

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is a time for celebration! It's a time of hope and reconciliation. It's a time to spread the good news—the glad tidings of great joy.

We who know the blessings of sobriety in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous experience a kind of holiday every day if we choose. With hope, we celebrate our new lives. We rejoice in many reconciliations. We know that to survive both individually and as a fellowship, we must give away what we have been so freely given. So we spread the good news; we carry the glad tidings of great joy—the A.A. message of recovery.

How blessed we are!

We at G.S.O. rejoice today and every day that we may share the A.A. message with you, our many dear friends and readers. At this special time of year, let us ponder the true meaning of our great gift—our sobriety.

Let's celebrate by letting our lives shine as beacons of hope to those who still stumble in dark despair. A day at a time, let the light of our sobriety brighten the lives of alcoholics who are still suffering, wherever in the world they may be.

with A.A. love,

*Jimmie Bob
Susan
Lain
Curtis
Lyla
Phyllis
Grant
Sarah
Debra
Betty*

In Size, Reach, and Spiritual Power, Our Book Is Truly Big

What best-selling book measures 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "; contains 575 pages; is printed in English and a dozen other languages (including Afrikaans and Icelandic); has passed the four-million mark in distribution; is pub-

lished privately, with no author's name given; and is rarely available in bookstores?

Give up (or better yet, surrender)? Yes, it's the treasured "Alcoholics Anonymous" — or "Big Book," as it has come to be known by alcoholics in 110 countries throughout the world. To honor its standing as one of the most successful hardcover best-sellers of all time, we thought you'd like to recall with us some of the facts and figures and history of the book that saves lives.



Big Books in the A.A. archives at G.S.O. convey an unchanging program in a changing world. The first printing (1939—left) was the biggest book of all, 2" thick, with ample margins. The eighth (1945—center) was the slimmest, 1" thick, with narrow margins, to meet wartime regulations for saving paper. Today's is a practical 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick—but big as ever in its clarion call to recovery.

It all began with Bill W. (naturally), who felt that the program of recovery started by word of mouth in 1935 needed to be written down, so that the message could reach more alcoholics faster wherever they happened to live. After much discussion and prodding on Bill's part, the then group conscience prevailed, and Bill began to set down on paper words of hope and inspiration to express the principles that were keeping those early A.A.'s sober.

Surprising though it may be, Bill began the first draft of the Big Book when he was only three and a half years sober himself (in May 1938), so this lifesaving and nourishing achievement could be called a miracle of a sort. Indeed, it was a multiple miracle, for each chapter that he wrote was "edited" by the A.A.'s in both Akron and New York — all of whom had fewer years of sobriety than Bill. The Twelve Steps themselves did not escape unaltered, for the Big Book was truly a cooperative effort, reflecting the thinking of the young Fellowship as a whole, rather than the experience and opinion of just one member—even a co-founder.

Then came the recovery stories, provided by members in both of the cities where A.A. began, and edited (as A.A. Comes of Age" and "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers" tell us) by a former newspaperman who had been salvaged from skid row by A.A.

When the book finally went on the press, the paper used gave it such bulk that its nickname came about naturally. But it took time to show how big a book it actually was, not just in a physical sense, but in terms of spiritual impact.

Priced at \$3.50 in 1939, the Big Book attracted little attention and sold poorly in its initial printing of 5,000 (though the pioneer members quickly found it invaluable in their Twelfth Step work). Sales began to improve after publication of Jack Alexander's article about A.A. in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1941. And it has been upward and onward ever since!

Distribution of the Big Book, now priced at \$5.65 (\$4.65 for A.A. groups), has increased at an ever-faster rate. It took 34 years to distribute the first million copies, five years for the second million, and three years for the third million. The four-million mark was reached just two years later, in September 1983. (And that total represents *only* the editions in English; A.A. World Services distributed 7,200 of the Spanish edition in 1982; and countless copies are published in other languages by A.A. offices overseas.)

Every working day, 2,200 copies of the Big Book go out, and 1983 distribution has averaged 25% higher than 1982. The 600,000 copies to be printed in the coming year will require 1,200,000 pounds of paper, 60,000 yards of fabric for the cover, and 100,000 sheets of dust-jacket paper.

For alcoholics everywhere, such plain facts and statistics can't tell the whole story. To newcomers, the language of the Big Book may seem very much of its time—sometimes stilted or flowery. But the power of those words has been proved, and the first 11 chapters remain almost exactly as they were when completed in 1939. The group conscience of A.A., acting through the General Service Conference, has approved additions and deletions among the stories of personal recovery, to reflect changing patterns in the membership. But it has resisted issuing a paperback edition, modernizing the

writing style, and making innumerable other suggested "improvements."

Today, the treasured Big Book brings hope and promise to the newcomer and remains cherished by all members of A.A. for its unchanging message of sobriety and of "how it works."

Golden Anniversary Convention Coming Up!

Less than a year from now—in the fall of 1984—your group will receive from G.S.O. registration forms for a truly historic occasion: A.A.'s 50th Anniversary International Convention, in Montreal, Que., Canada, July 4 through 7, 1985. How all those 24-hour periods do add up—and how fast they can go by!

The Big Meetings and the Saturday-evening entertainment will take place at Montreal's Olympic Park Stadium; panels, workshops, alkathons, and the dance, at the city's new Convention Center. Both are conveniently located. Contracts have been signed with all nearby hotels and motels, so that rooms will be available at Convention rates on a first-come, first-served basis. Facilities committed to our Convention will accept registrations for that weekend *only* if they receive the requests through the General Service Office.

Let's get together in Montreal to celebrate half a century of recoveries in our beloved Fellowship.

The Welcome Mat Is Always Out

They come from all over the world, almost every day of the year, just to drop in, tour the facilities, and talk to the staff.

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Visitors go first to G.S.O.'s eighth-floor reception room, where they're greeted by Margie Janicek (nonalcoholic), our tour guide.

"They" are the many members of Alcoholics Anonymous who, when in New York, make it a point to stop by your General Service Office and Grapevine office. More than 2,000 visitors come through our doors each year. They visit the archives where A.A. memorabilia are kept. They chat with the G.S.O. and GV staff members about the business of running your offices and how things get done, and they just plain talk, one alcoholic to another, about our real "business": staying sober, one day at a time, and carrying the message to suffering alcoholics, individually and collectively.

Staff members welcome the opportunity to greet visitors, and it's sometimes hectic, but always lively and wonderful. For example, one Friday in the past summer, just prior to the regularly scheduled A.A. meeting held for staff members, several visitors arrived and naturally were invited to attend the meeting. "The people 'sharing' that day," recalls a staff member, "included Charles, a native of Trinidad; Eugene, a Canadian visiting us from Sierra Leone in Africa; Alvin, from Montego Bay, Jamaica; Gerta and Jan from Holland; Gudjon, from Iceland—and Mike from New Jersey!"

During a later Friday meeting, a busload of 50 (count 'em, 50!) A.A. members arrived from Quebec. They spoke little English. Simultaneously, eight Spanish-speaking A.A.'s arrived. And all this at lunchtime. Some-

how, it all got sorted out, and everyone walked away happy and contented.

Our resident tour guide, nonalcoholic Margie Janicek, fondly remembers the A.A. Loner from Australia who seemed almost overwhelmed by his visit. "It did mean something extra for him," remembers Margie. "His experience as a Loner had been through exchanging letters with staff members, and here he was in New York visiting the people and offices that had helped him stay sober."

Whether our visitors come from Guam, the Canary Islands, or New Jersey, they are treated to a truly heartwarming experience that they — and you, should you come by — will not soon forget. It goes without saying that our welcome mat is out for you. To have time for a complete tour, come between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. any working day.

Deadline for Directory Information Is Near

Printouts corrected to show the latest group information are already being returned to G.S.O. by the areas, and our computer is revving up for the 1984 A.A. directories: Eastern U.S., Western U.S., Canada.

So here's a reminder for area delegates: If you haven't already returned your printouts, please remember that the final deadline for receipt of this information at G.S.O. is *January 15, 1984*.

P.I. and C.P.C. Growth Broadens the Range Of Twelfth-Stepping

More and more A.A.'s are finding P.I. (public information) and C.P.C. (cooperation with the professional community) activities a rewarding opportunity for Twelfth Step work—a fact evidenced in the burgeoning growth of local committees throughout the U.S. and Canada. Within the past five years, for example, the number of P.I. committees has increased from 200 to 600, and G.S.O. now lists 270 C.P.C. committees, as compared with only 77 in 1978.

Both types of committee are engaged in providing non-A.A.'s with accurate information about the Fellowship—yet both are indeed twelfth-stepping, for all their

work is done in the hope that the message will eventually reach the suffering alcoholic.

We tend to think of the two kinds of service together because C.P.C. is actually an outgrowth of P.I. As the term *public* information indicates, these committees originally addressed the general public, trying to reach alcoholics either directly, or indirectly through "third parties" such as relatives, friends, employers, co-workers, law-enforcement officials, physicians, and spiritual advisers. At times, P.I. committees might focus on a particular segment of the public—for instance, sending letters about the availability of A.A. to all general practitioners in a given locality, or inviting them to a special open A.A. meeting. Professionals whose chief interest was in alcoholism were pretty rare at the time.

Then, in the 1970's, came a great surge of activity in the alcoholism field as a whole. New government agencies — Federal, state, and local — sprang up; treatment centers opened; business, industry, and court programs multiplied. And P.I. workers found that the increased range of opportunities was simply too much for one committee to handle. (The situation might have been partly A.A.'s own fault. Co-founder Bill W. wrote, "Pioneers in the total field will generously say that had it not been for the living proof of recovery in A.A., they could not have gone on. A.A. was the lodestar of hope and help that kept them at it." And P.I. committees did spread the word that recovery was possible for large numbers of alcoholics.)

What is now the C.P.C. Committee of the A.A. General Service Board was formed in 1970, as an offshoot of the older P.I. Committee, and the Conference followed suit in 1971 with its own committee. The division of labor took place more slowly at the area and local levels. But it was well under way by the end of the decade, and as the figures cited at the opening of this article show, growth has speeded up. Local A.A.'s didn't dutifully emulate the trustees and the Conference — on their own initiative, they responded to changing circumstances in their own areas, when new treatment centers appeared in remote localities and more counselors began to specialize in helping the alcoholic.

P.I. and C.P.C. committees are linked in still another way: At their start, both roused misgivings among some Tradition-minded A.A.'s. P.I. workers had to convince fellow members that Tradition Eleven was safe; that mentions of A.A. in the public media were not necessarily promotion; that the Fellowship could exercise its attraction only if people knew it was there. Similarly, C.P.C. committees had to make it clear that they were respecting Tradition Six, emphasizing the "cooperation" part of their name and avoiding affiliation in their contacts with outside agencies. The long form of that Tradition says that "an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone," and Bill W. advised, "Let's be friendly with our friends."

Glance at the newcomer walking through the doorway into your home group's meeting, and you may not see anything that looks like a committee at work. But there may have been an A.A. public service announcement on a local TV channel in the grim small hours of the morning—thanks to your area's P.I. committee. Or a convincing suggestion may have been offered by a counselor—who had received material from your C.P.C. committee. Either way, mission accomplished: Another alcoholic is with us, ready to begin a new life.

Meet Our Newest G.S.O. Staff Member

There's an attractive new face in our offices here at G.S.O. It belongs to our most recent addition to the staff: Eileen G. Eileen is replacing Beth K., who retired after 24 years of exceptional and devoted service.

Now ten years sober in A.A., Eileen was born in England, where she grew up and taught school before emigrating to the United States. Since settling here, Eileen has worked as a production assistant and later as a newsletter, journal, and book editor for nonprofit organizations.

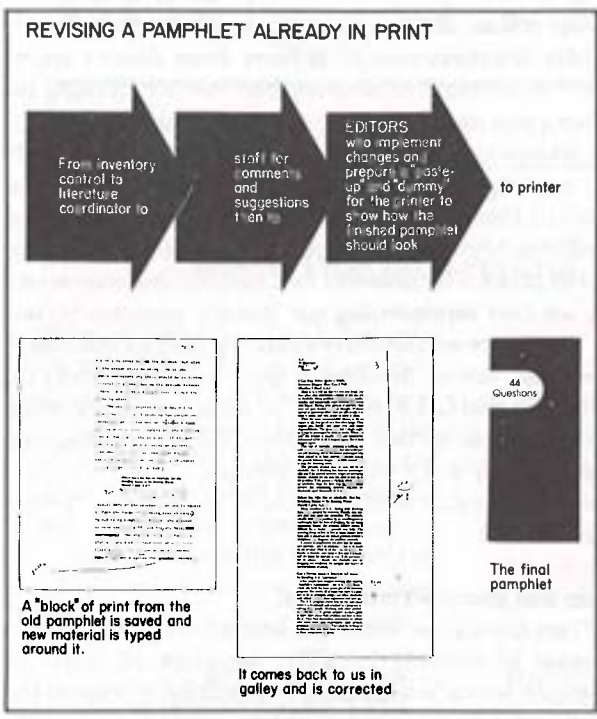
She has been active in A.A. in New York with group, intergroup, and institutions service, is married to an A.A. member, and has two stepchildren.

Eileen's initial assignment on the staff is correctional facilities; she serves as secretary of the trustees' and Conference Committees on Correctional Facilities, and is responsible for the *Correctional Facilities Bulletin*.

At Bob's Signal, Presses Start Whirring On A.A. Literature

Each year, over 7,000,000 copies of 70 pamphlets and brochures, six different hardcover books, and two softcover booklets make their way from printers into the hands of alcoholics wherever they may be.

It may never have occurred to any of the grateful readers of A.A. literature that this outpouring of experience, wisdom, and guidance represents a mammoth publishing enterprise, calling for professional direction



Bob Cubelo (nonalcoholic) alerts staff and editors at G.S.O. when our stock of a pamphlet is running low and a new printing is needed. That's the time to implement any extensive revisions called for by the Conference. When the revised material is ready, Bob—with prudent regard for Fellowship funds and for quality as well as economy—chooses the best typographer and printer for the job. After approval of the final proof, presses roll. This one is at Arcata Graphics, Fairfield, Pa., current printer of the Big Book.

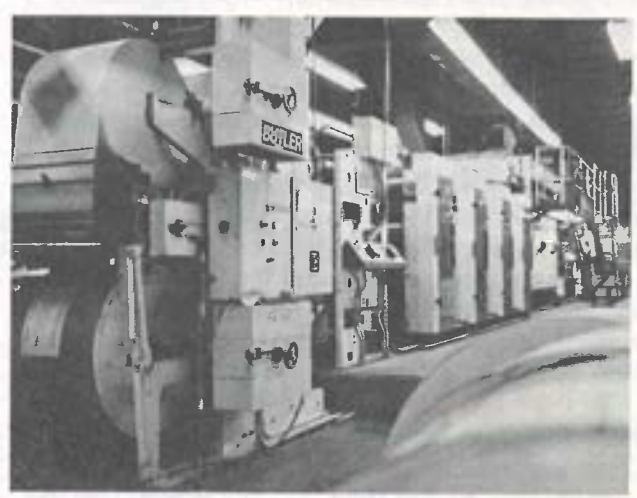
and publishing know-how. Well, it does, and we would like to tell you something about one of the people who make it all work on a daily basis here at G.S.O.

Robert Cubelo is his name; he is a nonalcoholic; and he is officially in charge of Print Purchasing and Production. But that hardly scratches the surface of Bob's responsibilities and the dedication he exhibits in performing his work. Each piece of literature, be it pamphlet or hardcover publication, must be sent out for bids by printers. After sifting through costs, printers' capabilities, delivery schedules, and myriad other details, Bob then lets the contract that starts presses whirring, and out the other end of this process comes the finished product—in enormous quantities.

Bob Cubelo started with A.A. World Services, Inc., in 1978 as an inventory clerk. Over the years, he has learned his trade so well that he is now in charge of a publishing process representing millions of A.A. dollars committed for printing and eventual distribution. In addition, Bob routinely orders high-volume service material.

Bob is married, lives in New Jersey with his wife and four children, and spent 13 years as a police officer in Englewood, N.J. His police experience with the narcotics division there has given him a fine understanding of alcohol and drug abuse that he can readily relate to his work with us. "I feel," says Bob, "that every book, pamphlet, booklet, and piece of information we publish helps alcoholics to recognize their disease and deal with it on a daily basis the A.A. way. My job is to get the message out—literally!"

You said it, Bob. And keep those presses whirring!



From G.S.O.'s Mailbag

Only a few weeks after we received this letter from the Peacekeeping Group in Beirut, Lebanon, news of the bombing disaster in late October gave its words a terrible poignancy. At this writing, we do not know the outcome. Apart from the members' A.A. activities, John O. said, "We have been very busy doing other things, like trying to stay alive."

The Peacekeeping Group was holding meetings as often as possible, usually two or three a week. John said, "Some of our members have difficulty leaving their field positions to get to battalion headquarters for meetings,

so our meetings have only four people, with four other members on the front lines in the field.

"We've been successful in carrying the message to three newcomers. The other five of us were already members of A.A. when we left the States in May.

"We are very grateful for the chance to begin our A.A. group here, and we thank you for your extra help in this project. We hope that when we leave in November, our following marines and sailors will continue the group as it is now. Though they will be a new bunch of servicemen, we think it's possible there may be an alcoholic in the bunch who will continue the Peacekeeping Group. God bless and goodwill."

A loving invitation

From Albuquerque, N.M., the Heights Group Steering Committee extends a loving invitation to A.A. travelers: "At a recent business meeting, a group conscience was taken to invite outside speakers for our group speaker meetings. These meetings are held Thursday nights and Sunday mornings.

"Naturally, we cannot afford to pay expenses on a regular basis. Yet we recognize the value of hearing as wide a variety of A.A. talk as possible. Our hope is that persons planning to travel through our area and interested in sharing at these speaker meetings might see this invitation and contact us, so that we might arrange schedules. With only two or three weeks' notice, we would be delighted to listen to 'how it works' in other areas where our Fellowship has flourished."

If you are planning to travel through Albuquerque and are interested in sharing with the Heights Group, contact: Heights Group Steering Committee, 9919 McKnight, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112.

'Searching and fearless'

As one means toward improved vitality and a strengthening, freeing ability to carry the message, the Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Area has prepared a suggested format for a district inventory. Here are the items that district service workers are considering:

1. Are the *district committees* functioning well? Are they serving the district?
2. Are your *district officers* doing their jobs? Secretary? Treasurer? District committee member? Alternate D.C.M.?
3. Are your *D.C.M. and alternate* aware of what's going on within the district? Reaching out to the district as a whole? Able to handle situations that may arise within the district? Keeping you informed of what's going on within the district? Best representing the district's group conscience (not their own)? Regularly attending district meetings? Functions? Area meetings? District and area committee meetings? Keeping you informed of happenings at the area level—meetings, committees, functions, problems?

4. Are we as G.S.R.'s keeping our groups informed? Regular announcements? Reports from district meetings? Committees? Mini-assembly? Are we working together (well and frequently) with the other officers in our groups (alternate G.S.R.'s, secretaries, treasurers)? Are we helping budget our group's finances with the 60-30-10 Plan? Do we have a working knowledge of the Traditions? Are we turning to the district committee or district officers for answers to situations that may arise? Are we best representing the group's conscience (not our own)? Are we regularly attending district meetings? Functions? Are we involved in any committee work? Do we realize that G.S.R. may be the most important office in the general service structure? Are we sharing our mail and *Box 4-5-9* with our groups?

5. Are we familiar with pages 34-43 in "The A.A. Service Manual"?

Hello out there—Tenth Step!

Then there's the letter (or letters) we *didn't* get. In a mood of suitable humility, we were all ready to apologize to readers spotting a conspicuous error in the last *Box 4-5-9*. Not a word did we hear! We hope you weren't just being polite—it's *your* bulletin. In any case, we do take a sincere Tenth Step.

Now, one more chance. What's wrong with this quote? "The Twelfth Warrant, under Concept Four, recommends 'that all important decisions . . .'"

Regional Forum Memo for Your Calendar

Is your A.A. group in one of the regions listed below? Or are you likely to be traveling there at the right time? If so, you'll want to note the dates and location for a memorable experience, enthralling for those in A.A. service work, enlightening for those who want to know more about it.

Date	Region	Site
1984		
March 2-4	Western Canada	Vancouver, B.C.
May 18-20	Pacific	Seattle, Wash.
July 13-15	Hawaii	Honolulu, Haw.
September 7-9	Eastern Canada	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
December	Southeast	Charleston, S.C.

To obtain a registration/reservation form for the event you're interested in, write to: Regional Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Calendars in the appropriate issues of this bulletin will include reminders about all Forums.

Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.'s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking.

Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



1. *Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season.* Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2. *Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.* If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3. *Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time.* If a drinking urge or panic comes — postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4. *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go.* If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5. *Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about.* Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6. *If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.*



7. *Don't think you have to stay late.* Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8. *Go to church.* Any church.



9. *Don't sit around brooding.* Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10. *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations.* Remember — "one day at a time."



11. *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy.* Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.



12. *"Having had a . . ."* No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

Planning a February, March, or April Event?

Please be sure to send your information on February, March, or April events for A.A.'s in time to reach G.S.O. by *December 15*. This is the calendar deadline for the February-March issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed January 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.

Calendar of Events

December

- 2 — *Kakabeka Falls, Ontario, Canada.* Anniv. Dinner, Speaker, Dance. Write: Chm., Box 4, Kakabeka Falls, Ont. POT 1N0
- 2-4 — *Sikeston, Missouri.* Third Annual Five-State Roundup. Write: Coord., 205 N. Jackson, Kennett, MO 63857
- 2-4 — *Denver, Colorado.* S.W. Reg. Forum. Write: Reg. Forum Coord., P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163
- 2-4 — *Del Rio, Texas.* Ninth Annual Border Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1442, Del Rio, TX 78840

December continued

- 2-4 — *Flat River, Missouri*. Ozark Agape Weekend. Write: Coord., P.O. Box 1466, Ballwin, MO 63011
- 2-4 — *Fairbanks, Alaska*. Quarterly Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 75331, Fairbanks, AK 99707
- 3-4 — *St. Cloud, Minnesota*. Cloudy Town Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 301, St. Cloud, MN 56302
- 23-25 — *Yakima, Washington*. Miracle Group Alkathon. Write: Miracles, 306 W. Walnut, Yakima, WA 98902
- 23-26 — *Belmont, California*. Ninth Annual San Mateo Co. Holiday Alkathon. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1176, El Granada, CA 94018
- 24-25 — *London, Ontario, Canada*. Third Annual Alkathon. Write: Ch., 711—112 Arbor Glen Cres., London, Ont. N5Y 2A2
- 24-25 — *Odessa, Texas*. Tenth Annual Christmas Alkathon. Write: Ch., 419 W. 4th St., Suite 826, Odessa, TX 79761
- 24-25 — *Minneapolis, Minnesota*. Christmas Alkathon. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 19194, Minneapolis, MN 55419
- 24-26 — *Detroit, Michigan*. Third Annual Chapel Christmas Alkathon. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 43202, Detroit, MI 48243
- 30-Jan. 2 — *Belmont, California*. Ninth Annual San Mateo Co. Holiday Alkathon. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1176, El Granada, CA 94018
- 31-Jan. 1 — *Minneapolis, Minnesota*. New Year's Alkathon. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 19194, Minneapolis, MN 55419
- 31-Jan. 1 — *Charleston, South Carolina*. Fifth Annual New Year's Eve Alkathon. Write: Alkathon, P.O. Box 90302, Hanahan, SC 29410
- 31-Jan. 2 — *Yakima, Washington*. Miracle Group Alkathon. Write: Miracles, 306 W. Walnut, Yakima, WA 98902

January

- 6-8 — *Padre Island, Texas*. Tenth Annual Jamboree. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 5453, Brownsville, TX 78520
- 6-8 — *Dodge City, Kansas*. S.W. Kans. Conf. Write: Secy., Box 657, Hugoton, KS 67951
- 12-15 — *Pine Mountain, Georgia*. Pine Fellowship. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 617, Pine Mountain, GA 31822
- 13-15 — *Midland, Texas*. 14th Midwinter Conf. Write: Ch., 2013 Princeton, Midland, TX 79701
- 13-15 — *Galveston, Texas*. 22nd Annual Area Conf. Write: Treas., P.O. Box 253, Galveston, TX 77550
- 14-15 — *San Francisco, California*. First Annual Bay Daze Conf. Write: B.A.Y.P.A.A., P.O. Box 1523, El Cerrito, CA 94530
- 19-22 — *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. Tenth Annual Winter Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 236, St. James P.O., Winnipeg, Man. R3J 3N7
- 20-22 — *Decatur, Illinois*. Second Annual State Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1115, Decatur, IL 62525
- 20-22 — *Hilton Head Island, South Carolina*. Fourth Annual Midwinter Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 6256, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
- 20-22 — *Biloxi, Mississippi*. Third Annual Gulf Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1502, Gulfport, MS 39501
- 20-22 — *Winston-Salem, North Carolina*. 17th Tar Heel Midwinter Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27619
- 27-28 — *Blytheville, Arkansas*. 27th Annual Tri-State Coon Supper. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 873, Blytheville, AR 72315
- 27-29 — *Brainerd, Minnesota*. Sixth Annual Paul Bunyan Roundup. Write: Tkt. Ch., 322 N. 9th St., Brainerd, MN 56401
- 27-29 — *Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Canada*. 13th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 94, Kindersley, Sask. S0L 1S0
- 27-29 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. Fifth Annual Young People's Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 85125, Las Vegas, NV 89185
- 28-29 — *Houma, Louisiana*. Big Book Study. Write: Ch., Big Book Com., 707 E. Main St., Houma, LA 70360

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

December (page 23): anonymity; holidays; Step Four; fringe benefits.

January (page 35): freedom in sobriety; "Trust is faith in action"; the Steps; A.A. unity.

February

- 3-5 — *Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*. 33rd Annual Rally. Write: Ch., #8—2020 Douglas St., Victoria, B.C. V8T 4L1
- 3-5 — *Salem, Oregon*. First Annual Dist. 4 Intergroup Soberfest. Write: Soberfest, P.O. Box 5418, Salem, OR 97304
- 4-6 — *North Hollywood, California*. Ninth Annual San Fernando Valley Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 33213, Granada Hills, CA 91344
- 10-12 — *Elliot Lake, Ontario, Canada*. Third Annual N. Shore Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 322, Elliot Lake, Ont. T5A 2J8
- 10-12 — *Camrose, Alberta, Canada*. Third Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1387, Camrose, Alta. T4V 1X3
- 10-12 — *Overland Park, Kansas*. Second Sunflower Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1281, Mission, KS 66222
- 11-12 — *Canora, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 871, Canora, Sask. S0A 0L0
- 16-18 — *Fresno, California*. All-Calif. Young People's Conv. Write: Ch., Box 15087, Fresno, CA 93702
- 17-19 — *El Paso, Texas*. 22nd Annual Jamboree. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 1405, El Paso, TX 79948
- 17-19 — *Rio Rico, Arizona*. Area Assy. and Sharing Session. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 331, Green Valley, AZ 85622
- 17-19 — *Little Rock, Arkansas*. Second Annual Dist. 9 Mini-Conf. Write: Treas., 1431 Kavanaugh St., Little Rock, AR 72205
- 17-19 — *Buchanan, Tennessee*. Second Annual State Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 241062, Memphis, TN 38124