

Members Reach Out To A.A.s in Flooded North Dakota

As the waters of the Red River rose alarmingly in North Dakota last April, A.A.s from around the U.S./Canada watched their TVs with mounting concern. "Like a lot of folks we felt bad for everyone there," says Jerry S. of the Grapevine Group in Clementon, New Jersey, just 11 minutes by car from her home in Philadelphia. "However, our hearts specially ached for those poor water-soaked alcoholics."

Jerry, a past District 7 committee member (Area 45) and presently her group's Grapevine representative, knows all too well the havoc that floods can cause. "When I was a little girl of 8 living in Westville, New Jersey," she recalls, "we had a flood that destroyed our home; for the longest time I had to go to school in a rowboat. So I could really feel the devastation of those poor people in North Dakota."

Getting out her group's Western U.S. Directory, Jerry says, "I discovered we only had a 1993 edition. But it worked fine because the people listed for North Dakota were still sober and sure needed some spiritual uplifting—in addition to a few years of less rain." When she phoned the Fargo-Moorhead Intergroup to offer help, "they were happy with the call," Jerry says, "and told me they could really use literature. It seems that what the flood didn't destroy was ruined by all the fires that sprang up in its wake." The Grapevine Group took up a collection and raised \$65 for books and pamphlets, which Jerry ordered from the General Service Office, to be mailed directly to the strategically located Fargo-Moorhead Intergroup for distribution.

Even now A.A.s outside the afflicted area are seeking to help out as thousands of evacuees from Red River communities in North Dakota, and Minnesota too, are struggling to put their lives back together. Jim G., treasurer of Grand Forks' Way of Life Group, notes that the stricken area has received checks, literature, medallions and pins from A.A.s in Colorado, Minnesota and Winnipeg, Manitoba; and books and pamphlets from G.S.O. in New York City, acting on behalf of all groups in the U.S. and Canada. "We've found," he reports, "that members who have lost all their A.A. literature to the flood are asking most often for copies of the Big Book,

Daily Reflections, and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. They're also eager to have new or replacement Serenity Prayer wallet cards."

For years, Jim says, the 23-year-old Way of Life Group held as many as 35 meetings a month on the fourth floor of the Security Building in downtown Grand Forks—a building millions of horrified TV viewers saw go up in flames on April 19th as waterlogged firemen stood helplessly by: "We lost everything," Jim relates, "except for a checkbook and a ledger that the treasurer had at home and a coffeepot some member had borrowed. And we're not alone by a long shot. The Red River Group, which at 45 is the oldest in Grand Forks, had its meetings in the basement of the Antenna Building, just a few blocks from us, and they were hit hard, as were other A.A. and Al-Anon groups that met in the same building. But we're all trying to stay operative. Our Way of Life Group, using the alias the High Water Group, is temporarily holding two meetings a week at the home of a member in Grand Forks. And we're already looking for a permanent home."

Adds Jim's wife, Lynne G., a past North Dakota Area 52 secretary: "Some of our members are still camping out in tents; temporary shelters have mushroomed everywhere. Jim and I had to leave our home briefly, but we're among the lucky ones whose houses are still standing and inhabitable. We're grateful to be home again." Even at the height of the disaster, Lynne says, "A.A.s were looking out for each other. Some were hoisting sandbags in a state of terror, not knowing where a husband, child or other loved one was. Every little while you'd see an A.A. break down crying, only to get a hug from a fellow member; together they'd say the Serenity Prayer out loud, blot their tears and get back to work."

What the A.A.s realized, immediately and dramatically, Lynne emphasizes, "was that we are family in the truest sense of the word. A.A.s would seek out members they didn't even know personally and welcome them into their homes for food, emotional support and—what a miracle *that* was—a shower! There were makeshift signs everywhere saying things like, 'A.A.

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Meeting at Darla's Beauty Parlor, 8 p.m.' and 'Friends of Bill: Meetings at 3-Bay Hangar. Call this number. . .? Also, if certain A.A.s hadn't been accounted for, you could hear group members on their walkie-talkies or cell phones trying to track them down and make sure they were safe and okay. It was an incredible example of the Twelfth Step at work, and of the strength of A.A. love."

Service Pieces Are Full of A.A. Experience

They are at your service—a storehouse of informative service material that has been compiled over the years for groups and individual members.

Not to be confused with A.A. Conference-approved literature, which is produced as the result of General Service Conference Advisory Actions, service material—consisting mainly of information pieces, newsletters, bulletins and A.A. Guidelines—is created in response to members' expressed need for clear, concise information on subjects ranging from "Suggested Topics for Discussion Meetings" to a map of A.A. regions in the U.S./Canada. In the interest of timeliness, service material is updated to reflect current group experience as well as the latest Conference recommendations.

A.A. Conference-approved material—including the bulk of our books, booklets, pamphlets and audiovisual material—is copyrighted, and permission to reprint must be obtained from A.A. World Services, Inc. in writing. This requirement protects the integrity of our literature and ensures against dilution or distortion. Importantly, the term "Conference-approved" does not imply criticism or disapproval of any other material

about A.A. or alcoholism published outside the Fellowship.

A.A. service pieces do not go through the Conference-approval process simply because it would be impractical to put regularly updated literature, not to mention monthly and bimonthly publications such as the A.A. Grapevine and *Box 4-5-9*, through the cumbersome Conference-approval procedure. Nonetheless, much of the content in service pieces is excerpted from existent Conference-approved publications and similarly synthesizes the shared experience of the Fellowship. Like Conference-approved literature and audiovisual materials, service pieces may be obtained directly from G.S.O. (most are free of charge; many are available at various intergroups and central offices).

Would you like a "Money Tree Chart," showing ways A.A. members' contributions are utilized by G.S.O. for the Fellowship's services worldwide? Would you be interested in a helpful packet of "Material for Deaf A.A.s"? Or information on books and pamphlets available in Braille and on audiocassette? These and more are yours for the asking

Among the most requested service pieces are the suggested A.A. Guidelines, presently available on 15 topics, including: A.A. answering services; A.A. central or intergroup offices; clubs; the relationship between A.A. and Al-Anon; cooperating with court, DWI and other programs; serving alcoholics with special needs; and forming local committees on service in both correctional and treatment facilities, public information and cooperation with the professional community. Like many other service pieces, a number of the Guidelines are available in Spanish, French or both.

To order individual service pieces, or a listing of all service material available, write to the General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; or fax (212) 870-3003.

'Memo to an A.A. Group Treasurer'

As the treasurer for my group, what are my duties? How are group funds used? What is a prudent reserve?

In response to those questions and many more from A.A. group treasurers, the Services Committee of the A.A. World Services Board prepared the enclosed service piece titled "Memo to an A.A. Group Treasurer" to provide guidance for group treasurers in addition to the information in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet and A.A. Guidelines on Finance. The flyer (F-96) is available free of charge.

Viewpoint

Unity is a Big Book, A Coffeepot and You

"When I first moved to this area," writes Alfred M., of Loma Linda, California, "I complained to my sponsor that I couldn't identify at any of the meetings I'd been to. 'Did it ever occur to you,' he said, 'to get a Big Book, a coffee pot, another alcoholic and start one yourself?' So I did, even though I was pretty timid at the time. Five years later the group I began is going strong, and we are maintaining 75 to 100 alcoholics every Saturday."

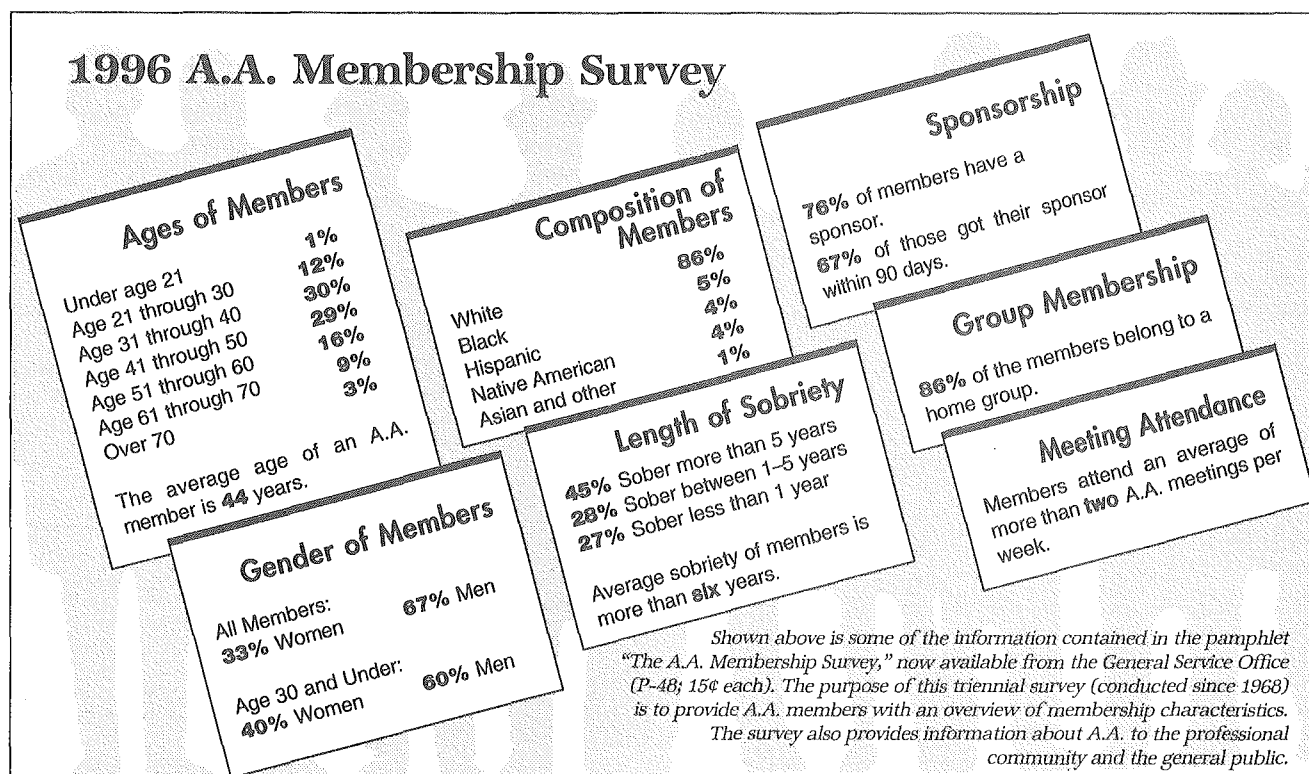
Albert says that "when I ask members, many of them oldtimers, to come talk at our meetings about A.A.'s singleness of purpose, they are delighted to be asked. They share their experience, strength and hope, and I am grateful because I feel this is God doing for me what I could not do for myself: start an A.A. meeting and help to keep it going. Also, my sponsor, sober 49 years, told me that if we A.A.s don't take the responsibility of letting outsiders know what A.A. is about, they will never know. I asked, 'Why me?' He came right back: 'Why not you?'"

Everywhere he turns, Albert relates, he sees the

power of unity: "It is the strength that has made A.A. the unique Fellowship it is, that has saved the lives of countless alcoholics around the world. I am a skid row drunk who never did anything in my young life but drink whiskey, and I drank as hard and as long as I could, until it no longer did the job. Since then I have been granted the gift of seeing A.A. in action, both across the Atlantic and in the recent 50th anniversary meeting of a local group—everywhere, no matter how big or small the meeting, one drunk talking to another in the language of the heart."

In the early days of his sobriety in A.A., he recalls, "they got us alcoholics to put all our garbage and dirt into a written inventory. Then we sat down with our sponsors one-on-one to discuss the stuff that nowadays keeps coming at us from the podium. And rarely did we ever hear the word *recovery* spoken—what we kept hearing about was *sobriety*. In my dictionary those two words have different meanings, as I understand it. *Recovery* is to bring back to normal. *Sobriety* is a state of being sober. As long as I live, I will never be restored to a normalcy that I have never known, but in A.A. I have found a life of sobriety."

Lest someone think he's splitting hairs, Alfred explains he's come to believe that "words have power. Therefore I try to be careful of what I say because, knowing me, if I use words related to my sobriety the wrong way, it's only a matter of time before my elbow is bending once more."



A.A. Salutes New and Immediate Past Chairmen...

In the spirit of rotation that characterizes the role of "trusted servant" at every level of A.A.'s service structure, seasoned Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Gary A. Glynn succeeds W.J. "Jim" Estelle, Jr. as chairman of the General Service Board.

Gary, who was elected trustee chairman at the 1997 General Service Conference, is a widely respected financial/investment analyst. A graduate of the University of Vermont and the Wharton School, he has for the past 12 years been president and chief investment officer of the U.S. Steel and Carnegie Pension Funds. About 14 years ago a close relative of Gary's sobered up in A.A. and stayed sober—a happy turn of events that he says made him grateful to the Fellowship and receptive to service. Gary's direct association with A.A. began in 1985, when he became a consultant to A.A. World Services, Inc. and held appointments to the trustees' Finance and Employees' Retirement Committees.

Elected to the board in 1993, Gary, who lives in New York City, has served as board treasurer, chairman of the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, and a member of the trustees' Literature, Nominating and Archives Committees. "Although the continuing good health of A.A. as a self-supporting, nonprofit entity is of course a priority," Gary says, "I don't view it as I would a financial organization. I believe in the Fellowship's unwavering adherence to its Three Legacies—Recovery, Unity and Service, and I have seen A.A. truly work for many alcoholics. The valuable Twelfth Step work" Gary continues, "is being done by A.A. members—one-on-one and in the groups. Many A.A.s have never even heard of G.S.O.—let alone the board of trustees. Yet we on the board can help the groups by providing tools that will help them carry the message; we can publish new translations of our literature, keep literature at a reasonable cost, and sponsor a structure that promotes unity and sharing—like the General Service Conference, G.S.O., the Grapevine and the World Service Meeting."

Gary follows Jim Estelle, a veteran administrator in the correctional systems of several states who has had a long and close association with A.A. Jim served as a Class A trustee from 1977-86. In 1993 he returned to serve as chairman of the board. For many years before that, he worked diligently to help bring A.A. groups into prisons and the prison work camps to which he had been assigned early in his distinguished career. Jim was the director of the Texas Department of Corrections in the '70s; he has lectured extensively and taught courses in corrections and the administration of correctional systems. Now retired and living in El Dorado Hills, California, he has done consulting and has had clients ranging from the California Department of Corrections to



Gary Glynn and Jim Estelle

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Egypt. Jim also is on the board of a California service organization that serves the needs of the families of indigent jail and prison inmates.

He believes that today "the challenge in corrections is greater than ever, what with the explosion of the jail and prison populations and simultaneously a reduction of tax money to support rehabilitation. For A.A. there is a real responsibility to be ever more diligent, disciplined and persistent." Looking back on his four-year term as board chairman, Jim says, "I've seen significant efforts made to reach out to people of all cultural differences. Obvious inroads also have been made internationally. A lot has been done, a lot remains to be done."

Ever since the creation of A.A.'s first board—of the Alcoholic Foundation, as the General Service Board was then called—the chairperson has traditionally been elected from its nonalcoholic trustees. In A.A.'s early days the number of nonalcoholic trustees actually exceeded the alcoholic (Class B) trustees by one. "Just in case!" noted 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 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.

The Class A board members today are a vital group with expertise in a spectrum of fields that they put to work on behalf of A.A. They include: Elaine M. Johnson,

Ph.D., of Maryland, a former director of the Center for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Arthur L. Knight, Jr., of Illinois, a retired businessman who has served as president, director and chief executive officer of manufacturing, distribution and financial service companies; Robert Oran Miller, D.D., Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama; Peter Roach, of Ontario, a retired elementary and secondary school teacher and director of education; John N. Chappel, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and chemical dependency authority; and new trustee Judge Linda Chisolm, of Indiana.

Experience has shown that for A.A.s, being in the public eye is hazardous to our sobriety—and to our collective survival if we break our anonymity at the public level, then get drunk. Yet “A.A. had to be publicized somehow,” as Bill W. often pointed out, “so we resorted to the idea that it would be far better to let our friends do this for us—mainly our nonalcoholic trustees.” They can face the camera head on and use their last names without violating the Traditions. In the process, they reach many a suffering alcoholic with the A.A. message.

... And Six Incoming Trustees of the General Service Board

This year A.A. welcomes six new members to the General Service Board—one Class A (nonalcoholic) and five Class B (alcoholic) trustees.

Judge Linda Chezem, of Mooresville, Indiana, is the new Class A trustee. She earned her J.D. degree from Indiana University School of Law and served her first judgeship in 1976. She presently sits on the Court of Appeals of Indiana in Indianapolis. “In this state,” she explains, “the trial court judge has responsibility for the probation office and the various local corrections programs such as work release, a responsibility that varies from county to



Judge Linda Chezem

county.” In Lawrence County, where she presided over the county court at Bedford from 1976-82, Linda’s interest in alcohol-related issues led her to spearhead the first certified court alcohol and drug program in Indiana. “We were one of the first probation departments to use breath-testing and urine-testing equipment,” she says. “In fact, I think we were the leaders, for a county our size, in recognizing the threat alcohol presents to the successful completion of probation and intermittent sentences.” She notes that “my interest in addressing the abuse of alcohol and promoting the recognition of the relationship of alcoholism to crime and family dysfunction has been long-standing—both professionally and in terms of my own family. My experience has proven to me the value of the Twelve Steps as the best hope for recovery.”

Jack O., of Joliet, Illinois, is the new (Class B) East Central U.S. regional trustee. (A total of eight regions are represented on the board, six for the U.S. and two for Canada.) A past delegate (Panel 34), he has been active in correctional facilities and other A.A. service at the state, area and district levels. Jack, who says he is retired from his job as a warehouse manager “and in great health,” has been sober 23 years. He enjoys travel with his wife of 47 years, Emita, a 25-year Al-Anon member. “Also,” he adds, “I like to garden and have an interest in following the stock market.”

Elizabeth “Betty” S., of Columbia, South Carolina, has been elected Southeast regional trustee. A past delegate (Panel 31), she has been active in carrying the A.A. message into women’s prisons and has served variously as area secretary, treasurer and chairperson. Certainly, 1997 is a three-banner year for Betty: She celebrated 25 years of sobriety in May, retired in June from her job as a counselor with an alcohol and drug abuse program and now is beginning her term as trustee.

Dean R., of El Reno, Oklahoma, is the new trustee-at-large/U.S. (There are two trustees-at-large, one from the U.S. and one from Canada.) A past delegate (Panel 36), Dean has been active in service almost since sobering up in A.A. in 1978. He helped arrange the program for the first Southwest Regional Service Assembly in Denver, Colorado, in 1989 and has participated actively in a number of other state and regional assemblies. For 40 years a practicing attorney, Dean sponsors several A.A. members and is a frequent speaker at workshops, round robins, service meetings and conferences. He has served additionally as a consultant on the Budget Committee for the area conference and area committee.

Tom M., of Live Oak, Florida, has been elected (Class B) general service trustee. (In all, there are four; they are active on one of the service corporate boards, and generally have expertise in some area—such as business, public relations or administration—that is particularly applicable to the problems at hand.) Tom, whose sobriety date is

April 1983, served as his group's general service representative and chairman and became active in area committee work. He has served more than three years as non-trustee director of the Grapevine and as the Grapevine's corporate treasurer. He has had four-year terms on both the trustees' Public Information and Archives Committees, and one-year terms on the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee. When elected to his new trusteeship, he was somehow finding time for the trustees' Finance Committee as well—besides his job as general manager of a radio network operating in all 50 states.

Richard R., of Chicago, Illinois, also has been elected as a general service trustee. Sober since August 1975, he is a past delegate from Rhode Island (Panel 34) and, when elected a trustee, was completing his fourth year as a nontrustee director of the A.A.W.S. Board. Richard holds three degrees—B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.—and works as an educator with a specialty in continuing education programs. He takes an active role in group matters, he says, "and I sponsor newer members when asked."

C.P.C.

Future Professionals Are Getting The A.A. Message

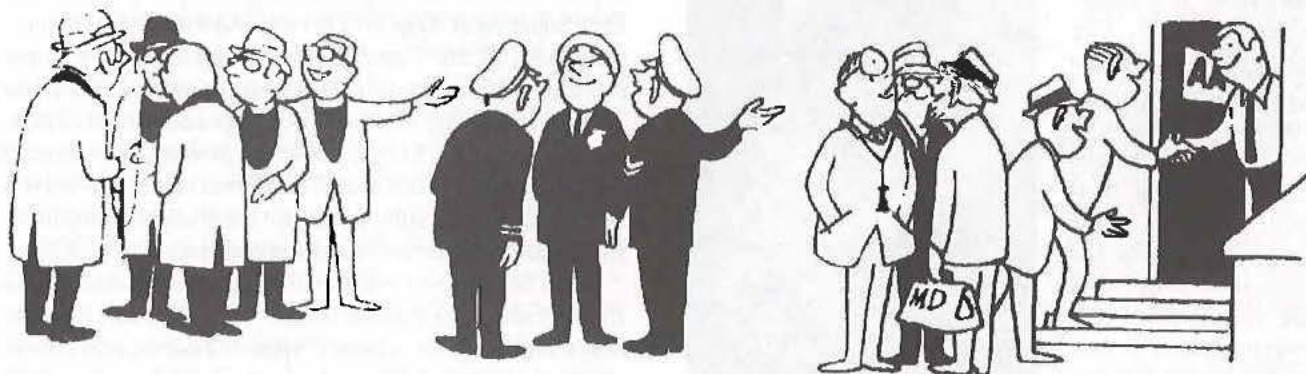
Professionals in the community are often in a position to help the alcoholic. Those familiar with how the Fellowship works realize they share a common purpose with us: to help the alcoholic stop drinking and lead a

healthy, productive life. But what about those who don't know us, like so many of the young professionals-in-training who, often as not, confuse A.A. with AAA? How will they learn about us if we don't tell them?

Recognizing the need to step up efforts to acquaint these students—in schools of nursing, medicine, dentistry, law, social work and criminal justice, to name some—with A.A. as a resource in their future professions, the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community has encouraged C.P.C. committees across the U.S./Canada to share their experience. Herewith a sampling:

California. Says Tim P., district chairperson of the Sonoma County Public Information/C.P.C. Committee: "At a local teaching hospital we were addressing a group of nurses and physicians that included a number of young doctors-in-training. Our goal was to provide them with a basic knowledge of what A.A. can and cannot do for drunks. They asked some tough questions: 'What can be done about prevention?' 'What if I have a patient who seems to need A.A. but who doesn't think so himself?' And, 'How long does the treatment take? How long do you have to keep going to meetings?' To the last question our young speaker responded: 'It was explained to me that if the people who come to A.A. and find help there don't keep coming after they get well, there won't be anywhere for the people who still need help to go.'" Noting that each year the hospital receives a new group of interns for training, Tim says, "We hope to make this presentation a regular part of their curriculum."

Hawaii. Reports area C.P.C. chair Shari, "A.A. has been slowly admitted to our social work and psychology colleges but only occasionally to the medical schools and educational colleges within the university system. It is an area that we as a C.P.C. committee are dedicated to exploring further." Shari adds that "the most well received aspect of all our presentations is the connection to the spiritual aspect of A.A."



The Twelve Traditions Illustrated

Illinois. Bob G., of Richton Park, says that the instructors of Cook County School of Medicine's addiction studies in the Family Practice program called his C.P.C. committee "for some assistance from A.A." Since Bob was the only physician on the committee, "the call was referred to me," he relates. "What they wanted was an alcoholic to tell his or her story, so we set a time and place for me to meet with the third-year Family Practice residents, share my experience, strength and hope, and discuss problems with alcoholics they might encounter in their clinics. That was four years ago and proved very beneficial. Ever since they've called me twice a year; I go down for half a day each time. The instructors tell me how much I am changing—and for sure they know because they hear me tell my story at frequent intervals!"

Massachusetts. As an effective way of carrying the message, putting on presentations at schools for professionals is the greatest, declares Ray S., alternate C.P.C. chair of the Eastern Massachusetts Area C.P.C. Committee. "In the last five or six years," he writes, "we have made presentations to 600-plus medical and dental students. And we have escorted many of them to open A.A. meetings." Pointing out that "we try to grasp every opportunity to tell people about our C.P.C. work." Ray adds, "We are very energetic in this respect. When we locate staff in appropriate disciplines with whom we can begin a dialogue, our experience shows phone calls, face-to-face conversations and explanations of our work are more effective than letter writing. The personal connection is the key."

Nebraska. When making a presentation, as they did before 21 future counselors, the C.P.C. members "give a brief history of A.A., discuss the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, show the video 'Young People and A.A,' share our experience, strength and hope, and take questions at the end of the presentation."

Nevada. Bill H., immediate past chairperson of the C.P.C. Committee of the Northern Nevada Intergroup, in Sparks, writes, "We cooperate with the Medical School of the University of Nevada at Reno, working with both second- and third-year students. We do not provide presentations to the students, however. The second-year students are invited to attend one open A.A. meeting and to interview the members who take them to the meeting. Third-year students, who are usually working with alcoholics in treatment at this time, attend approximately four open meetings with an A.A. 'guide' who may share his story in depth and help the student to develop an A.A. topic of his or her choosing for a presentation at the medical school."

New Mexico. Dennis C., who chairs the Albuquerque Area C.P.C. Committee, says that "we have worked cooperatively with the University of New Mexico schools of nursing, pharmacy and medicine. We have found that the

schools are as much interested in having us talk to help their own students as their future patients." Due to the high incidence of drug abuse, Dennis adds, "it is especially important that we have informed A.A. members explaining our singleness of purpose at school meetings. Information packets and literature explaining our position on problems other than alcohol are a must. We also stress our nonaffiliation with other Twelve-Step organizations, such as Narcotics Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous. Many people outside A.A. do not recognize the difference and think that all Twelve-Step programs are 'A.A.' or that all Twelve-Step programs are the same."

Ontario. Reports C.P.C. committee chairperson Steve P.: "Here in London, we give talks at nursing and medical schools." A breakfast meeting for doctors and nurses in service was successful, he says, noting that many of the students attend open A.A. meetings.

South Carolina. "We have established a good working relationship with the local colleges, high and middle schools," explains district P.I./C.P.C. coordinator Timothy W. "But our C.P.C. part of the committee has always been a lot more work with less apparent achievement. The community's professionals—doctors, lawyers, judges, parole probation officers and especially medical people—seem to have all the answers about alcoholism and A.A.!" In making presentations, Timothy says, "we lean toward members' personal stories and how the program has changed their thinking. We find this a very effective way of carrying the message."

And finally, at G.S.O., the C.P.C. staff member meets several times yearly with third-year medical students from Cornell University Medical Center in Manhattan, among others. The C.P.C. staff member meets with the students and provides literature about A.A., discusses the Steps and Traditions and what A.A. does and does not do, shares briefly on A.A. history and concludes the meeting with a tour of G.S.O.

Correctional Facilities

The 'Write' Stuff Enhances Sobriety 'Inside' and 'Out'

"I figure that of all the Twelfth-Step work I've done, this is about the easiest. You can do it at home in your comfortable clothes—a little time and you're done. And inmates just love mail; even if it's a postcard it's like, 'Hey, I got mail, somebody cares.'"

Terrie Lynn G. was talking about a subject close to her heart: "the Pen Pal program our area Correctional Facilities committee started in Southeast Texas about three years ago." Leading a workshop on "Corresponding with Inmates" at June's Northeast Texas Correctional Facilities Conference in Fort Worth, she continued, "It's the first thing you're going to show the inmates—that somebody cares about them enough to take the time to write a letter.

"A lot of people ask, 'What do you write about to somebody you don't even know?' Well, if I meet you at a meeting, I don't know you either, but I'll sit and talk with you like I've known you for years. Your initial letter will be a bit about yourself; you'll probably talk about your sobriety date, how you got to A.A. and stayed sober and stuck around. Later, when you get to know each other better, you can even work the Steps, surprisingly enough. I have done a Fourth and Fifth through the mail with somebody; she's out, she's still sober and doing great."

The Pen Pal Program operates along the same lines as the General Service Office's Corrections Correspondence Service, in which A.A.s on the "outside" are encouraged to correspond with fellow members inside prisons and jails. As Doug R., on the Correctional Facilities desk at G.S.O., pointed out at the Texas workshop, most inmates are men, and there is a waiting list for an outside contact. "We get 150 to 200 letters a week from inmates, many of them asking for a correspondent," Doug said. "Right now I have 250 male inmates inside who are waiting for sober A.A. men to write to them."

Listening, Terrie Lynn nodded. "Just like in face-to-face meetings" she said, "we suggest that men write men, women write women. But my biggest problem is finding men. Often they don't take time to write, they don't like to write. But it doesn't take that long; you can start with postcards—the ones with pictures, say, because they don't get much color in there." She cautioned that "if you want to be a pen pal, do have at least six months' sobriety and some experience with the Steps before you apply."

In serving as a C.F. correspondent, Terrie Lynn stressed, it is important to observe the rules of the particular correctional facility regarding mail and correspondence. Also, it's a good idea to use your group's P.O. Box for receiving mail rather than your home address. "Some people, myself included, have our own personal Box numbers," she explained.

In Terrie Lynn's experience, pen pals inside "will talk to you about everything under the sun. They will complain about the guards, the food, the fact that their family isn't writing—and every once in a while they'll tell you they had a good day. Just as you would when talking in person, share your experience in sobriety, give them answers from the Big Book, the Steps and Traditions any

way you can. You will develop a working relationship with your pen pals—they are terrific—and they are the best amateur artists I have ever seen. I have some wonderful drawings they've sent me, plus birthday cards and Mother's Day cards."

Members of the workshop discussed what to do if an inmate requests items or services unrelated to sobriety and A.A. principles. Terrie pointed out that, "just about everyone of them is going to ask you for money for stamps, can you send me a Big Book, will you contact my family for me, I need to find out about my kids, can you pass letters for me? The answer to that is, 'No. You can get stamps from the correctional facility. I'm not going to contact your family, you're the one I care about, you're the one asking for help.' After a while, if they still don't have access to a Big Book, I will usually send them one."

It was a sense of the meeting that if the inmate is not as yet ready to participate in the spirit of A.A. recovery, we can wish him or her well for the time being, and ask the General Service Office for another name. Consistency of outside participation was emphasized as being very important to the Corrections Correspondence Service. As Doug R. mentioned, "Where would any of us be if Bill W. and Dr. Bob had given up after trying to sober up only one drunk? If for any reason your service with one inmate isn't working, ask for another name. There are plenty of names."

If you are interested in becoming a corrections correspondent, please contact the C.F. desk at the General Service Office; or, for more information, ask for the flier "Corrections Correspondence—a special kind of service."

P.I.

South Dakotans Connect With Professionals

"When dealing with the public we always want to put our best foot forward," says Jim T., immediate past chairman of the Public Information Committee in Aberdeen, South Dakota. "So, when we decided to host a luncheon for our friends in the community—so many of them in a position to help active alcoholics—we were aware of the importance of providing the best meal we could, within our budget, that would look professional and taste good."

After embracing the idea, the P.I. committee went about realizing it in a creative, carefully thought-out fashion. "First," says Jim, "we sought permission and help with funding at our monthly district meeting, and received unanimous support. Then we approached all

the groups within the district. They pitched right in with enthusiasm and extra dollars and change; and thanks to their help our expenses as we had projected them were covered. Now we could get down to business." Which the committee did, as follows:

1. They found a fine location—at a hospital's Wellness Center, often available cost-free to local nonprofit organizations for health-related events. "This facility," Jim notes, "had the advantages of ample space, all the tables and chairs we might need, a podium with a p.a. system and, importantly, easy access from around the area."

2. They lined up a moderator and three speakers, and obtained bids from local caterers and food services. Using the phone directory, Jim says, "we updated a 1991 list of attorneys, doctors, counselors, clergy and court services people in town. We also included various business people and key community leaders."

3. The committee then drafted the letter of invitation, which they adapted from material in the P.I. Workbook published by the General Service Office. After noting the April 11 date and the time and location of the luncheon, the letter went on to say, "The meeting will last one hour. The agenda will consist of a catered lunch . . . followed by some knowledgeable and informative speakers. The committee would be pleased to have you in attendance. It is only through the kind cooperation of so many of our nonalcoholic friends, like you, that A.A. now has well over two million members in approximately 146 countries worldwide." For the attached RSVP a stamped return envelope was included.

With few exceptions, the invitations were divided up among the ten committee members for hand delivery to all invitees (who were offered the option of bringing guests of their own). "We started contacting these people three weeks before the luncheon," Jim relates. "To do so earlier would have been too early, and later would not have allowed enough time for all the contacts and returned RSVPs."

4. All the P.I. committee members were on hand the day of the luncheon to help set up, he says. "We also brought two literature racks well supplied with appropriate pamphlets, catalogs and order forms. There were some Big Books for sale at their cost to us, as well as meeting lists and A.A. contact names and phone numbers. Many guests took literature away with them, and 12 of them signed up to receive the newsletter *About A.A.*, published by G.S.O. expressly for professionals."

More than 50 professional people attended the luncheon, Jim reports. "Our moderator and A.A. presenters did an excellent job, and the guests asked many pertinent questions during the half-hour Q&A period following the luncheon meeting. All in all, we feel it was a tremendous success. And we are grateful to our district and our groups for their support, which made the event possible."

Treatment Facilities

Questionnaire Confirms Need For Renewed A.A. Effort

Last fall, the trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities distributed a questionnaire titled "Carrying the A.A. Message into Treatment Facilities—What Has Changed?" to 105 T.F. committee chairpersons in the U.S./Canada. Reports Paul C., who chaired the subcommittee, "Our sampling indicates that while there has been a general increase in the number of treatment facilities for substance abuse, there has been a decrease in the number of treatment facilities for alcoholism only." Additionally, he explains, "there has been a rise in the variety of responses to alcohol problems, such as employee assistance programs, drunk driver programs, early intervention/prevention programs and outpatient counseling programs."

In August, the trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee will send the questionnaire results to all T.F. chairpersons, along with a copy of the June Grapevine, which contains a special section on "A.A. and Treatment Facilities" featuring the personal recovery stories of four A.A. members. Paul notes that the subcommittee "received many thoughtful responses, not only from the A.A.s but from friends in the treatment community to whom we had turned for information on trends in treatment facilities. We contacted representatives of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, the Alberta [Canada] Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, the Center for Substance Treatment, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers. They confirmed many of the impressions given by the T.F. chairpersons." Some of the questions and answers:

How has the number of treatment facilities meetings changed in your area, district, etc.? Have they increased or decreased, and by what percent? Determining the level of change in the number of Treatment Facilities meetings was difficult for many areas. Almost half of the respondents reported no recognizable change. Others did report change, but there appeared to be no discernible pattern. Overall, 47% of meetings remained the same, 21% increased and 32% decreased.

How have changes in treatment facilities affected your committee's Twelfth-Step work in A.A. meetings? Depreciating insurance coverage; closure of treatment facilities and a trend toward outpatient care; increase in dual, or multidiagnosis disorders—these are the common changes in treatment facilities across the United States. (Treatment facilities in Canada are not closing, however, and the treatment picture there has not changed appreciably.)

Because of health insurance reforms, many chemical dependency units have been converted into psychological wards. Some of these mandate that patients attend meetings—some who may need but don't want the A.A. program. Other units have turned to outpatient treatment only, which requires most A.A. T.F. committee work to be done at the "after-care" level.

According to one East Central area, "most patients are only in long enough to detox. We meet them during their intensive outpatient sessions and try to help them find sponsors before release." Because treatment stays are shorter, some A.A. volunteers feel the need to "act quickly, practically jumping on newcomers" to insure that they have the contacts they need before they complete their treatment program.

Interestingly, many regions stress the importance of remaining aware of their ever-changing audience in order to most effectively transmit information—keeping the message simple, sticking to the basics and focusing on a clear singleness of purpose.

Some areas hope to have more "what Alcoholics Anonymous is and is not" workshops; they are distributing more newcomer packets, have increased the number of beginners, Step and Traditions meetings, and are increasing contacts between oldtimers and T.F. newcomers. Yet the Southeast Region reports that overall, T.F. work in their region "hasn't changed: still plenty of work to do and not enough volunteers to do it"; More than 500 guests from treatment facilities, DWI programs and halfway houses attended one of their recent state A.A. conventions.

How have treatment facilities changes affected sponsorship, temporary contact programs or bridging the gap efforts? As patient stays have shortened, the need for bridging the gap has grown. Some regions are relatively new in this service, while others report their efforts are increasingly important and beneficial. Some professionals noted that there will be an increased need to Twelfth Step active drunks. There was also a sense from some of them that prison-based treatment programs will increase, and so will psychiatric/dual diagnosis programs as the number of inpatient alcoholism treatment programs decreases. Professionals were very grateful for temporary contact programs, which the survey indicates have been particularly well-received in Canada.

Are there any other changes in T.F. work you would like to share? It remains difficult to attract enough outside members to T.F. service work. A.A. members and groups are increasingly disinterested in visiting dual-diagnosis centers, and apathy toward these newcomers continues. Many A.A.s feel that treatment centers are providing patients with unclear or erroneous information about A.A. When these newcomers attend outside meetings, they are often resented for "their inability to focus on A.A.'s primary purpose." Informing these new members about what A.A. is and is not would be helpful.

The need to inform administrators and staff about A.A. remains of prime importance, and mentioning that other Twelve-Step programs are available for problems other than alcohol is believed to be essential.

With the decrease in the number of outpatient facilities, it is increasingly important to prepare A.A.s for more traditional "wet" Twelfth-Step work.

Register Now for The 1997 Intergroup/ Central Office Seminar

What's clear from a perusal of the Final Report of last year's Intergroup/Central Office Seminar (*Box 4-5-9*, Feb.-Mar. 1997, p. 2), is that it was a resounding success and a hard act to follow. But as several of the attending managers and other service workers commented, the seminars have become more stimulating, informative and fun with each passing year, and they expect 1997's will top them all.

The Central Ohio Fellowship Intergroup in Columbus will host the Twelfth Annual Seminar, which will be held at that city's Radisson Hotel North, October 24-26. The weekend of workshops, panel discussions and fellowship will bring together intergroup/central office managers and employees from across the U.S. and Canada; they will be joined by trustees of the General Service Board along with A.A. World Services and Grapevine directors and staff.

The registration fee is \$20. For further information, or to register, please write: Central Ohio Intergroup Seminar, 1561 Leonard Ave., Columbus, OH 43219-2580; or phone (614) 253-8501.

Also, copies of the 1996 Seminar's Final Report, hosted by the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, are still available. Write: Intergroup Association of Minneapolis Suburban Area, 6300 Walker Street, #215, St. Louis Park, MN 55102-1032; or call (612) 922-0880. A \$5 contribution is requested to cover production and mailing costs.

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

- 1-3—Los Angeles, California. Poothill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 184, Montrose, CA 91021
- 1-3—State College, Pennsylvania. West-East Pennsylvania State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 115, Barnsboro, PA 15714
- 1-3—Fife, Washington. Freedom in Sobriety. Write: Ch., 1312 So. 4th St., Tacoma, WA 98405
- 1-4—Darwin, Australia. Northern Territories Roundup 1997. Write: Ch., Box 40760, Casuarina NT 0811, Australia
- 8-10—Katherine, Australia. Northern Territories Roundup 1997. Write: Ch., Box 781 Katherine NT 0851, Australia
- 8-10—Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada. 13th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
- 8-10—Squamish, British Columbia, Canada. 24th Annual Squamish Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2236, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0
- 8-10—Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. 11th Annual Algoma Dist. Campout. Write: Ch., Box 1298, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6N1
- 8-10—Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Central West Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., 48-385 Fairway Rd., So., Box 126, Kitchener, ON N2C 2N9
- 8-10—Moorhead, Minnesota. 22nd Annual Red River Valley Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 558, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 14-17—Mountain View, Arkansas. "Old Grandad" State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 271, Siloam Springs, AR 72761
- 14-17—Omaha, Nebraska. Cornhusker Roundup XX. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 15-17—Alice Springs, Australia. Centralian Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 781 Katherine NT 0851, Australia
- 15-17—Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. 25th Annual Lakeshore Conf. Write: Ch., 200 Thornton RD N., Oshawa, ON L1J 6T8
- 15-17—Prescott, Arizona. Arizona Area Assembly. Write: Area Secy., 1730 E. Lehi #3, Mesa, AZ 85203
- 15-17—Decatur, Illinois. 24th Illinois State Conf. & 19th East Central Region Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3961, Decatur, IL 62526
- 15-17—Powers, Oregon. Annual Campout. Write: Ch., 708 Harris St., Myrtle Point, OR 97458
- 22-23—Val D'Or, Quebec, Canada. Special Eastern Canada Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 22-24—Mammoth Lakes, California. 21st High Sierra Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3151, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

- 22-24—Paso Robles, California. 30th Annual 22nd Dist. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 22-24—Kalamazoo, Michigan. 45th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 58, Augusta, MI 49012
- 22-24—Joplin, Missouri. Summer Hummer. Write: Ch., Box 2075, Joplin, MO 64803
- 22-24—Chautauqua, New York. Tri-State Assembly. Write: Ch., 21 First Avenue, Franklin, NY 14737-1318
- 22-24—New York, New York. Big Apple Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., 527 3rd Ave., Ste. 226, New York, NY 10016
- 22-24—Toledo, Ohio. 15th Ohio Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9423, Toledo, OH 43697-9423
- 22-24—Chattanooga, Tennessee. 10th Annual Choo-Choo Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2105, Chattanooga, TN 37409
- 22-24—Green Lake, Wisconsin. 17th Annual Green Lake Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 684, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
- 29-31—Stettler, Alberta, Canada. Heartland Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 221, Alix, AB T0C 0B0
- 29-31—Chapleau, Ontario, Canada. 30th Anniversary Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 634, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
- 29-31—Tampa, Florida. 11th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685-2545
- 29-31—Pickford, Michigan. Les Cheneaux Area 21st Anniv. Camp-Out. Write: Ch., Box 610, Cedarville, MI 49719
- 29-31—Pinckney, Michigan. Agape Weekend. Write: Ch., 4745 Chovin, Dearborn, MI 48126
- 29-31—Jackson, Mississippi. 11th Annual Mississippi Old Timers Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289-1664
- 29-31—Dallas, Texas. Lone Star Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 836221, Richardson, TX 75083-6221
- 29-31—Seattle, Washington. Emerald City Roundup (hosted by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., 1122 East Pike, Ste 1006, Seattle, WA 98122-3927
- 29-31—Sea-Tac, Washington. Sponsorship Conf. Write: Ch., 221 SW 153rd St., Ste. 943, Seattle, WA 98166

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

August (pages 38-44): Slips

September (pages 54-55): First things first

- 29-31—Sparks, Nevada. 20th Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6874, Sparks, NV 89431

September

- 4-7—Honolulu, Hawaii. 36th Annual Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823-3434
- 4-7—Hampton, Virginia. 48th State Conv./53rd Southeastern Conf. Write: Registrar, Box 1260, Hampton, VA 23661
- 5-7—Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. Medicine Hat Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 165, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7E8
- 5-7—Cromwell, Connecticut. 39th Annual Area 11 Conv. Write: Ch., 670 Mix Ave., Apt. 5B, Hamden, CT 06514
- 5-7—Greensburg, Indiana. SE Indiana Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 502, Greensburg, IN 47240
- 5-7—Park Rapids, Minnesota. Seventh Annual Heartland Round-Up. Write: Ch., Red Rt. 1, Box 256, Osage, MN 56570
- 5-7—St. Paul, Minnesota. West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 5-7—Topeka, Kansas. Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3909, Topeka, KS 66604
- 11-14—Birmingham, Alabama. Alabama/NW Florida Conf. Write: Ch., Box 130807, Birmingham, AL 35213-0807

Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on October, November, 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



- 12-14—*Lenox, Massachusetts*. Back to Basics Weeknd. Write: Ch., 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210
- 12-14—*Gallatin, Tennessee*. Area 64 Semannual CFC Workshop. Write: Ch., 241 Eastland Ave., Ripley, TN 38063
- 12-14—*Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines*. Second Fall International Roundup. Write: Ch., 9-29 Marcellus St., Diamond Subdivision, Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines 2009
- 12-14—*Angels, Camp, California*. 11th Annual Gold Country Roundup. Write: Box 865, Angels Camp, CA 95222
- 12-14—*Santa Barbara, California*. 13th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 91731, Santa Barbara, CA 93190
- 12-14—*Washington, D.C.* ILAA 23rd Annual Meeting. Write: Secy., 7211 Rollingwood Drive., Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- 12-14—*Florien, Louisiana*. Western Louisiana Intergroup Conf. Write: Ch., 440 Byles St., Many, LA 71449
- 12-14—*Beachwood, Ohio*. 61st Punderson Park Conf. Write: Ch., Box 22440, Beachwood, OH 44122
- 12-14—*San Antonio, Texas*. San Antonio Roundup (Bridging the Gap). Write: Ch., Box 15993, San Antonio, TX 78212
- 18-21—*Estes Park, Colorado*. ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 18207, Denver, CO 80218-0207
- 18-21—*Norman Park, Georgia*. Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 30344, Sea Island, GA 31561
- 19-20—*Kalispell, Montana*. Third Annual Fall Refresher. Write: Ch., Box 4583, Whitefish, MT 59937
- 19-21—*Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*. Autumn Leaf Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91021, Effort Square Postal Outlet, Hamilton, ON L8N 4G3
- 19-21—*Anchorage, Alaska*. 50 Years in Anchorage. Write: Ch., 5620 E. 40th #C-203, Anchorage, AK 99504
- 19-21—*Santa Maria, California*. 52nd District Conv. Write: Ch., Box 401, Santa Maria, CA 93456
- 19-21—*Grand Junction, Colorado*. Color Daze Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4013, Grand Junction, CO 81502
- 19-21—*Naples, Florida*. West Coast 12 Step Weekend. Write: Ch., 345 Colonial Ave., Marco Island, FL 33937
- 19-21—*Grand Rapids, Minnesota*. Back to Basics Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., 8000 S. Hwy 169 #5G, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- 19-21—*Tupelo, Mississippi*. 20th Annual Fall Jubilee. Write: Ch., CR 520 #330, Shannon, MS 38868
- 19-21—*Stateline, Nevada*. 1997 Lake Tahoe Fall Festival. Write: Ch., Box 19307, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151-0307
- 19-21—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. Seventh Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop. Write: Ch., 1909 Brad St., Waukesha, WI 53188

- 20-21—*Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*. CFC Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 25009, River Heights, Saskatoon, SK S7K 8B7
- 26-28—*Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada*. 31st Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1127, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
- 26-28—*Batesville, Arkansas*. Fourth Annual Fall In The Foothills Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4144, Batesville, AR 72503
- 26-28—*Muscatine, Iowa*. Melon City Roundup VI. Write: Ch., Box 1244, Muscatine, IA 52761
- 26-28—*Duluth, Minnesota*. 52nd Annual Duluth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816-0771
- 26-28—*Reno, Nevada*. "We Are Family" Conf. 1997. Write: Ch., Box 5266, Reno, NV 89513
- 26-28—*Park City, Utah*. Skyline Conf. Write: Ch., 6678 So. 3235 W., West Jordan, UT 84064

October

- 3-4—*Lincoln, Nebraska*. Big Red Roundup. Write: Ch., 3840 S.70th St., Ste. 127, Lincoln, NE 68506
- 3-5—*Sydney, Australia*. NEWYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 3091, Sydney, 2026, Australia
- 3-5—*Crescent City, California*. 11th Annual Sobriety by the Sea Rally. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531
- 3-5—*Sacramento, California*. NCCAA 50th Annual Fall Conf. Write: Tr., Box 508, Rocklin, CA 95677
- 3-5—*Twin Falls, Idaho*. Idaho Area Fall Assembly & Conv. Write: Ch., Box 976, Twin Falls, ID 83303
- 3-5—*Ames, Iowa*. Area 27 1997 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 843 West 19th St. #41, Ames, IA 50010
- 3-5—*Lafayette, Louisiana*. 14th Cajun Country Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3160, Lafayette, LA 70502
- 3-5—*Bakersfield, California*. 46th Southern California Conv. Write: Ch., 1533 Hi-Point St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90035
- 3-6—*Amarillo, Texas*. Top of Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., 1703 S. Taylor, Amarillo, TX 79101
- 3-6—*Syria, Virginia*. Heaven on Earth Day. Write: Ch., Box 31, Bowie, MD 20719
- 9-12—*Reno, Nevada*. Seventh Annual Native American Indian Conv. Write: Ch., Box 835, Wadsworth, NE 68942
- 10-12—*Monaco, France*. Monaco Conv. Write: Ch., 53 Rue Caffarelli, 06000 Nice, France
- 10-12—*Dordrecht (near Rotterdam), The Netherlands*. Big Book Study Seminar. Write: Registrar., c/o Harstenhoekweg 74, 2587-SM The Hague, The Netherlands
- 10-12—*North Bay, Ontario, Canada*. 42nd Annual Northeast Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1165, North Bay, ON P1B 8K4
- 10-12—*Chanute, Kansas*. Sixth Annual SE Kansas Conf. Write: Sec., 1319 Main, Parsons, KS 67357

- 11-12—*Dickinson, North Dakota*. Fall Fellowship Round. Write: Ch., Box 1764, Dickinson, ND 58602
- 17-19—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. 53rd Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., 505-365 Hargrave St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2K3
- 17-19—*Dayton Beach, Florida*. Third Annual Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 4911, South Dayton, FL 32121
- 17-19—*Columbus, Ohio*. 12th Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S. Seminar. Write: Central Ohio Fellowship Intrgrp, 1561 Leonard Ave., Columbus, OH 43219-2580
- 17-19—*Columbus, Ohio*. 11th Annual Area 53 General Service Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2131, Columbus, OH 43216
- 17-19—*Austin, Minnesota*. Hiawathaland Get-Together. Write: Ch., Box 5792, Rochester, MN 55903
- 17-19—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. 46th Annual Southern WI Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 262, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0262
- 24-26—*Lynchburg, Virginia*. VA Area Comm. Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 3383 Whipple Court, Annandale, VA 22003
- 24-26—*Bellingham, Washington*. 10th Annual Mt. Baker Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 28231, Bellingham, WA 98228
- 31-November 1—*Cornwall, Ontario, Canada*. Cornwall 50th Ann. Conv. Write: Ch., 409 3rd St. E, Cornwall, ON K6H 2E6
- 31-November 2—*San Bernardino, California*. Inland Empire 10th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., 3076 Priscilla St., Riverside, CA 92506
- 31-November 2—*Flagstaff, Arizona*. Arizona Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 566, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 31-November 2—*St. Thomas, Virgin Islands*. Promises in Paradise. Write: Ch., Box 1083, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00804

November

- 7-9—*Jekyll Island, Georgia*. Recovery Weekend III. Write: Ch., 161 Washington, Ave., Fitzgerald, GA 31750
- 14-16—*Fitchburg, Massachusetts*. 34th Annual State Conv. Write: Regsr., Box 344, Westminister, MA 01473-0344
- 22-23—*Buffalo, New York*. 56th Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 522, Amherst, NY 14226-0522
- 28-30—*Hamilton, Bermuda*. Bermuda Conv. 1997. Write: Ch., Box 178, Warwick WK BX, Bermuda
- 28-30—*Omaha, Nebraska*. Great Plains Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 34222, Omaha, NE 68134