



ABOUT A.A.

...a newsletter for professional men and women

July 1978

Milton A. Maxwell Becomes Head of A.A. Board

Milton A. Maxwell, Ph.D., nonalcoholic from Olympia, Wash., was elected chairperson of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (U.S. and Canada) in April. He succeeds John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., New London, N.H., nonalcoholic member of our board of trustees since 1951, now chairperson emeritus.



Milton has served on the board since 1971. Before that he was, for several years, a member of the Corporate Board of our magazine, the A.A. Grapevine. He has been a member of the trustees' Committees on Archives and Cooperation with the Professional Community.

A retired professor of sociology in the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., Dr. Maxwell was also executive director of the Rutgers Summer School of Alcohol Studies.

Milton first encountered A.A. in the 1940's, when a friend of his joined Alcoholics Anonymous and stopped drinking. Intrigued, Milton wrote his doctoral dissertation (one of the first about A.A.) for the University of Texas, Austin, on "Social Factors in the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous."

He has done extensive research and writing on the Washingtonian movement and other such pre-A.A. organizations, on occupational alcoholism, on sources of tension between A.A. and professionals, on alcoholism among the elderly, and on the functioning of A.A. groups.

Our other nonalcoholic trustees now are: Michael Alexander, lawyer, New York, N.Y.; John D. Bealer, M.D., Bethlehem, Pa.; W. J. Estelle Jr., corrections official, Huntsville, Tex.; Arthur J. Miles, banker, New York, N.Y.; and Gordon M. Patrick, consultant on occupational (alcoholism) programs, Lyndhurst, Ont.

About the Enclosures

Four new A.A. publications are enclosed with this issue of *About A.A.*

"Where Do I Go From Here?" is for patients soon to be discharged from treatment centers.

"Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" has information and suggestions for A.A. members who carry the A.A. message to correctional facilities.

"A.A. at a Glance" is for mass distribution wherever A.A.'s speak to non-A.A. groups. It tells what A.A. does *not* do, why we maintain anonymity in the public media, how A.A. is supported financially, how to find A.A., and other basic facts.

"Circles of Love and Service" describes the A.A. service structure, and illustrates the relationships among its various elements.

Judicial Conference Hears A.A.'s

During the Judicial Education Conference on Alcohol Abuse, American Academy on Judicial Education, May 1-5 in Oak Brook, Ill., 65 judges heard three A.A. members at three workshops.

"The program was a tremendous success," writes Nathan S. Kirsch, retired judge of the Municipal Court, Hackensack, N.J., who arranged the program. "Those who heard these speakers were, for the first time, introduced to A.A. and its effectiveness in dealing with alcoholics. . . . The judges were fascinated and were made amenable to using A.A. as a tool in helping alcoholic defendants."

Dr. Jack to Attend International Congress

Nonalcoholic Dr. Jack Norris, chairperson emeritus of our General Service Board, will attend the 32nd International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence,

in Warsaw, Poland, Sept. 3-8, 1978, to reveal findings of the first ten-nation survey of A.A. members. At that time, we'll devote this newsletter to highlights of the survey results and a description of how the study was made.

N.C.A. Honors MacCormick



Austin MacCormick is known as the "dean of American corrections." For many years he headed the Osborne Association, New York, N.Y., one of the most prestigious penal reform groups in America. He is also, we are proud to say, a nonalcoholic trustee emeritus of our General Service Board, having served on it from 1949

until his retirement in 1977 (with ten years off, when he was a professor of criminology, University of California at Berkeley).

So we were gratified, in April, when the National Council on Alcoholism presented him its highest honor, the Gold Key award, for distinguished service in the field of alcoholism. The presentation was in St. Louis.

N.C.A. Sessions Explore Contemporary A.A. Functioning

During its annual forum, in St. Louis, Mo., in April, the National Council on Alcoholism (N.C.A.) took three looks at the way A.A. operates today.

"Rehab Center Bridges to A.A. Sponsorship" was the title of a panel moderated by Sarah P. of A.A.'s General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York. Panelists were Calvin Adams of Chit Chat Farms and Caron Hospital, Wernersville, Pa.; Daniel J. Anderson, Ph.D., Hazelden Foundation, Center City, Minn.; and Gordon Patrick, Lyndhurst, Ont., nonalcoholic trustee on our General Service Board.

Dick Goldberg, director of the St. Louis Council on Alcoholism, headed a discussion on "How A.A. and Other Community Efforts Cooperate." Other participants were local members of A.A.

"How A.A. Cooperates With Medical and Nursing Schools" was the third, with Gordon Patrick as moderator. On the program were Irvin L. Blose of the Alcohol and Chemical Dependence Center, Omaha,

Nebr.; Frances Weed, R.N., of George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.; and Ted R., A.A. member from Tucson, Ariz.

A.A. World Session Set for Finland

For the fifth World Service Meeting (W.S.M.) of A.A. in Helsinki, Finland, Oct. 5-7, 1978, delegates from almost a score of nations are expected.

From each country or zone (for example, the northern zone of Central America) developed enough in A.A. numbers and finances, the local counterpart of our own A.A. General Service Board sends two delegates. The delegates meet for three days of "sharing experience."

A.A. in each country is autonomous (as each A.A. group is), so the W.S.M. has no power over A.A. groups and members. It is simply a way of pooling information about A.A. challenges, successes, and techniques, so they can be shared by all.

At the 1974 meeting in London, representatives from 15 countries attended. In New York, for the 1976 session, were delegates from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Toward Better Cooperation

A.A.'s 28th General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada), meeting in New York in April, adopted a strong Advisory Action recommended by the Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, as follows:

"A.A. members who meet with the administration of a treatment facility concerning the formation of an A.A. group on its premises should explain group autonomy as well as what A.A. can and cannot do (Traditions), and also have a good understanding of the facility's rules and regulations. After mutual agreements are reached, it is important that this information be shared with the A.A.'s who will be attending the group's meetings. It was suggested that groups meeting in treatment facilities try to abide by the self-support Tradition. If money for rent is not accepted by a facility, groups should contribute in some other way. It was also felt that A.A.'s employed by the facility should not run the groups at the facility."