake, Wisconsin.* Sixth Annual Slinger/Jackson Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 183, Slinger, WI 53086

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

- 22-24 — *Columbus, Ohio*. Fourth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 10154, Columbus, OH 43201
- 22-24 — *Mammoth Lakes, California*. Tenth H-Sierra Campout. Write: Coord., Box 7729, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
- 22-24 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Yukon Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 76887, Sta. S, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 5T3
- 23-24 — *Ft. Morgan, Colorado*. Fourth Annual Brush-Ft. Morgan Mini-Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 1063, Ft. Morgan, CO 80701
- 29-31 — *Beaver, Utah*. 11th Annual Great Outdoor Beaver Meeting Campvention. Write: Ch., Box 99, Minersville, UT 84752
- 29-31 — *Jonquiere, Quebec, Canada*. Third Annual Conv. Dist. 89-07-89-11. Write: Pub. Info. Ch., 1311 Rue Adam, Chicoutimi-Nord, Que. G7G 4H8
- 29-31 — *Chapleau, Ontario, Canada*. 19th Annual Roundup (Golden Route Group). Write: Conf. Secy., Box 634, Chapleau, Ont. P0M 1K0
- 29-31 — *Indianapolis, Indiana*. '86 IYPAA Conv. Write: IYPAA, Box 19327, Indianapolis, IN 46219
- 29-31 — *Penticton, British Columbia, Canada*. 21st Annual So. Okanagan Labor Day Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 524, Penticton, B.C. V2A 6K9
- 29-31 — *Dryden, Ontario, Canada*. Ninth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 489, Dryden, Ont. P8N 2Z2
- 29-31 — *Houma, Louisiana*. Sixth Annual Bayrouland Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2251, Houma, LA 70361
- 29-31 — *Kansas City, Missouri*. Sixth Annual Live & Let Live Roundup (gay men & women). Write: Ch., Box 10376, Kansas City, MO 64111
- 29-31 — *Juneau, Alaska*. Fourth Frontier Rally. Write: Ch., Box 211082, Auke Bay P.O., Juneau, AK 99821
- 29-31 — *Abilene, Texas*. Sixth Annual Big Country Conf. Write: Ch., 2850 Southwest Dr., Abilene, TX 79605
- 29-31 — *Stettler, Alberta, Canada*. Seventh Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1961, Stettler, Alta. T0C 2L0
- 29-Sept. 1 — *Powell River, British Columbia, Canada*. Powell River's 39th Annual Rally. Write: Ch., 6429 Sutherland St., Powell River, B.C. V8A 4W5
- 29-Sept. 1 — *San Antonio, Texas*. Third San Antonio-Austin Roundup (gay). Write: Ch., Box 15631, San Antonio, TX 78212-8831
- 29-Sept. 1 — *West Palm Beach, Florida*. Sixth Annual So. Fl. Roundup. Write: Ch., 1728 Latham Rd., West Palm Beach, FL 33409
- 29-Sept. 1 — *Broken Bow, Nebraska*. Pressey Park Campout. Write: Ch., 316 So. 11th Ave., Broken Bow, NE 68822
- 30-Sept. 1 — *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. Soberfest '86. Write: Milwaukee Central Office, 238 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203

September

- 5-6 — *Rapid City, South Dakota*. Ellsworth A.F.B. Fifth Anniv. Mini-Conf. Write: Conf. Comm., 601 S. Berry Pines, Rapid City, SD 57702
- 5-6 — *High Point, North Carolina*. 13th Annual Central Carolina Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1921, High Point, NC 27260
- 5-7 — *Columbus, Indiana*. Ula D. Memorial Women's Workshop. Write: Women's Workshop, Box 441, Columbus, IN 47201

- 5-7 — *San Diego, California*. Feeling Good Roundup '86 (gay A.A.s & Al-Anons). Write: Ch., Box 3999, San Diego, CA 92103
- 5-7 — *Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada*. 13th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 165, Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 0X9
- 5-7 — *Warwick, New York*. 11th Annual Orange County Conf. Write: Ch., Box 705, Middletown, NY 10940-0705
- 6-7 — *Caldwell, Idaho*. Second Annual IDA-ORE Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 722, Caldwell, ID 83605
- 12-13 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Third Annual Women's Conf. Write: Ch., 2295 W. 16th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6K 3B4
- 12-13 — *Colorado Springs, Colorado*. Colorado Area Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., Box 6413, Colorado Springs, CO 80934
- 12-14 — *Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 390, Sexsmith, Alta. T0H 3C0
- 12-14 — *Mentor, Ohio*. 39th Punderson Park Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1032, Mentor, OH 44061-1032
- 12-14 — *Kenora, Ontario, Canada*. Sunset County 15th Annual Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 753, Keewatin, Ont. P0X 1C0
- 12-14 — *Wasilla, Alaska*. State Quarterly. Write: Ch., SR 3076D, Wasilla, AK 99687
- 12-14 — *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. 35th Annual Eastern Ont. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4342, Station E, Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5B3
- 12-14 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. 12th Annual Intl. Lawyers Conf. Write: Ch., 8 King St. E., Suite 1614, Toronto, Ont. M5C 1B5
- 12-14 — *Birmingham, Alabama*. 31st Alabama-N.W. Florida Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1173, Gardendale, AL 35071
- 12-14 — *Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada*. Seventh Annual Rally. Write: Ch., R.R. 2, Site 213 Cl., Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7L6
- 12-14 — *Hobbs, New Mexico*. Sixth Annual Eastern State Tumbleweed Conf. Write: Tumbleweed Conf., Box 1171, Hobbs, NM 88240
- 12-14 — *Moodus, Connecticut*. 28th Annual State Get-together. Write: Ch., 32 Garden St., New Britain, CT 06052
- 13 — *Greenfield, Indiana*. Four for Recovery Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 11522, Indianapolis, IN 46201
- 19-21 — *Brampton, Ontario, Canada*. Fourth Annual Brampton-Bramalea Conv. Write: Ch., Box 401, Brampton, Ont. L6V 2L3
- 19-21 — *Spreckels, California*. Fourth Annual Coastal Rally. Write: Salinas Valley Intergroup, 922 N. Sanburn Rd., Salinas, CA 93905
- 19-21 — *Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*. Eastern Canada Forum. Write: Reg. Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10163
- 19-21 — *Wichita, Kansas*. State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 137, Andale, KS 67001
- 19-21 — *Appleton, Wisconsin*. 45th Northern Wisconsin-Upper Peninsula of Michigan Conf. Write: Ch., Box 224, Neenah, WI 54956
- 19-21 — *Bull Shoals, Arkansas*. Sixth Annual Autumn in the Ozarks Conf. Write: Ch., Box 192, Bull Shoals, AR 72619
- 19-21 — *Phoenix, Arizona*. State Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 54304, Phoenix, AZ 85078
- 19-21 — *Ogden, Utah*. State Service Assy. Write: Ch., Box 771, Layton, UT 84041
- 19-21 — *Arlington, Texas*. 23rd Northeast State Area Fall Assy. & Conf. Write: Ch., 2121 Airport Fwy., Suite 300, Irvington, TX 75062

- 20-21 — *Lewistown, Montana*. State Assy. Write: Ch., Box 6788 Great Falls, MT 59406
- 26-28 — *Grand Forks, North Dakota*. State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5051, Grand Forks, ND 58206-5051
- 26-28 — *Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada*. 25th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1848, Swift Current, Sask. S9H 4M6
- 26-28 — *Dearborn, Michigan*. 34th State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2132, Riverview, MI 48192
- 26-28 — *Columbus, Indiana*. 15th Annual Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 2204 Washington St., Columbus, IN 47201
- 26-28 — *Airdrie, Alberta, Canada*. Fourth Annual Airdrie Roundup. Write: Secy./Treas., 59 Marwood Circle N.E., Calgary, Alta., T2A 2R7
- 26-28 — *Somerset, New Jersey*. 30th Annual NJGS — Area 44th Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1091, Island Heights, NJ 08732

October

- 3-5 — *Spokane, Washington*. Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209
- 3-5 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 3-5 — *Cody, Wyoming*. State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1092, Cody, WY 82414
- 3-5 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. Skid Row Roundup. Write: Ch., 10224 - 113th St., Apt. 10, Edmonton, Alta. TSK 1P4
- 3-5 — *San Diego, California*. 35th So. Calif. Conv. Write: Ch., 1518 Euclid, #3, Santa Monica, CA 90404
- 3-5 — *Taos, New Mexico*. Third Annual Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 1209, Taos, NM 87571
- 9-11 — *Des Moines, Iowa*. State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 15172, Des Moines, IA 50315
- 10-12 — *Buffalo, New York*. 45th Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 618, Buffalo, NY 14215
- 10-12 — *Prince George, British Columbia, Canada*. 30th Annual Northern Lites Roundup. Write: Ch., 2540 Ewert Cres., Prince George, B.C. V2M 2R9
- 10-12 — *Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada*. Gate Way Group Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 436, Creighton, Sask. S0P 0A0
- 10-12 — *Geneva Park - Lake Couchiching, Ontario, Canada*. 21st Anniversary of the Georgian Bay Dist. Conv. Write: Host Comm., Box 75, Gravenhurst, Ont. P0C 1G0
- 10-12 — *Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies*. Fourth Annual Discovery Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 138, Reading, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 10-12 — *Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. 31st Annual Northeast Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 702, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 5N2
- 10-12 — *Schreiber, Ontario, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 201, Schreiber, Ont. P0T 2S0
- 11-12 — *Orlando, Florida*. N. Florida Assembly — 4th Qtr. Write: Secy., 2052 Euclid St., Jacksonville, FL 32210
- 17-19 — *Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada*. Spruce Grove-Stony Plain Unity Roundup. Write: Ch., 19 Belleville Ave., Spruce Grove, Alta. T0E 2C0
- 17-19 — *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. 35th Annual S. Wisc. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Secy., 1324 S. 73rd St., West Allis, WI 53214