



# AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

VOLUME 3 Published by General Service Office of A. A., P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 NUMBER 12

## GROUPS SCAN TRUSTEE RATIO CHANGE

### Contribution Records Close December 31

December 31 is the "cut-off date" for the listing of contributions in the A.A. World Directory to be issued in the Spring of 1959, the General Service Office has announced.

Groups whose contributions are received at G.S.O. after the end of the current year may find that their donations cannot be credited until publication of the 1960 Directory.

The budget for 1958 operations of A.A.'s movement-wide service agencies, as approved by the 1958 General Service Conference, was based on anticipated contributions of \$185,000. Even this amount would result in a deficit in the financing of services to groups and others interested in the A.A. program. This deficit, estimated at \$14,100, would have to be made up out of income received from the movement's publishing operations.

When contributions lagged during the early part of the year, the movement was advised by the Trustees of the General Service Board that certain G.S.O. services might have to be curtailed or eliminated.

A letter to the groups last month, signed by members of the General Service Staff concluded with this paragraph:

"Would A.A. want to cut a single lifeline? But that's just what we may have to do if we don't meet our budget this year. So please help us continue the work already begun, and make it possible to start new services as they are needed. (Currently, groups are basing their support on a \$3.00 a year minimum per member.)"

#### CENSUS

Our thanks to all groups that returned data for the current A.A. Group Census. The thousands of data sheets are being analysed and a report will be made to the groups at an early date.

W. G. W. • Box 459 Grand Central Annex • New York 17, N.Y.

### Christmas 1958

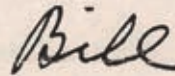
Dear Friends,

Ever since last Christmas gifts and blessings beyond measure have been accumulating for us all. This is a good time to count them.

We know that many thousands of fellow sufferers have found fresh hope among us and the promise of even better things to come. Every A. A. member has received new blessings, both of pain and of joy—pain of the kind that guides us into paths of spiritual progress, and joy which has been the result of our efforts to give and to grow. More than ever, we know where we stand in God's scheme of things; we feel secure as we tread that path of destiny which surely leads to Him who presides over us all.

Lois joins me in great affection and the expectation that this will prove to be your best Christmas yet.

Devotedly,



### GROUP DATA CARDS MAILED

Group Information Cards, to be used to up-date G.S.O. mailing lists and as the basis for compiling the 1959 World Directory, were to be mailed to groups throughout the world this month.

Central and Intergroup Offices, Clubs, Lone Members and Internationalists will also receive similar cards. All cards should be returned to G.S.O., preferably by air mail, as soon as possible to assure accurate registration in the Directory. February 1, 1959, is the deadline for receipt of the cards.

In recent years the Information Cards have been streamlined and simplified to the point where they can be filled out by group secre-

taries or General Service Representatives in a matter of minutes.

One of the most important recent developments has been the emphasis on establishing a "continuing" post office box address for groups wherever this is feasible. Again this year G.S.O. staff members request that a post office box be designated as the group's address whenever possible.

It has been pointed out that, in the absence of a post office box address, many groups have failed to receive mail from G.S.O. or from other groups when a group secretary or General Service Representative rotated out of office.

### Polled On Plan To 'Equalize' AAs & Non-Members

In accordance with the suggestion of the 1958 General Service Conference, groups throughout the U. S. and Canada are being asked to record their attitude on a proposal to change the composition of the General Service Board of A.A.

At present the Board, which acts as the custodian of A.A. traditions and supervises the operations of the movement's international service agencies, is composed of eight non-alcoholic Trustees of the Fellowship and seven A.A. Trustees.

A proposal submitted to the Conference last April would, if adopted, give the Board an equal number (nine) of non-alcoholic and alcoholic Trustees. After careful consideration, Delegates to the Conference approved the principle of "equalizing" the Trustees but voted to bring the matter to the attention of "the full body of A.A." before action on the proposal is taken at the 1959 Conference.

The question of changing the ratio of Trustees has been discussed perennially since the first Conference in 1951.

Each group is being urged to advise its Area Delegate prior to March 31, 1959, whether: (1) It approves the proposal to change the Trustee ratio to nine non-alcoholics and nine alcoholics; (2) It disapproves the proposal, or (3) It has no opinion.

(Continued on Page 3)

INDIVIDUAL

"BULLETIN"

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## THE A. A. EXCHANGE BULLETIN



Published monthly by General Service Office of A. A., P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.

### UNITY AND THE DIRECTORY

This is the time of year when Staff members at G. S. O. buckle down to one of their most important jobs in behalf of A.A.'s worldwide Fellowship. That job is the compilation and printing of the annual World Directory, listing the names of A.A. contacts in thousands of communities in more than 70 countries in the free world.

To some members, the Directory may be just another useful gadget, another book—important, perhaps, in the sense that a telephone directory is important—but still just another book.

To many A.A.s, however, the World Directory is a graphic symbol of two important elements: growth and unity. Some oldtimers, including a few at G. S. O., can recall the first "Directory," a tiny, poorly-mimographed listing of a handful of names and addresses where traveling A.A.s could find kindred, understanding friends. It was the kind of listing that one or two old timers could put together during a lunch hour by casual reference to personal correspondence and an address book or two.

Today, putting an A.A. World Directory together requires literally hundreds of hours of planning, correspondence, checking of files, proof-reading, negotiation with printers and arrangements for distribution.

Essentially, however, the end product is the same. It is the strengthening of basic A.A. unity by making it possible for members anywhere in the world to get in touch, quickly and easily, with another A.A. somewhere else in the world. For A.A. unity is the sum of total A.A. experience, the sum of the free interchange of interpretations, the sum of thousands of individual groups offering their help to both the wayfaring member and the alcoholic who has not yet found his way.

### Symbol and Reminder

The World Directory, perhaps more than any other A.A. document, symbolizes our common dependence on each other—in our local group, in the community of neighboring groups and in the world itself. It is a reminder that somewhere, at some critical moment in our own past, there was an address to write to, a telephone number to call, a hand outstretched to help us.

This World Directory, this symbol of A.A. growth and unity, can no longer be conjured up by two or three well-travelled members. Today, the assistance of every group, every Loner, every Internationalist, is required. So be sure that the Directory Information Card being sent you this month is filled out promptly and returned to G. S. O. as soon as possible. You can help to preserve and strengthen A.A. unity by making it possible for members throughout the world to turn quickly and directly to each other whenever the need arises.

# Toasts To 'Wine and Roses'

This is the story of a woman alcoholic, of a television drama featuring A.A. and of A. A. in action. The woman is Loraine A. of Los Angeles. The TV drama was "The Days of Wine and Roses," shown over the CBS network in the U. S. on October 2, 1958. The story emerges in the following excerpt from a recent letter to G. S. O.

"On October the 2nd I was very drunk. My long hair was hanging around my face and, as I passed the TV set, drink in hand, I saw a woman who looked like me. And, lo and behold, she was as drunk as I was.

"Of course, I sat down and watched this fascinating thing unfold—except when it became too painful to bear—relating myself to this woman, complete with hair and drink.

"After it was over I felt so darn sorry for myself that I went out and got really well plastered on a spree that lasted until October the 6th. On that morning I put the bottle down and called wildly for A.A., begging for help at the only place I had ever heard of that could really help.

"Since that day I haven't had a drink and I've never been busier or happier. I wouldn't say that this show was my salvation but I will say that it certainly was one of the final convincers I needed."

From other individuals like Loraine, from doctors, from group secretaries, from professional critics in both the trade and consumer press, from virtually every source that G. S. O. has tapped, the response to the "Playhouse 90" drama by J. P. Miller has been overwhelmingly favorable. Members of the General Service Staff assisted the author by reviewing his original playscript and the Staff member in charge of public relations served as a consultant in the actual production of the play.

Following the telecast, approximately 100 Intergroup Offices were asked what the reaction had been in their Areas.

### They Liked It

Here's a sampling of excerpts from A.A.'s bulging correspondence file:

Newark, N. J.—The number of inquiries for information has increased, as well as the demand for literature.

Oakland, California—There was an increase of calls to Intergroup.

Toronto, Ontario—The program led to many alcoholics identifying themselves and turning to this office for help. We have had three requests from church groups for an A. A. member to speak at one of their forthcoming meetings.

Grand Rapids, Michigan—Our Saturday night open meeting enjoyed quite an increase . . . attributed to the show. Our phone service reports 15 inquiries directly after the show . . .

Miami, Florida—We have eight clubs here and they were all swamped with calls for a week after.

Baltimore, Maryland—There was about a 15% average increase in calls inquiring about help over a period of ten days.

Houston, Texas—We have had several calls due to "Wine and Roses."

Washington, D. C.—According to our telephone answering service, calls received were more than doubled as a result of that show and we have noticed an increased number of contacts at headquarters.

Syracuse, New York—A very apparent increase in the number of inquiries coming to this office.

Santa Monica, California—A fifty percent increase in calls.

Atlanta, Georgia—Eighteen calls as a result of the program.

Cleveland, Ohio—Business sure did soar. Would safely say that on the 3rd we had 50 telephone calls, a majority as a result of the play. The overabundance of calls continued for two or three days.

## NEWS & NOTES

The Twelve Steps have been translated into the Sioux Indian dialect, according to word received at G. S. O. from Delegate Tommy Z. of South Dakota. Copies of the translation have been distributed to members of the Sioux tribe as far away as the Canal Zone, Tommy notes.

Here's what the First Step looks like in Sioux:

Ca egle pi wamji kin he:

Mni wakan woyatke kin heon tawacin on hunkapi ani. Na heon wiconi unkitawapi kin tokenpi ca irpe on ki ci yapi.

A.A. members "like to give but hate to be solicited," L. H. M., a member in Fremont, Ohio, suggests in a letter to G. S. O. on the subject of individual contributions in support of world services.

"For some reason I didn't realize that we as individuals could give to G. S. O. until Howard B. (Delegate) was here the other night. Though I regret not having given over the years, I guess I feel better finding it out this way than I would have if I had been asked to give. We, I guess, are wary people about money and A.A. I think we like to give but hate to be solicited."

News from Durban, Natal, South Africa, is that "at least half a dozen" A.A. groups are flourishing "and new members keep coming in." James, of Durban's Musgrave Group, is a recent addition to the roster of International Doctors in A.A.

Thanks to Peter G. of the group in Iwakuni, Japan, for the Japanese translation of the Twelve Suggested Steps and the "Definition" of A.A. for use in working with Japanese alcoholics. Several have indicated an interest in the recovery program. The Iwakuni Group, consisting of nine servicemen, meets twice weekly and is being publicized over the Far East Military Radio Network and in the local base paper.

## A. A. CALENDAR

### JANUARY

24-25—FIRST AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION—Melbourne. (Contact: Convention Committee, Flat 4, 97 Punt Road, Windsor, Victoria.)

### APRIL

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, New York City.

### MAY

22-24—TWELFTH NORTH CAROLINA CONVENTION—Winston-Salem.

### JULY

12-14—INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS IN A. A. Bethesda, Maryland.

## Overseas

### Canadians Mark Moehnesee's 1st Anniversary

The Moehnesee Canadian Group, consisting of Canadian servicemen stationed at Soest, Germany, attracted more than 60 persons to its recent first anniversary meeting, according to an informative letter from Secretary Bob E. Twenty-five members were present and "the remainder were wives and visiting brass."

Features of the meeting included messages and brief talks by Canadian Army officers familiar with the work of the Group.

"We are still operating with two meetings a week, one at each end of the Brigade area," Bob writes, "but if things keep progressing at the center of the geographic district I suspect that we shall have to give some thought to another meeting in the middle. We are up to four members in that sector now."

The Moehnesee Group recently published an eight-panel pocket folder describing A.A. and the Group's operations and providing post office box addresses through which contact can be made with the Group.

Bob reports that several commanding officers and medical officers in the area have expressed interest in obtaining A.A. literature.

Dick F., Loner in Beirut, Lebanon, reports that he recently had an opportunity to attend an A.A. meeting in Rome, Italy "where George and Gerry M. are doing a wonderful job getting a group started." Dick says he has had no trouble staying sober as a Loner and attributes this to the fact that he attended three meetings a week for two-and-a-half years in the U.S. before being transferred overseas.

Word from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, is that Pedro M. is corresponding regularly with A.A. members in The Netherlands and in England and Eire.

Thanks to the Monroe County Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., for its recent contribution and for its kind words about A.A. world services.

Inmate members of the Pioneer Group, State Penitentiary, Walla Walla, Washington, need literature. Any helpers?

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

## TRUSTEE RATIO PROS & CONS SUMMARIZED FOR GROUPS

(Continued from Page 1)

To assist the groups in reaching an informed decision on the pending proposal, the Board has authorized distribution of a summary of the key reasons advanced by Conference members supporting and opposing the change in the composition of the G.S.B.

### PROS

In St. Louis in 1955 A.A. declared itself "come of age" and assumed full responsibility for the conduct of its affairs. This responsibility should be reflected on the General Service Board.

In the twenty years since the Board was founded our sobriety and stability has been proved.

The present Board set-up does not permit adequate area representation. There is room for only three "Area" Trustees on the present Board.

At the first General Service Conference Mr. Bernard Smith, non-alcoholic Chairman of the Board, said the Board could safely be made up entirely of A.A.s. Other non-A.A. Trustees agree that a majority of non-A.A.s is not necessary, nor would there be any hurt feelings if A.A. so decided.

At the 1958 Conference, Mr. Smith suggested consideration of a shift to a 9-and-9 ratio of Trustees for the following reasons:

- The original reasons for a majority of non-alcoholics has virtually disappeared.
- The "nons" are usually guided by the judgment of the alcoholic Trustees in matters of A.A. policy.
- Board voting has never been split between A.A.s and non-A.A.s.
- If an alcoholic minority on the Board was ever an indication of any lack of confidence, this is no longer justified, since St. Louis.
- The present proposal of 9-and-9 would eliminate the old "majority" idea and provide the area opinion of A.A. which is needed for better administration and policy formation.

### CONS

After debating Mr. Smith's 9-and-9 proposal, the 1958 Conference voted 65-12 in favor of its consideration.

The Conference would always have the power to reinstate the present ratio if, for any unforeseen reasons, the 9-and-9 proposal does not work.

Knowledge that there has always been a majority of non-alcoholics on the Board has created confidence throughout A. A. Change in ratio might weaken this confidence.

When Bill is no longer with us, confidence in the Board will be as important as it was 20 years ago.

\* \* \*

The presence of a majority of non-alcoholics on the Board is a symbol of A.A. humility—that, even in our maturity, we still respect and accept someone else's judgment.

In former times of stress a majority of non-alcoholics helped to stabilize the Board, mediated differences, and protected us against blunders. Why should we lessen this protection, even a little?

\* \* \*

A change in ratio would express a lack of gratitude for our non-alcoholic Board members. Why hurt them unnecessarily?

\* \* \*

There is no real need for a change. Our General Service Board has worked well for 20 years with a majority of non-alcoholics. Why take a chance?

The "grass roots" apparently see no need for any change in ratio. An informal poll of former GSC Delegates, conducted by an ex-Delegate, showed a 169 to 67 vote against changing.

If more alcoholic Trustees are needed, why not enlarge the Board to include them and additional non-alcoholics to maintain the present majority of one?

There are many organizations and businesses whose Boards include individuals who are not otherwise members or employees.

## Conference

### Delegates Active In Broadcasting Service Story

Delegates, Committeemen and others have been active recently in carrying the story of A.A. world service to local groups in many areas. Here are digests of typical reports:

Mark R., British Columbia Delegate, recently completed a 1,700-mile trek, reporting on the '58 Conference in seven A.A. centers.

Jean N., Mississippi Delegate, reports three new groups have been started. Jean lost 25 pounds trying to cover the State with the Conference story after his return from New York last Spring.

Paul G., Northern California Delegate, for the past three years has been speaking on A.A. to San Francisco Theological Seminary classes, in addition to handling heavy conference chores.

Thirty-one special group meetings on Traditions and A.A.'s service structure were scheduled in Eastern Massachusetts in November. A member of the Area Committee or a past Delegate was present at each meeting.

"Man, I've Never Had It So Good" was the theme of the recent seventh Conference of California groups at St. Louis Obispo. In late November Coastal Area groups staged a special dramatization of A.A.'s local and worldwide service structure.

Overwhelming interest in a State general service headquarters was indicated by group representatives attending a recent State convention at Enid, Oklahoma, according to Delegate Ruben J.

Duane R., Northern California Delegate, reports interest in the new G.S.O. "Helpful Ally" folder for distribution to doctors, law enforcement officials and other professional groups.

Art B. new California Delegate, has scheduled 16 talks on General Service in his Area.

### DIRECTORY NOTES

Compilation of the World Directories, one of the G.S.O.'s key functions, begins early in January each year. Directories are released at the time of the General Service Conference in April and copies are sent to each group, as well as to Loners and Internationalists. Individual copies may be obtained through the groups for travelling members or for other legitimate A.A. use. Every effort is made to prevent and discourage of the use of the Directories for non-A.A. purposes.

### Merry Christmas

To our A. A. friends everywhere, the merriest of greetings!

May your holidays be filled with true happiness and bright visions for the New Year.

Ann  
Zuz  
Jane  
Lib  
Quita  
Hazel

**Inmate 'Radio' Used To Attract Interest In A.A.**

The Retriever Group at the Federal Penitentiary, Steilacoom, Washington, has come up with an interesting method of attracting the interest of potential members within the institution.

The Group has been granted half an hour twice monthly on the prison "radio" (intercom) system. "Our first tape consisted of nine popular recordings and the comment that the program was being presented by our A.A. Group, nothing more," the group secretary writes. "Our thought is that if we can attract people here into listening to the program, the A.A. can be added later. We plan to gradually add short talks by members of outside groups and ex-Retrievers."

The Group would be interested in knowing if other institutional A.A. units have tried similar ventures and what their experience has been.

**Illinois**

An estimated 95 per cent of the inmate members who have left the State Prison at Menard, Illinois have made good on the outside, according to Hal G., new 24 Hour Group secretary. Hal bases his estimate on personal observation of A.A. at work in the prison. The institution also has another A.A. unit, the Group of Hope.

One of the highlights of A.A. at Menard is the fine cooperation received from outside groups "who very seldom fail to send two or more of their members each Sunday . . . from all over Illinois and Missouri," Hal reports.

**Internationalists, Ahoy!**

Attention, all Internationalists! There's a special bulletin for A. A. seamen enclosed with this *Exchange Bulletin*. We hope you like it.

**LISTED**

Newly elected Delegates and members of Area Committees within the General Service Conference structure will be placed on the mailing list to receive all Conference material effective January 1, 1959. Members on the Conference mailing list receive copies of all material sent to the groups as well as special mailings dealing with G.S.O. service to alcoholics.

**UNITED STATES**

- CALIFORNIA**  
Campbell  
Chula Vista  
Compton  
Covina  
Corcoran  
El Monte  
Encino  
Fresno  
Glendale  
Hayward  
Hermosa Beach  
Huntington Park  
Irvine  
Linda Mar  
Los Angeles  
Modesto  
Oakland  
Palm Springs  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
Santa Ana  
Santa Monica  
Santee  
Sebastopol  
Stockton  
Temple City  
Walteria  
West Los Angeles

- FLORIDA**  
Miami  
Milton  
Pompano Beach

- GEORGIA**  
Milan

- ILLINOIS**  
Peoria

- INDIANA**  
Indianapolis  
South Bend

- IOWA**  
Centerville

- KANSAS**  
Ulysses

- KENTUCKY**  
Lexington

- MASSACHUSETTS**  
Fall River

- MICHIGAN**  
Dearborn  
Flint

- MINNESOTA**  
Mahtomedi  
Renville

- NEW MEXICO**  
Alamogordo

- NEW YORK**  
New York City  
Scarsdale

- OHIO**  
Cleveland  
North Olmsted  
Warren

- OKLAHOMA**  
Ardmore

- OREGON**  
Myrtle Creek  
Oswego  
Portland

- PENNSYLVANIA**  
Pottstown

- SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Beaufort  
Bishopville  
Kingstree

- SOUTH DAKOTA**  
Tyndall

- TENNESSEE**  
Rockwood

- TEXAS**  
Houston

- VIRGINIA**  
Farmville  
Richmond

- WISCONSIN**  
Cedarsburg

**CANADA**

- ALBERTA**  
Hinton

- BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Castlegar  
New Westminster  
Vancouver

- ONTARIO**  
Cochrane  
Echo Bay  
London

- QUEBEC**  
Chateauguay  
Iberville

- Ste. Adele  
Montreal  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue  
St. Jean  
Saint Johns  
Sherbrooke

- SASKATCHEWAN**  
Prince Albert  
Regina

**FOREIGN GROUPS:**

- Bridgetown, Western Australia
- Reykjavik, Iceland, Europe
- Port-of-Spain, Trinidad,
- British West Indies
- Nassau, Bahamas
- Ahuachapan, El Salvador,
- Central America
- Santa Ana, El Salvador,
- Central America
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Rozelle, N.S.W., Australia
- Arncliffe, N.S.W., Australia
- North Curl, N.S.W., Australia
- Armidale, N.S.W., Australia
- Cooma, N.S.W., Australia
- Coonabarabran, Australia
- Gundagai, N.S.W., Australia
- Leeton, N.S.W., Australia
- Temora, N.S.W., Australia
- Wagga, N.S.W., Australia
- Moree, N.S.W., Australia
- Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
- Kwajalein, Marshall Islands

- In addition, there were:
- 7 new clubs
  - 15 new Loners
  - 6 new prison groups
  - 12 new hospital groups
  - 2 Internationalists

**GROUPS EYE '60 CONVENTION**

If advance interest is any indication, the 25th Anniversary Convention of A.A. in California in 1960 will undoubtedly prove to be one of the truly historic milestones in A.A.'s young history.

The Convention will be held at Long Beach, California, July 1-3, 1960, five years to the day following the famous St. Louis convention at which the Fellowship "came of age."

Several groups have raised the possibility of making "advance group reservations" for the Convention. Under this proposed arrangement a group would be able to purchase a block of advance registrations in the name of the group, with the name of the individual registrants to be provided at a later date.

**Iowa V.A. Group Publishes New Weekly Bulletin**

The Veterans A.A. Group at the V. A. Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa, has started publication of a mimeographed weekly bulletin, Harry J., secretary, reports. The group has also circularized local groups in the Area inviting them to assist the veterans' unit.

**CORRESPONDENT**

Bob W., secretary of the Laguna Beach (California) Group, has undertaken a rewarding type of Twelfth Step work with inmate A.A.s that he feels may be of interest to other members. Finding it easier to write than to speak, Bob has for several months been corresponding with prison inmates. He passes along notes from A.A. talks, discusses his own A.A. experience and answers questions about the Fellowship "outside the walls."

Bob feels this correspondence fills a need in the life of the inmate member that is not quite met even by visiting speakers—and letters from his new friends confirm this viewpoint. He also feels it has been extremely helpful to him and commends the same approach to others who may wish to help less fortunate members. Bob began his correspondence, incidentally, after reading a request from a prison group in the *Exchange Bulletin*. How many other readers are doing something similar?

**WALLET CARD**

A copy of a new laminated four-panel wallet card just released by G.S.O. is enclosed with this *Bulletin*. The card contains the approved definition of A.A., the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Serenity Prayer. The cards are priced at \$6.00 per 100 and a special form is enclosed for convenience in ordering.

**NAMES**

Has your group changed its name recently? If so, please do not fail to advise G. S. O. Without proper identification of all groups, particularly in large communities, errors in address-mail are frequently unavoidable.