

AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

May 1963

Vol. 8 - No. 4

• 305 East 45th Street, New York 17 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 •

A.A. TAKES ITS INVENTORY

A recent article in a national magazine which took a critical look at A.A. had these results:

Firstly, a fine piece by Bill appeared in the April "Grapevine." (As you will recall, it consisted of excerpts from Bill's previous writings about our Fellowship.)

Secondly, we asked ourselves, after the first slight resentment had subsided (we are but human!), if perhaps, there was not a grain or two of truth strewn amongst the misconceptions. So at the Conference, a session was devoted to an *inventory* of A.A., as it is today. A report of this will appear in the June "Conference Digest" which will go out to all groups.

In thinking about taking inventory, our eye was caught by a piece in "The Lifeline," an A.A. publication from Vancouver, B.C. It was purportedly written by a reporter who had been given the privilege of listening in to some night calls received by the A.A. answering service in the area. He had been very much distressed to find that not all A.A.'s were the unselfish helpers that he had imagined they were. When the operator finally reached the number that she had been given to call in an emergency, the sleepy A.A. on the other end had brusquely dismissed the person asking for help and told him to "call the office" in the morning.

Which raises the question: Are we becoming complacent about our sobriety, letting "George do it"? Are we becoming so calloused that we easily resist a call for help if it's not convenient? Let's take our inventory in every way that we can, so that no alcoholic will ever find us lacking in that quality of sobriety which makes for attraction and enables the new person to find his way to us easily.

NEW DIRECTORS AT G.S.O.

Two new directors of A.A. World Services have been named to replace Adrian F. and Sum C. whose terms are ending. Adrian has served us well, and we are grateful. His continuing contacts with A.A. in Holland have been invaluable in aiding us to be of further service to A.A.'s in that country. The other replacement is for Sum C., who also has given so much during his service as a Trustee and an A.A.W.S. director. You'll recall that these Directors gave of their time and efforts voluntarily and we owe them a great deal.

Dick M. comes to A.A.W.S. from the business world where he is executive director of a market research organization in New York. He has been active and sober in A.A. for eleven years.

Bob K. is an executive of a large business corporation in New York City. He too has been active and sober for eleven years in A.A. and is a lawyer, and Princeton graduate.

There are four new Grapevine Directors. Charles (Ed) L. A graduate of Fordham, Ed has had continuous sobriety for seven years and is and has been active in a New York group and one in Scarsdale. He, like Bob, is also a lawyer.

Yvelin G. is a minister, lecturer and writer, who works in the alcoholism field. He has been sober in A.A. since 1942 and has a long history of group activity.

Jay J. is a businessman whose experience includes all branches of marketing. He is currently the vice president of a marketing firm in New York City. He has five years of sobriety and is still active in New York A.A.

Gurney W., present Grapevine Editor, is also serving as a Director.



THE TAPES IS HERE!

A Tape Committee of volunteers and a member of the G.S.O. Staff has been working on a project to prepare tapes that can be distributed by G.S.O., using some of the wealth of taped material that has been made available to us through the generosity of A. A. tape collectors in many parts of the country. Some of these tapes have been stored at G.S.O. awaiting the moment when there would be time to weed and sort.

The weeding and sorting has now taken place – with the further help of an enthusiastic tape collector in Cincinnati, who has put his equipment, time and efforts at our disposal. Seven tapes have been prepared. Each tape contains several talks. Order blanks for these tapes are available at G.S.O. A nominal charge has been set up to cover actual material costs, packaging and shipping – on a sale rather than a rental basis. (If small groups or Loners need tapes and can't afford to pay the nominal charge, they should get in touch with us.)

OUR A.A. PROFESSIONAL EXHIBIT

The exhibit, which goes out to Conferences and Conventions of non alcoholic professionals who want to be informed about A.A., went in March to:

1. The American Orthopsychiatric Association in Washington, D.C.
2. The Health Fair in Hartford, Conn.

In April it goes to:

1. The Annual Meeting and Institutes of the National Council on Alcoholism, Cincinnati, O.

In May it will be sent to:

1. National Conference on Social Welfare, Cleveland, O.
2. National League for Nursing, Atlantic City, N.J.

In June it goes to:

1. The National Education Association, Detroit, Mich.

And in August to:

1. The American Hospital Association, New York

"GVR'S VITAL ROLE"

THE GRAPEVINE SEEKS GVR'S!

Your Grapevine Representative (GVR) announces the arrival of the new issue and can see that bulk orders are brought to the meeting promptly and prominently displayed. GVR's can highlight the use of articles in Twelfth Step work and in maintaining sobriety. It is an active and vital job. Send the name of your GVR to the Grapevine!

THE BIG BOOK ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (OLD EDITION)

We have had wonderful letters of appreciation from some of our groups in Institutions expressing their gratitude for the books, "Alcoholics Anonymous" (Old Edition), they have received from local groups and Institution Committees. About 1,500 copies have been distributed. Certainly these books go a long way in "carrying the message."

There are still some of these old editions available (at three books for \$5.00) for Institution use only. They may be ordered by writing P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17, New York. Please state the Institution for which they are intended, or you may order them mailed directly to the Institution.

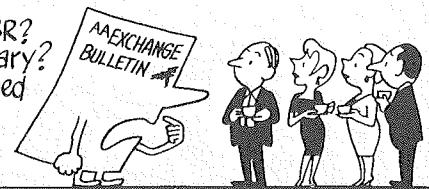
About the Offer Above . . . we have a letter to share written to a New York member from the Gatala Prison Group in Adelaide, Australia. "Gatala Bob," the group secretary wrote:

"Today has been a wonderful day for our A.A. group at Gatala Prison, for your gifts arrived today. You, a fellow alkie, living in Brooklyn, cared enough to send us a copy of 'The Big Book', and a copy of 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.'

"The distance from Adelaide to Brooklyn is counted in the thousands of miles, but your kindness has bridged those thousands of miles and brought you right into the fellowship of our group. Do you really know how valuable they are to us? Have you sat down and thought about the reaction of our members when the books arrived? Have you stopped to think about the thousands of alcoholic inmates who will pass through this prison and read the words in these books?

"As each inmate reads or shares in the message of these books he will be aware of the fact that an A.A. member in Brooklyn, U.S.A., helped to prove that A.A. is an international fellowship. Each reader will know that his criminal history and police record did not stop this gift. Every reader will know that he has been accepted as an equal by you and that you wish to do something to help other alcoholics solve their drinking problems."

"Where's your GSR?
...or your secretary?
I wanna be pinned
on the bulletin
board!"





RECORDS RECORDS RECORDS!

As A.A. grows, its records become more complex – and the organization of them more important. Our Records Department at G.S.O. is responsible for keeping up-to-date information about each Group, each Loner, each Internationalist, each Delegate, our G.S.R.'s, all Committee Members, all our Intergroups, each Hospital and Prison Group and so on and on . . . It takes a level head to do this kind of work and our new helper, Marie Proctor, who is heading up our Records Department is just the kind of gal to do the job with the minimum of fuss and strain.

She's a modest person and doesn't like to have her picture taken; but we persisted! Somewhat reluctantly she advanced the following information about herself: "I was born, raised and educated at St. Paul, Minnesota. I am a sports enthusiast, love the out-of-doors and all recreational activity. (Typical of Marie's modesty: We finally unearthed the fact that at one time she was North American speed skating champion.) I love to travel and try at least one trip to a new area each year. I came to New York from Denver, Colo., approximately three years ago and enjoy all the cultural activity this city has to offer."

She says that she enjoys it here with us also! Thanks, Marie, for all the help that you give us so cheerfully and willingly.

INFORMATION ABOUT CONVENTIONS

Will all those who send in information to be used in the Bulletin Calendar of A.A. Conventions, please be sure that the address given does not include any names of individuals. We cannot use last names in the Bulletin.

The "Big Book" is now available in French, Finnish, Norwegian, Afrikaans and Spanish. (abridged)

WINE, ROSES & A.A.

"Dear A.A.

We are a couple in dire need of your help and in the back of our minds have known it for some time. It has been difficult to admit. Even after admitting it and discussing it, I'm still taking it easy and writing because I couldn't bring myself to call on the telephone.

"We have been married almost 21 years, are in business for ourselves, have three beautiful children and so much at stake because of our drinking. Our love for the children and ourselves is sincere and deep-rooted, but we have our drinking problem which recently has put our whole life's investment at stake.

"May seem ridiculous but I recently saw the film of 'Wine and Roses,' and it scared me a great deal because I had to project myself into the picture so that it almost seemed my life they were portraying.

"We sincerely are asking for your help.

Courtesy: East Bay Bugle
Oakland, California

(Signed)

Anon"

G.S.O. FILM

If you are interested in knowing more about your General Service Office, a filmstrip-and-record is available. It is priced at \$4.50. A description of what is needed to show the film follows:

1. A projector for a film strip. This is not the same as a glass slide projector, though you can get a strip adapter for some models. You will probably need to rent a projector – or we can buy one for you wholesale for about \$40.00 f.o.b. New York.
2. A screen – 30 x 40 in. for audiences up to 30 (\$8 wholesale) – 70 in. screen for audiences up to 100-150 (\$31 wholesale). You can usually rent a large screen.
3. A portable phonograph for 33 rpm records.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO G.S.O.

IOWA: Western Iowa Conference \$208.00
NEW YORK: Scarsdale Crane Road Group. \$ 50.00
CANADA: 1963 Alberta Provincial Conference . . \$575.00

A. A. CALENDAR

- May 3-5. Eastern Townships Bilingual Conference
New Sherbrook Hotel, Sherbrooke, Quebec
Write: P.O. Box 434, Sherbrooke, Quebec
- May 10-12. Sixth New Mexico State A.A. Conference
Carrigo Lodge, Ruidoso, New Mexico
Write: P.O. Box 1431, Roswell, New Mexico
- May 12-13. Nevada State Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada
Write: Mrs. Patty Woodward, 353 Wisteria Avenue,
Las Vegas, Nevada
- May 17-19. Central New York Area Conference
Arlington Hotel, Binghamton, New York
Write: P.O. Box 5, East Side Station, Binghamton, N.Y.
- May 17-19. Twenty-fourth Cook Forest Conference
Cooksburg, Pennsylvania
Write: Cook Forest Conference, P.O. Box 265, Verona,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
- May 18-19. Northern Arizona Regional Conference
Write: P.O. Box 445, Sedona, Arizona
- May 18-19. Cochrane-Temiskaming 4th Annual Conference
Write: Italian Club, 37 Prospect Ave., Kirkland, Ontario
- May 24-26. 12th Annual Tennessee State Convention,
Memphis, Tennessee
Write: Chairman, State Convention, 324 Dermon Bldg.,
Memphis, Tenn.
- May 26-27. Downstate Spring Conference
Orlando Hotel, Decatur, Illinois
Write: Loie C. Craig, 1408 Holly Hill Drive, Champaign,
Illinois
- May 31-7. Sixth International Conference - Young People in A.A.
Write: Drawer X, Tryon, North Carolina

- June 1-2. Fourth Annual Nebraska A.A. Reunion
Hotel Yancey, Grand Island, Nebraska
Write: "Reunion," P.O. Box 914, Grand Island, Nebraska
- June 7-9. Mississippi State Convention
Robert E. Lee Hotel, Jackson, Mississippi
Write: Convention Chairman, P.O. Box 4204, Jackson, Miss.
- June 8-9. Montana State Conference
Write: Chairman, State Conference, Box 399, Butte, Montana
- June 15-16. Twenty-eighth Annual Founders Day Meeting and
Breakfast
Write: Breakfast Committee, 1427 Noble Street, Barberton,
Ohio
- June 16. East Central Area Conference
Empress Hotel, Peterboro, Ontario
Write: Box 13, Peterboro, Ontario, Canada
- June 20-22. Seventh Annual Florida State Convention of A.A.
George Washington Hotel, West Palm Beach, Florida
Write: P.O. Box 6682, West Palm Beach, Florida
- June 23. 23rd Annual Banquet, 19th Street Group
Cocoa Inn, Hershey, Pennsylvania
Write: Secretary, 1251 S. 19th Street, Harrisburg, Pa.
- June 27-30. Eighteenth Annual Texas State Convention
Granada Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
Write: Secretary, 910-920 Travis Bldg., San Antonio, Texas
- July 5-7. Pacific Northwest Conference, Coos Bay, Oregon
Write: Publicity Committee, P.O. Box 122, Coos Bay, Ore.
- July 12-14. Annual Ohio General Service Conference
Sheraton-Gibson Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio
Write: Ohio General Service Conference, P.O. Box 31137,
Cincinnati 31, Ohio
- July 13-14. 6th Louisiana State Convention
Capitol House, Baton Rouge, La.
Write: Box 3001, Istrouma Station, Baton Rouge, La.

THE "BIG BOOK" IN FRENCH

Due to the devoted efforts of "Les Editions Francaises" (French Literature Council) in Montreal, the A.A. book is now available in French. It is actually more than the "Big Book" for it contains Bill's essays from the book "12 Steps and 12 Traditions" and excerpts from "A.A. Comes of Age". And it includes stories not only of the early members in the U. S. - but also of members from Quebec, France, Belgium and Switzerland. It is priced at \$3.75 in the U. S. and Canada - and at \$2.95 for Overseas. To quote the last sentence of the book's preface "We hope that with the help of God, this book will be of service to French-speaking alcoholics throughout the world."



PAMPHLETS ON A.A. RECOVERY

We thought you'd like to know about the three pamphlets described below. They are particularly helpful to the newcomer. These

descriptions of the pamphlets are taken from an order blank which lists all the books and pamphlets available at G.S.O., and may be had for the asking.

THIS IS A.A.

An introductory pamphlet describing the kind of people A.A.'s are and what A.A.'s have learned about alcoholism. Contains a brief presentation of the Twelve Suggested Steps, the Twenty-Four Hour Plan, and three slogans. This pamphlet is for anyone who thinks he may have a problem with alcohol. (.10)

A.A. — 44 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

...is for anyone who wants to know about A.A. It tries to answer the questions most frequently asked by alcoholics seeking help, by their families and friends, and by students and teachers. It is for all who wish to be better informed about A.A. (.15)

IS A.A. FOR YOU?

Twelve questions defining the symptoms of alcoholism that most A. A. members had to answer before they could identify themselves as alcoholics. The reader is invited to keep his own score and make his own decision. (.05)