



AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

January 1963

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INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR

ATTENTION A.A. GALS!

During the State Assembly held at Trail, British Columbia, a special meeting was called for all A.A. women attending. The original idea came from two gals in Trail who had been having trouble getting other women alcoholics to come to meetings. They wanted suggestions, but before the meeting was over the discussion had ranged widely — dealing with such problems as:

1. Feeling of non-acceptance in predominantly male groups with their participation in meetings discouraged.
2. Difficulty in getting women newcomers to attend regular meetings of predominantly male groups. (This is sometimes the fault of the family; sometimes the hesitancy of the new person to discuss drinking problems in a mixed group.)
3. Reluctance on the part of wives of A.A. members to have women A.A. members attend closed groups which their husbands attend.
4. Difficulty of getting new women contacts from well-known families to attend group meetings where such attendance may become known to the community.
5. Isolation of lone women members in areas where A.A. attendance is predominantly male.
6. Difficulty of making Twelfth Step calls on women when there are so few women members in an area. (In some instances, the first A.A. contact must come through the wife of an A.A. member.)

While it is true that an alcoholic is an alcoholic regardless of sex, color or creed, some of these gals find the going a little rough. They could benefit from contact with other women A.A.'s who could share some of the A.A. problems peculiar to women. Of course, many women don't feel a need for special help from other women, but the Trail meeting showed that many do.

Dorothy L. who is acting as Secretary to the Sponsorship Group, which for the present is confined to Washington State and part of British Columbia, writes:

"We sincerely want to avoid any situation or attitude which could be interpreted as being divisive. We want to emphasize inclusion for women members whether it be as a Loner through the mail and visits, or as members of women's groups, or as women members of predominantly male groups.

"We sincerely pray for guidance in extending our efforts to reach many women alcoholics who have been reluctant (or in some instances discouraged) from affiliating with A.A."

At the meeting, Dorothy L. collected names and addresses of women volunteers who were willing to help sponsor any A.A. woman who feels the need to identify with another woman who may share her problems.

We thought this a fine idea. Women A.A.'s may wish to extend it to other areas beyond Washington and British Columbia. So, if a woman A.A. member wishes to be included in the plan, send your name and address to Ann M. at G.S.O. to be added to the already extensive list compiled at the Trail meeting. Then you can be reached when there is need for such sponsorship.

BEST WISHES FOR A.A. HAPPINESS AND SERENITY IN THE NEW YEAR

A.A. THROUGH ENGLISH EYES

The following clipping from WEEKEND, an English publication, shows you that knowledge of A.A. continues to spread in Great Britain.



BETTY FURNESS TALKS ABOUT A.A.

On the Betty Furness radio program, "Dimensions of a Woman's World," the November 5th edition carried this title, "International A.A." Miss Furness started out by saying, "I've just discovered some of the international aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous ... and it's a most interesting story." Then she went on to tell stories of A.A. overseas and ended by saying, "A.A. — both here and abroad — working with Loners, or large groups of people ... is an extraordinary organization." Thanks, Betty, and we'd like to add that she had sent along one of her "Staffers" to G.S.O. to gather material for the program.

DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES

The movie, "Days of Wine and Roses," which will make its debut at Radio City Music Hall in New York after the 1st of January, has been previewed by the Staff at G.S.O. The consensus of opinion seems to be: "Marvelous!" It is a good show and though we A.A.'s feel that there can never be too much about A.A., and there isn't as much of A.A. as we would like in the film, we are sure it will reach many people who may never have heard that A.A. can provide the answer for the alcoholic. Thanks again to J.P. Miller, our friend who worked so hard to make the A.A. portion of the script authentic.

TWELVE MONTHS OF A.A. GROWTH

(Letters From Las Palmas, Gran Canarias, Spain)

The following translated excerpts from letters received from Rafael, a newspaperman in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, are, we think, a moving documentation of A.A.'s vital principle of sharing. Here we will see how G.S.O. shared experience with one alcoholic who carried the message to others.

JANUARY — "Through the kindness of Douglas H., who accidentally was established in this villa of Santa Brigida, in Quenta Medica de Reposo, I had the satisfaction of learning of you and obtaining your address. Douglas H. is one of your most enthusiastic associates and due to this fact, I was able to read and obtain some of your pamphlets. I should tell you that for more than 15 years I have been an alcoholic. It is my desire to be considered as one of your members. I would also thank you if material you send me could be in Spanish."

FEBRUARY — "At this time I am working with four potential new A.A. members. My efforts up to now have been in direct contact and have given each of them copies of the 12 Steps so that they may have an idea of our program. I have also contacted a few psychiatrists who express the desire to have a wide exchange of ideas at the meeting we will hold. I have submitted another article to the newspaper. This article is the last one in which my name still appears. In the future, when I enter the public arena, I shall do so without signing my name."

MARCH — "Tomorrow, at 8:15 p.m. I'm scheduled to give a talk on Radio Atlantico on which I shall try to explain our program."

APRIL — "I'm happy to advise that not even I could have hoped for the success achieved on the program Radio Atlantico. As the result of the words I spoke for 15 minutes, I've received visits from people interested in our program. Some of them are ill and some are relatives of patients. So, something which I thought was a distant dream has been converted into a probable reality much earlier than I myself believed it possible.

"I am the first to recognize that we should not sing too loud yet, but the most difficult thing has been achieved. With the confidence that seems to be in me and the faith in A.A., as well as the firm belief that God has been very good to us, enabling us to get in touch with you and all the world, we hope very shortly to have a large group. The Las Palmas Gran Canarias Group is now formed. I am enclosing a card on which its name and our prayer 'Serenidad' (Serenity) are imprinted. At the present time, there are seven of us as members. Four of these members are hospitalized at the "Quinta Medica de Reposo de Santa Brigida," where I was for five months. I travel there a distance of some fourteen kilometers, each week to meet with

them and give a talk concerning our marvelous program. As to the three remaining members, I am mailing to their homes as much literature as I have."

MAY – "I am maintaining weekly contact with the nine members. Four are still in the institution. I'm also retaining a fortnightly correspondence with the groups in Spain, and we are all very much involved in our work and very satisfied with A.A. and its vast program.

"Circumstances that concern the legality of our group are changed. I was received on the 18th by His Honor the Governor and Provincial Chief. He congratulated me for the work being done and was very interested in the program for recovery from alcoholism and received from me all our Spanish literature. I talked with him for about an hour and he looked carefully at our material, especially the Bulletins and suggestions that you had sent."

JUNE – "The Governor has authorized a big meeting (public meeting) to be held sometime in June. He has offered to furnish the location. And tomorrow on Radio Atlantico, I will again be with the audience and will transmit the material you sent us. Also in tomorrow's press, for the first time, there'll be an announcement of "Alcoholicos Anonimos, de Las Palmas."

JULY – "Actually, I am not very happy with behavior of some of our members. I understand that it is hard work and that you must be patient. But there is no progress if as soon as you leave a meeting or the hospital you go back to the "relapses." I hope you can tell me what to do in this respect."

AUGUST – "I now understand the real sense and meaning of sponsorship. It's easy to understand it with your description. I have found real friends, with their almost daily letters with messages of hope, love, comprehension and happiness. On my side, I try to carry with my own example this message to everybody suffering from alcoholism and nothing can stop me accomplishing my purpose, because I know very well that in helping others I help myself."

SEPTEMBER – "As you will see, this letter is from Santa Cruz de Teneriffe. I'm here to embrace and bring our message of love, hope and happiness to the new group of Santa Cruz de Teneriffe, which has just been formed and has already seven members."

OCTOBER – "I have met Mike P., the American, at Santa Cruz, and Saturday we had a meeting in which Mike joined. This was celebrated and attended by more or less ten members. It was something to see with our own eyes the happiness of those men."

NOVEMBER – "Our Las Palmas Group is doing very well. We are growing in number since our work is known. I hope that in a nearby future we will be at least 20 each week, and we will get this, with the help of God, before the end of the year."

DECEMBER – "Mike P., the American A.A., has won Las Palmas completely. His personal congeniality and winning manners have influenced everybody he has talked to and he has been giving his A.A. experience to our group in meetings, visits to the Sanatorium and visits to the homes of those who are sick. Today I have been visited by a Mother Superior of a religious community at Telde who is interested in our program. I've given her material and I'm sure she'll be one of our most helpful friends. Gomera, another Canary Island, has asked that we come over to speak, so maybe in a short time another group will be formed there."

FOR OVERSEAS VISITORS AND INTERNATIONALISTS

Many of our seamen members keep asking us if there is a group in Hamburg, Germany, as this is a port of call for so many ships. Regretfully, we have had to tell them "No."

But now, we are happy to say that there is a flourishing group, and its members are eagerly looking forward to visitors. For the full name of our member there who is acting as the contact, get in touch with G.S.O., or call Johannes L., 40-02-06 in Hamburg.



NELL E. WING

This smile has welcomed visitors to G. S. O. since 1947. Nell Wing, who serves as Bill's secretarial assistant—and our archivist at G.S.O. — has been one of A.A.'s solidest non-A.A. supporters. To all A.A.'s who know her, she's no ordinary "civilian." Her continuing love and service to us has made us truly grateful. So, Nell, dear, this is one way of saying "We love you" and are so appreciative of all your efforts on A.A.'s behalf.

A REMINDER!

Directory and Census cards are due. You'll be receiving this notice after the deadline, but there is still time to get the cards in, if you hurry, so please do. All A.A.'s want the Directory to be up-to-date.

**1965 CONVENTION COMMITTEE
GUARANTEE GOAL REACHED**

At a meeting held December 8 in Toronto, the 1965 Convention Committee announced that the first Convention goal had been reached. This is the completion of the "Guarantee Fund" to be used in underwriting any deficit in the operation of the Convention. *The 1965 A.A. International Convention will be held in Toronto, July 2-3-4, 1965.*

The Fund, amounting to \$13,000, will be held in financial institutions in Canada and U.S. and will be touched only if expenses of the Convention exceed revenue from registrations. If not needed, it will be returned to those participating: to individual A.A.'s and groups in Canada and to the General Service Board of A.A. (The "Guarantee Fund" is not to be confused with advance registration which will not be available until 1964.)



A GRAPEVINE EXCLUSIVE

In January, "The Bill W. - Carl Jung Letters." You won't want to miss this A.A. history.

**YOUR A.A. CALENDAR
1963**

*January 26. Seventeenth Anniversary Banquet.
Golden Triangle Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia.
Write Banquet Committee, P.O. Box 42, Norfolk 1, Va.*

*February 1-3. South Texas Jamboree.
Hotel Robert Driscoll, Corpus Christi, Texas
Write: Jamboree, P.O. Box 1294, Corpus Christi, Texas.*

*February 15-17. Annual Greeley Mid-Winter Stampede.
2608 7th Ave., Greeley, Colo.*

*April 5-7. Twelfth Kentucky State Conference.
Phoenix Hotel, Lexington, Ky.*

*April 13-14. Third Australian Convention.
Write: A.A. Box 26, Nedlands, Western Australia.*

*May 31 - June 1 - June 2.
6th International Conference - Young People in A.A.
Drawer X
Tryon, North Carolina*

1965

*July 2-3-4, 1965. 30th Anniversary International Convention of A.A.
Toronto, Ontario.*

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO G.S.O.
from
A.A. MEETINGS AND A.A. COMMITTEES
November 10-December 10, 1962**

CALIFORNIA: 11th Annual Southern Calif. Con. - San Diego.....	\$4779.52
FLORIDA: Palm Beach A.A. Members Gratitude Dinner.....	\$ 369.50
HAWAII: 1st Hawaii State Convention.....	\$ 55.50
KANSAS: Wichita 18th Anniversary Celebration.....	\$ 33.00
LOUISIANA: Annual Tri-State Convention.....	\$ 250.00
NEW YORK: Hudson - Mohawk - Berkshire Conference.....	\$ 131.46
OHIO: Ohio General Service Conference.....	\$ 925.00
Northeastern Ohio General Service Committee.....	\$ 100.00
OKLAHOMA: North West Oklahoma District Conference.....	\$ 20.00
OREGON: Oregon State General Service Committee.....	\$ 19.63
PENNSYLVANIA: Cook Forest Conference.....	\$ 300.00
TEXAS: Top O' Texas Roundup Group.....	\$ 100.00
WASHINGTON, D.C.: Cosmopolitan and Mid-East Groups.....	\$ 174.38
BRITISH COLUMBIA: British Columbia Conference Committee.....	\$ 227.89
ONTARIO: Ninth Western Ontario Conference.....	\$ 150.00
Niagara Young People.....	\$ 8.00
Toronto Greenwood Club.....	\$ 20.00
PACIFIC NORTHWEST: Pacific Northwest Conference.....	\$ 265.78