

# BOX 4-5-9

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A. A.

Vol. 23, No. 4

August-September 1978

## Is Your Group in Close Touch With A.A. as a Whole?

Does your group have a post office box? It is by far the most efficient way for the group to get its mail—other than parcels—from your General Service Office (G.S.O.). While members rotate out of group offices, a group P.O. box remains a *permanent* address, desirable for most mailings.

Parcels may be an exception. They can be shipped by parcel post, but this is often slower than U.P.S., which does require a *street* address. So you may want to give a street address when placing orders for literature or other material needed urgently. But you will find a group P.O. box more useful for general purposes.

A Group Handbook (for new groups), your copy of the appropriate A.A. directory, news bulletins like this one, and much other A.A. material are sent to U.S. and Canadian A.A. groups from G.S.O. But these goodies arrive only when

G.S.O. has correct mailing information about your group.

Do we have, right now . . .

1. Your group's current mailing address?—preferably, P.O. box number (with ZIP Code).
2. Correct name and address of your current general service representative (G.S.R.)? (If there has been a recent change, be sure to tell us the name of the previous G.S.R.)
3. Names and telephone numbers of group contacts, for visiting A.A.'s who need to talk to another member?
4. Accurate, up-to-date information on your group's meeting place and days? This is essential for a traveling A.A. who wants to find a meeting.
5. Your group's correct name? A group may be called by a nickname (perhaps telling where it meets, such as "St. Luke's" or "Legion Hall"). But when the

group first asked to be listed at G.S.O. years ago, it was called the Middletown Group or Serenity Group, and that is still the name we have in our Records Department, unless you changed it.

6. If we have a recent letter or order from you, does it have your group's service (account) number on it? We need this on all correspondence from your group. Matters will move much faster if the number is clearly printed.

It seems a shame for any A.A. group not to get all the free material and services it is entitled to from G.S.O. simply because no one has notified us of a move, or the new G.S.R.'s name.

It also seems a shame that any A.A. group should be deprived of its voice in A.A.'s worldwide affairs. But that is exactly what happens when a group does not have a conscientious G.S.R.

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### NEXT REGIONAL FORUM DATES

For 1978, two more regional forums are scheduled.

U.S. Pacific Region (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington): in Sacramento, Calif., Sept. 15-17.

U.S. Northeast Region (Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont): in

*(continued on p. 6)*

### What 'Conference-Approved' Means



When you see this emblem and the words "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature," they mean only one thing.

Such a publication represents the broadest possible consensus of A.A. thinking. It is *not* just one small locality's interpretation, nor the ideas of only one member.

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Mail address: P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Subscriptions: Individual, \$1.50 per year; group, \$3.50 for each unit of 10 per yr. Check — made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc. — should accompany order.

## JACK'S PARTING GIFT

Jack M. retired from the Grapevine editorship April 30 after 17 years of service to A.A.'s magazine. The new editor is Ann W., on the Grapevine staff since 1975. (We'll tell you more about Ann in the next Box 4-5-9.)

Fear not—Jack has promised to keep producing "Victor E.," the popular GV cartoon strip he originated. As a parting "gift," he helped the Grapevine produce name tags for all kinds of A.A. functions, with a (for once) happy Victor saying, "Hi!" (They may be ordered from the Grapevine, Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017. The prices: the stick-on pressure kind at \$2 per 100 or \$15 per 1,000; the kind to be inserted in plastic pin-on holders, \$3.50 for 100, \$30 for 1,000.)

Jack had been a syndicated cartoonist before joining A.A. For our magazine, he did practically everything—layout, illustrations titles. Under Jack's editorship the magazine reached the 100,000 circulation mark with the March issue this year.

At the Conference, Jack thanked A.A. for its gifts to him, the greatest of which, he said, is faith.

Few A.A.'s have had such widespread, beneficent influence on our entire Fellowship as Jack, but only those who saw him quietly at work know that. He is happily engaged in a new project. Even so, we might feel sad at his retirement if we weren't sure Jack is still standing by—ready to help out in a moment if needed. Au revoir, and happy new career, good friend!

## PEDDLERS AT A.A. MEETINGS

Sellers of A.A. trinkets are generally not encouraged at A.A. conventions, conferences, and other gatherings, according to the consensus reached by the 28th General Service Conference in April.

The Conference also advised G.S.O. to stop maintaining a list of firms that market lighters, stickers, jewelry, plaques, etc. to A.A. members.

A.A.'s job is to carry the message, not help manufacturers and peddlers profit on trinkets, the Conference felt.

## SPANISH-SPEAKING A.A.'S INCREASINGLY ACTIVE

At the 1978 National Spanish-Speaking A.A. Convention in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 1-3, the theme is expected to involve more cooperation with, and participation in, the U.S./Canada Third Legacy system. It will demonstrate again what we already know—no matter what tongue is used, A.A.'s language of the heart is universal.

The Hispanic convention theme will probably reflect a trend already evident in much of North America, where more and more Spanish-speaking groups are making their voices heard in local A.A. affairs, as well as in area assemblies and other general service circles.

In Southwestern Texas, for example, there's a bilingual committee with four subcommittees, and the alternate delegate is bilingual. Northwestern Texas has a Hispanic district committee member (D.C.M.), two Spanish-speaking general service representatives (G.S.R.'s), and a bilingual district treasurer.

In Southern New Jersey, four Spanish-speaking groups are represented at the area assembly. In the San Diego, Calif., Area, there is one Spanish-speaking district with six G.S.R.'s. Other California areas, too, are in close communi-

cation with Latino groups and members.

Southern Florida has a bilingual alternate Conference delegate. A Spanish committee in Southeastern New York sends a bilingual D.C.M. to the assembly.

Those are only a few examples of many such developments. But even where Hispanic groups are not yet very active in the Third Legacy, A.A. crossing of language barriers keeps happening in thrilling ways. In Illinois, for instance, a Hispanic newcomer arrived two years ago unable to speak or read English. But he stayed, and after two years gave his first A.A. talk—in English.

## AGAIN, THANK YOU

Your response to two recent Box 4-5-9 requests was highly welcome. We got many suggestions for a theme for A.A.'s 1980 International Convention in New Orleans, La. Final choice will be made by the Convention Committee and the General Service Board, and will be announced in the next Box 4-5-9.

You also added considerably to our list of members who can help translate A.A. material into other tongues, or check such translations. Many thanks!

## NEW FLYERS AVAILABLE

Two new A.A. publications follow the popular "A.A. at a Glance" format—a single sheet, of the standard A.A. pamphlet size.

The brown-on-yellow "Where Do I Go From Here?" is for mass distribution to patients of hospitals, nursing homes, detox units, rest farms, rehabs, and other treatment centers for alcoholics.

The blue-on-white "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" contains tips for A.A.'s who speak in correctional institutions.

Both new flyers are free and are now available from G.S.O. for use by the committees concerned.

## Trustee Corner

### INTRODUCING OUR NEW TRUSTEES

A solid background of A.A. service distinguishes both members named by the 1978 Conference for election to the General Service Board as regional trustees, with four-year terms.

George D. (Pacific U.S.), Tiburon, Calif., was a Panel 25 delegate (1975-76 Conferences) and chairperson of the 1976 Conference Finance Committee. He had previously been a G.S.R., a D.C.M., and an alternate delegate. Prior to general service activities, he served for several years in various capacities for the San Francisco Bay Area Intercounty Fellowship, and has been on its Twelfth Step list for 15 years. George is vice-president and director of an insurance corporation.

Fernand I. (Eastern Canada), Montreal, Que., comes to the board with 17 years of sobriety. He was a Panel 18 Conference delegate (1968-69). Helping to carry the message in his native language, he became editor of *La Vigne A.A.* in 1968 and was chief translator of the Big Book and the Twelve Concepts into French. Fernand is a television producer.

### 'ARE WE SITTING BACK AND WAITING?'

*At the delegates' meeting held during the 1978 Conference, a presentation by Jim D. (Nev.) brought up provocative ideas, as excerpts will show.*

Certain things have made me take a closer look at our Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community and the attitude of A.A. members toward professionals.

The Twelfth Step says, "we tried to carry this message to alcoholics . . ." It does *not* say, "when-ever they call." The Fifth Tradition says, "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." It does *not* say, "when he or she is willing to listen to me."

Where would we be today if the early members of A.A. had waited for someone to call? They didn't wait for someone to think, "I've got a drinking problem. I'll call Alcoholics Anonymous." No. They "tried to carry the message to alcoholics." They went to hospitals. They went to jails. They went to ministers and doctors. They carried the message *to* the alcoholic.

Are we today sitting back and waiting for the alcoholic to call? *(to be continued)*

## Delegate Corner

## G.S.R. Corner

### IN CLOSE TOUCH? *(continued from p. 1)*

The G.S.R. is the vital link between the group and all the rest of our Fellowship. (See the new pamphlet "G.S.R. May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.") It is chiefly the responsibility of the G.S.R. to keep communications channels open from every part of A.A. to every other. An important aspect of that responsibility is making sure that G.S.O. has correct mailing information about your group.

There are two types of Group Information Record forms. One is for listing a new group with G.S.O.; the other, for updating and correcting old information. If you need either, write G.S.O. for it.

Then, as soon as the completed forms are returned to us, we can make sure the group receives its full share of services from G.S.O. With our new electronic data processing system, corrections that used to take days can be made in minutes.

Believe it or not, we do get mail like this: "Dear G.S.O.: Here's a \$10 bill. Please send us a Big Book and credit the rest as a contribution from our group. Love, Joe and Clara W."

No last names. (And therefore cash enclosed, in-  
*(continued on next page)*)

### CENTRAL OFFICE NEWSLETTERS HELPFUL

Central office (C.O.) bulletins and newsletters have long been an important service furnished by many A.A. intergroups and C.O.'s. They keep local groups and members informed about community A.A. affairs, and also can carry international A.A. news of interest.

When they are published with scrupulous regard for our Traditions, and when proper credit is always given for material quoted from A.A. literature, these bulletins can stimulate much interest in local activities and other A.A. subjects.

The latest revision (April 1978) of A.A. Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices now lists eight suggestions for making such a newsletter interesting and always welcome. They are based on actual experience of various C.O.'s in the U.S. and Canada, and might perk up any such publication. For example—have you thought of a "theme" issue? Letters from readers? Reports on C.O. finances? Cartoons? For details on these and other suggestions, ask G.S.O. for a copy of the Guidelines.

## Central Office Corner

## IN CLOSE TOUCH? (continued)

stead of a check—in spite of G.S.O.'s many pleas.) No group name or service number. No address—not even the city, state, or province. How would *you* answer that letter?

We know what will happen. In a month or so, we'll get a sharp note from "Joe" and "Clara," asking what goes on. If we can read the postmark, we might figure out from our records, after days of searching, where to reply.

Every year, your area delegate to the General Service Conference in New York gets a complete print-out of the information we have on all the groups in your area. With the help of the area committee, district committee members (D.C.M.'s), and G.S.R.'s, the delegate tries very hard to check all information and send us necessary changes. What we have in our records is then quickly brought up-

to-date and noted for the next directory printing.

But further changes often occur soon after the information is compiled. It is then we have to depend on the G.S.R. to notify us promptly.

Each new general service representative gets from us a special letter, a copy of the pamphlet describing the job, and "The A.A. Service Manual." This last is for the group, and should be passed on to the G.S.R.'s successor when the time comes. (Material sent to a new *group* also belongs to the group, not to the individual to whom it was sent.)

A.A. is, thank God, no longer a small, struggling family of ex-drunks. There are now more than a million of us in more than 30,000 groups. But we can stay in close touch, just like a small family, if everyone tries to keep the channels of communications flowing.

G.S.R.'s, we count on you!

## SHARING SOME OF OUR MAIL

### Invitation from Canada

"During the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada—August 3-12, 1978—the city of Edmonton is expecting approximately 50,000 visitors. The A.A. groups in our area have decided to make daytime meetings available each day. Presently, we have regular daytime meetings only on weekends. Any A.A. member may contact our central office for time and place of these meetings.

"Our city is one of the few without 24-hour telephone-answering service and without a notice in the daily newspaper (these have been voted down at our intergroup meetings). During the games, we *will* have these services, and we hope that we can convince the A.A. groups in our area of the need, and that these will become regular services."—Jan D., Edmonton, Alta.

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## MATERIAL FOR BLIND ALCOHOLICS AVAILABLE

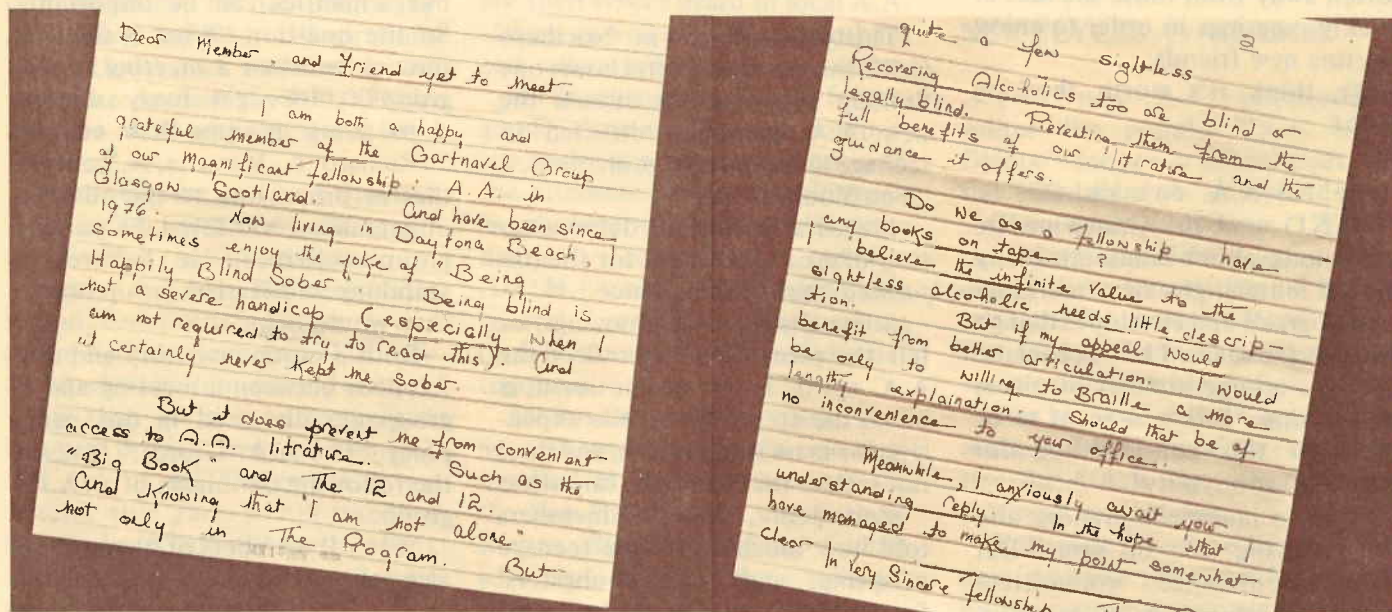
Hard to believe at first, but the letter reproduced here is from a blind A.A., John R., Daytona Beach, Fla. Written on ridged paper, so lines can be followed by touch,

it is a humorous missive with a serious question: Is A.A. material available in Braille?

Yes indeed. Write G.S.O. for details.

The Braille items are referred to in the enclosed list of more than 40 specialized pieces of service mate-

rial available from G.S.O. Not every member has need for each piece, of course, but maybe your group should know about them, in case two or three members have a particular use for some. It might be a good idea to keep the list in your Group Handbook.



## SHARING SOME OF OUR MAIL (continued from p. 4)

### Meetings in a nursing home

"There will never be an unemployment problem for me in A.A. A member of ours is in a nursing home, and some of us decided to hold a meeting for her there. I spoke to the administrator to get permission. She asked if I could hold regular weekly meetings. Then she contacted her superiors and was told to give me all the cooperation I needed. I had never before realized the need for A.A. in nursing homes."—David G., Ocala, Fla.

### Seat-saving—for whom?

Any of us who travel know how wonderful it is to go to a strange meeting and find an open, friendly atmosphere, where you feel any place you sit is meant for you.

But an anonymous Maryland correspondent tells of going to big A.A. conventions and meetings and, wherever he tried to sit, being waved away with a curt "This seat is saved." He gets almost fighting mad at this.

By contrast, at a large A.A. gathering, one woman went to a table with one vacant seat and asked if it was reserved. "Yes," several answered the stranger, "for you—we were waiting for you!"

She said she had deliberately gotten away from those she sees at weekly meetings in order to enjoy meeting new friends.

We think it's worth thinking about.

### Please! No 'A.A.' on mail

"G.S.O. and the Grapevine are scrupulous about eliminating any and all telltale, giveaway markings on all parcels and envelopes that go through the mails. I know, because I receive a large number of pieces all the time. But you seem to be alone in this consideration for members' anonymity!

"I go to many conferences, and like receiving info on same. But many conference committees stamp and print 'A.A.' all over out-

side pieces, including return postcards with names all spelled out. One before me now is a postcard with my name, address, and telephone number, and it is pre-addressed to 'Brand X A.A. Hoopla, P.O. Box . . .' etc. Do we have to rehash the obvious?"—Jeanie H., North Highlands, Calif.

Our A.A. directories specifically ask that the words "Alcoholics Anonymous" or the initials "A.A." not be used on any envelope, postcard, or wrapper.

Maybe, if a number of individuals wrote to the offending committee, it would get the idea. If you know people mailing anything to A.A. members, please call this to their attention.

### Memorial donations

"A member of our group died recently, and we'd like to know if it is permissible to send a memorial contribution to G.S.O., with acknowledgment to be sent to the family."—Fred S., Dillon, S.C.

As long as the contribution comes from A.A. members, it is acceptable. The family does receive notice from G.S.O. of the in memoriam gift. See Item 4 on the back of our folder "A Penny a Day for Sobriety."

### 'TOO YOUNG?' EVALUATED

Thirty members in Northern California met for several hours one Sunday afternoon to discuss the new A.A. pamphlet directed to teenage and pre-teenage alcoholics, "Too Young?"

It was a wonderful demonstration of a careful search for the (*informed!*) group conscience.

Some disliked the drawings, or felt the piece does not reflect the A.A. spirit, is too promotional, is of no use to groups, is too expensive for mass distribution, and does not reflect the best A.A. can offer.

Repeatedly, however, members told how much their own teenage offspring, and their youngsters' friends, like it. The majority of

members who do public information and institutions work have found that teenagers in schools like it, as do residents of youth camps and juvenile halls. Many members had not realized the pamphlet is aimed at only one target audience—teenage alcoholics; it is *not* for older members already sober.

Closing the session, those present answered questions, with the following results. They voted almost four to one that there *should* be an A.A. pamphlet for teens, and five to one that "Too Young?" does not violate our Traditions. It will help get people to A.A., they voted almost five to one; but they found it to be promotion, rather than attraction, by about three to one. The majority approved of the pamphlet's script, but by a four to three margin, they did not approve of the art work.

According to Dean K., Panel 27 Conference delegate (Northern Coastal California), those present began with antipathy toward "Too Young?" But as the meeting progressed, there was a change, and finally, over 60% of those attending said they approved of the pamphlet.

### HOW IS A MEETING DIFFERENT FROM A GROUP?

Maybe it is a thin semantic line, but semantics can be important. So the question "What is the difference between a *meeting* and a *group*?" does get lively discussions going in some A.A. circles.

Richard T., Massena, N.Y., feels that in proportion to the number of members, too few take part in group activities. He believes a searching and fearless group inventory would help.

Both a group inventory and differences between a meeting and a group are discussed in our pamphlet "The A.A. Group." It gives the following definition of an A.A. group:

"(1) All members of a group are alcoholics, and all alcoholics are

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## MEETING—GROUP

(continued from p. 5)

eligible for membership. (2) As a group, they are fully self-supporting. (3) A group's primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through the Twelve Steps. (4) As a group, they have no outside affiliation. (5) As a group, they have no opinion on outside issues. (6) As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, and they maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio-TV, and film."

Richard says that "the benefits from group service are well worth the effort." He believes an alcoholic is helped by faithful commitment to *one* group, although, of course, the alcoholic can go to as many meetings of other groups as are available. "Recovery can be more gratifying when you give that little extra that service may require," he continues. "Those who do not help out in a group are missing many a joy.

"The *meeting* may have a fair-sized attendance, but the *group* may have to rely on only two or three—and in some cases, one person has to carry the ball by himself," Richard points out.

He concludes, "Thank the Lord for those dedicated servants. I wonder if some members realize how A.A. meetings are arranged. They certainly notice when the meeting is *not* there, or has not been set up on time. First thing they look for is a cup of coffee. I wonder how many take the time to think where that cup of hot coffee came from."

## 'CONFERENCE-APPROVED'

(continued from p. 1)

"As far as humanly possible," the seal says, in effect, "this piece reflects the spectrum of opinion of our whole Fellowship."

Any such A.A. material has been very carefully prepared under the close scrutiny of the G.S.O. staff,

of the appropriate trustees' and Conference committees, and of our General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada) itself, expressing the group conscience of A.A. as a whole.

The reason behind this procedure is simple. It is a way of preserving A.A.'s traditional independence. We are *not* affiliated with anyone else, and we do not oppose, nor do we endorse, any other ideas. We simply state (that is, publish) our own.

It does *not* mean the Conference disapproves of any other publications. Many local A.A. central offices publish their own meeting lists. A.A. as a whole does *not* oppose these, any more than A.A. disapproves of the Bible or books on health or any other publications from any source that A.A.'s find helpful.

What any A.A. member reads is no business of G.S.O., or of the Conference, naturally. But when you see the emblem shown at the top of this article, you can be sure the material has been through often tediously slow, sometimes tortuous screenings and revisions by the necessary committees and the Conference.

Many groups have found that the *place* where literature is displayed in the meeting room can be very important. Is it clearly visible? Can newcomers pick up some A.A. literature without feeling conspicuous?

It may be even more important that all Conference-approved A.A. material is exhibited *clearly separate from any other publications*. If new members or visitors see religious or medical pamphlets or other material about alcoholism mixed up with A.A. literature, they can become terribly confused about A.A.

We are *not* affiliated with, nor do we endorse, any viewpoint on alcoholism except our own. But Tradition Six becomes blurred when people see church, health, and A.A. publications all stacked together.

How about taking a look at your group's literature display at the next meeting? Pretend you are absolutely new. What impression of A.A. does the literature display give you?

## REGIONAL FORUM DATES

(continued from p. 1)

Hershey, Pa., Dec. 1-3.

At these sessions, any interested A.A.'s (in addition to those who work with the various service committees) are welcome to meet with G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members and with trustees for totally candid discussion, with no holds barred. The agenda is flexible.

There is no registration fee, but regional "trusted servants" pay their own expenses.

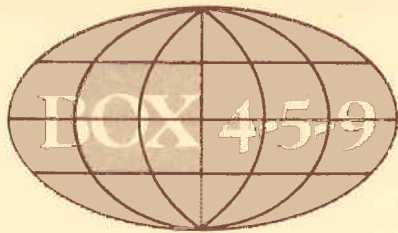
From the comments of one member on the recent Southeast Regional Forum, in Louisville, Ky., you may judge what lively and thought-provoking sessions they are. In a letter to G.S.O., Charles S., Pascagoula, Miss., wrote:

"Let me express my gratitude and appreciation for a well-planned and most informative forum.

"The high point was hearing Dr. Jack speak. It was the most moving talk I have ever heard in my life. How you who have worked with the man must love him!"

Referring to Sam S., Southeast U.S. regional trustee, who chaired the forum, Charles said, "Sam should have a gavel. Several times, he could have put it to good use—such as to pound on the hard head of a man who wouldn't take no for an answer. Sam did a wonderful job. My compliments to him."

Still more frankly, Charles commented, "The people registered should have done their homework before coming to Louisville. A lot of the questions they asked, they could have answered on their own. Cec [Cec C., Western Canada regional trustee] suggested that all read passages out of the Big Book their first night there. Did any take his suggestion?"



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

August-September 1978

ITEMS AND IDEAS ON AREA A.A. GATHERINGS—VIA G.S.O.

## A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 3-6 - *Southfield, Michigan*. International Doctors in A.A. Write: Secy., I.D.A.A., 1950 Volney Rd., Youngstown, OH 44511
- 4-6 - *Reno, Nevada*. First Annual Sierra Nevada Young at Heart Roundup. Write: Conv. Ch., 1795 Vassar St., Reno, NV 89509
- 4-6 - *Bristol, Rhode Island*. Second Annual Young People's Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 612, Newport, RI 02840
- 4-6 - *Mackenzie, British Columbia, Canada*. Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 1011, Mackenzie, B.C. V0J 2C0
- 4-6 - *Odessa, Texas*. W. Tex. Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 1854, Odessa, TX 79760
- 4-6 - *Mt. Pleasant, Michigan*. 26th State Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 393, DeWit, MI 48820
- 4-6 - *Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada*. Fourth Annual Rally. Write: Conv. Ch., 140-10th Ave., Campbell River, B.C.
- 4-6 - *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. B.C./Yukon Second Annual Summer Conv. Write: Conv. Com., P.O. Box 2041, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3R6
- 9-12 - *Winston-Salem, North Carolina*. 34th S.E. Conf. & 31st State Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 11345, Bethabara Sta., Winston-Salem, NC 27106
- 11-13 - *Austin, Texas*. Sixth Annual Chisholm Trail Roundup. Write: Roundup Secy., 5017 Westfield Dr., Austin, TX 78731
- 11-13 - *Hawkesbury, Ontario, Canada*. Fifth Annual (French) Conv. of Outaouais Valley. Write: Pub. Com., P.O. Box 31, Gatineau, Que. J8P 6J1
- 11-13 - *Moorhead, Minnesota*. Sixth Annual Red River Valley Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., Box 558, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 11-13 - *Malolos, Bulacan, Philippines*. Third Luzon Get-Together. Write: Human Goals Office, Subic Bay Naval Base, F.P.O. San Francisco, CA 96651
- 18-20 - *Dallas, Texas*. Lone Star Roundup. Write: Reg. Ch., P.O. Box 1824, Richardson, TX 75080
- 18-20 - *Roanoke, Virginia*. State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 13946, Roanoke, VA 24034
- 18-20 - *Omaha, Nebraska*. First Cornhusker Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 18-20 - *Colorado Springs, Colorado*. State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 10016, Uintah P.O., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
- 18-20 - *Rosemont, Illinois*. State Conf. & Five-State Regional Conf. Write: Conf. Com., c/o Chicago Area Service Office, 205 W. Wacker Dr., Suite 1914, Chicago, IL 60606
- 18-20 - *San Luis Obispo, California*. 11th Annual 22nd Dist. Conv. Write: Reg. Ch., 1317½ Palm St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

- 18-20 - *Guelph, Ontario, Canada*. Ninth Annual Cent. W. Ont. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 275, Mitchell, Ont. N0K 1N0
- 19-20 - *St. Peter, Minnesota*. 30th Anniv. S. Minn. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 182, New Ulm, MN 56073
- 19-20 - *Squamish, British Columbia, Canada*. Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 352, Garibaldi Highlands, B.C. V0N 1T0
- 25-27 - *Medley, Alberta, Canada*. N.E. Alta. Roundup. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 1447, Medley, Alta. T0A 2M0
- 25-27 - *Chautauqua Lake, New York*. 25th Annual Tri-State Assembly. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 96, Meadville, PA 16335

## PLANNING AN A.A. EVENT IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER?

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

### SEPTEMBER

- 1-3 - *Beaver, Utah*. Third Annual Great Outdoor Mtg. Write: Ch., 6118 Lederer Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367
- 1-3 - *Norman, Oklahoma*. Second Annual Conf. Write: Conf. Secy., P.O. Box 137, Norman, OK 73069
- 1-3 - *Penticton, British Columbia, Canada*. 13th S. Okanagan Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., Box 524, Penticton, B.C. V2A 6K9
- 1-3 - *Fairbanks, Alaska*. State Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 80628, College, AK 99708
- 2-4 - *Powell River, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Rally Ch., P.O. Box 141, Powell River, B.C.
- 5-10 - *Ocean City, Maryland*. 21st Annual Session-by-the-Sea. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 23, Denton, MD 21629
- 8-10 - *Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. 27th E. Ont. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 4342, Sta. E, Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5B3
- 8-10 - *La Tuque, Quebec, Canada*. 11th Haute-Maurice Conv. (French-English). Write: Conv. Com., P.O. Box 516, La Tuque, Que.
- 8-10 - *Dunnville, Ontario, Canada*. 12th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 163, Dunnville, Ont.
- 8-10 - *Many, Louisiana*. 11th W. La. Conf. Write: Ch., Rte. 2, Box 59, DeRidder, LA 70634

- 8-10 - *Moodus, Connecticut*. 20th Annual Get-Together. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 388, Ansonia, CT 06401
- 8-10 - *Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada*. Second Camp-Out Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 5670, Fort McMurray, Alta. T9H 3G6
- 15-17 - *Sacramento, California*. Pacific Regional Forum. Write: Regional Forum Secy., Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10017
- 15-17 - *Provo, Utah*. Area Fall Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 494, Provo, UT 84601
- 15-17 - *Duluth, Minnesota*. 33rd Annual Roundup. Write: Banq. Ch., P.O. Box 6771, Duluth, MN 55806
- 15-17 - *Green Bay, Wisconsin*. 37th Annual N. Wis./Upper Peninsula Mich. Fall Conf. Write: Reserv. Ch., P.O. Box 67, Oneida, WI 54155
- 15-17 - *Bretton Woods, New Hampshire*. Eighth N.E. Regional Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 4253, Manchester, NH 03108
- 22-24 - *Lenox, Massachusetts*. 15th State Conv. Write: Conv. Com., P.O. Box 119, Feeding Hills, MA 01030
- 22-24 - *Kenora, Ontario, Canada*. Seventh Annual Roundup. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 463, Kenora, Ont. P9N 3X7
- 22-24 - *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*. Third International Lawyers in A.A. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Three Penn Center Plaza, Suite 326, Philadelphia, PA 19102
- 29-Oct. 1 - *Wichita, Kansas*. State Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 12074, Wichita, KS 67277
- 29-Oct. 1 - *Arlington, Texas*. 15th Annual N.E. Tex. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 9204, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- 29-Oct. 1 - *Spokane, Washington*. Area Assembly. Write: Assembly Ch., 6120 N. Elm, Spokane, WA 99208

## CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

*August*: "Surrender to the Unknown" points out three types of surrender to discuss; "Sex Is Not the Answer" may start talk on various kinds of dependence; "The Road Back" suggests a meeting on ways to ward off slips.

*September*: "Let's Talk About Sobriety" asks whether dryness is enough; three articles (pp. 8-11) on responsibility to others can be used in discussing conflicts between A.A. and family commitments; two articles (pp. 15, 35) study responsibility within A.A.

## Service Material Available From G.S.O.

G.S.O. is mainly a service office for the Fellowship. It keeps a storehouse of service material available to members of the Fellowship upon request. Service material is not listed on the order form, because it is complimentary. If giveaways were listed on the order form, bookkeeping would be rather complicated. Service material does not have the Conference-approved seal on it, because it doesn't go through the various committee procedures required for Conference-approved literature. It is produced when G.S.O. correspondence indicates that there is a need for readily available material on a specific subject. Service material is prepared from information in the files or from sharing specifically requested by a questionnaire. It is constantly updated, changed, or dropped according to Fellowship needs.

Here is a list of available service material. Write G.S.O. for any of the following that might interest you:

A.A. at a Glance (one-sheet flyer for P.I./C.P.C. use in carrying the message)

A.A. Information for Media (sheet of background material for media use; the questions answered are those most commonly asked of A.A.)

A.A. Regional Forums (reports available of all regional forums held to date)

Braille (information on the books "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" on tape and in Braille - also where to write for cassettes of these two books in English and Spanish)

Building a Service Structure - one region's experience

Carrying the Message Inside the Walls (one-sheet flyer for institutional workers)

Central and Intergroup Offices and Answering Services of U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico (list available and updated once a year)

Charts (numerous charts on A.A. structure, Conference, etc.)

Coping With Influx of New Members (three-page memo sharing experience, strength, and hope about ways A.A. groups are handling the influx of new people referred to A.A. by treatment facilities, court programs, etc.)

Delegates of General Service Conference Areas (one list by areas, another by delegates' names, alphabetically)

Deaf Groups (list of deaf groups available and contacts)

Fellowships Similar to A.A. (list of similar fellowships with addresses)

Film Order Forms (write G.S.O. about renting "Bill's Own Story" and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions")

Foreign Literature (Translations Order Form listing Conference-approved literature in ten languages; separate order forms for French and Spanish)



Guidelines (there are 13 available - up to ten copies free)

1. Armed Services
2. Central or Intergroup Offices
3. Clubs
4. Conferences and Conventions
5. Cooperating With Court, A.S.A.P. and Similar Programs
6. Institutions Committees
7. Public Information
8. Relationship Between A.A. and Al-Anon
9. On Industry Programs
10. Current Usage of A.A. Directories
11. For Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field
12. Forming Local Committees on Cooperation with the Professional Community
13. A.A. Answering Services

Guidelines also available in Spanish

Information on Alcoholics Anonymous (four-page sheet for anyone sent to A.A. and for administrators of court programs and other referring agencies)

Lists (Loners, Internationalists, Indian groups, etc.)

Literature Order Forms (listing all A.A. Conference-approved literature and other service material; available in any desired amount)

Lone Member (material sent to all Loners)

Map (regional map of U.S. and Canada)

Reprint Permission (sheets requesting permission to reprint)

Staff Assignments (sheet describing staff assignments)

Suggested Topics for Discussion Meetings (two sheets on topics)

Survey (A.A. surveys every three years)

Tapes for Sale and Exchange (list of people who have A.A. talks on tapes or cassettes)

Twelve Traditions Play (manuscript available)

Where Do I Go From Here? (one-sheet flyer for treatment facilities and correctional facilities)

Workshops (in response to many inquiries at G.S.O. requesting information on conducting workshops, this memo shares some ways that workshops are conducted)

Your A.A. G.S.O. (illustrated folder about your General Service Office)

Other items of interest, for which there is a charge: TV spots are available running 10, 20, 30, and 60 seconds. Four 30-second radio spots (all on one tape) available. (Write G.S.O. for details.) The Public Information Kit is available in English and Spanish.