

BOX 4-5-9

1976
General Service
Conference Issue

Theme: Sponsorship—Our Privilege and Responsibility

Vol. 21, No. 3

June-July 1976

Site Chosen for 1980 International Convention

New Orleans, La., is the first choice of the 26th Conference as site of A.A.'s 45th Anniversary International Convention, in 1980. Second and third choices: Houston, Tex., and Seattle, Wash. Final selection will be formalized by the General Service Board after inspection of meeting and hotel facilities.

A site selection committee dominated by delegates screened bids from 15 cities hoping to outdo the hospitality that over 19,000 A.A.'s and friends enjoyed in Denver, Colo., July 4-6, 1975. Such an International Convention has been held every five years since the first, in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950.

The discussion that ended with New Orleans in first place went on almost eight hours, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on April 21, over dinner, and winding up at 1:50 a.m. April 22. But it was all in good humor. The bidders speaking for the various cities got together while awaiting their turns—and put on their own alkathon.

Four New Trustees Named to General Service Board

Two new regional trustees were selected at the 26th Conference meeting, each for a four-year term on the General Service Board: Don N. (Moorhead, Minn.), from the West Central U.S. Region; and Cecil ("Cec") C. (Prince Albert, Sask.), from the Western Canada Region.

Don is the successor to James G. (North Platte, Nebr.), and Cec replaces Terrance P. (Brandon, Man.).

Michael Alexander, a New York attorney long associated with the legal firm of the late Bernard Smith, was named a nonalcoholic trustee, succeeding Vincent P. Dole, M.D. Mike has been a legal adviser to the board for more than 20 years.

Edward S. was named a general service (New York) trustee to succeed George G. Ed is a regular Grapevine contributor and is on its Corporate Board.

Latest Estimate of Membership Worldwide: Over One Million

NEW YORK, N.Y., April 24 — As vital today as ever, sponsorship has helped bring A.A. to its new estimated membership size of one million. John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., nonalcoholic chairman of the General Service Board, revealed the new figure at the opening of the 26th annual meeting of the General Service Conference here this week at the Hotel Roosevelt. (Dr. Norris's board report is on page 2.)

And if you think sponsorship is fading in A.A., you may have another think coming, members of the Conference suggested.

Since giving sponsorship is a part of our own sobriety, its importance to sober members is as great as its value to newcomers. Members stressed this point in day and night discussions, presentations, committee meetings, workshops, and other sessions held under the guiding theme: "Sponsorship — Our Privilege and Responsibility."

Conference members include 91 elected delegates from areas in the U.S. and Canada, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors, G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, and members of the General Service Board.

In the keynote talk, Peter W., Oakville, Ont., called sponsorship "the silent legacy . . . as vital to our survival today as it was in Akron."

Pete, the Eastern Canada regional trustee, reminded the Conference that A.A. had its origin when Bill W. sponsored Dr. Bob in the Ohio city in 1935, a Twelfth Step encounter generally considered the beginning of A.A.

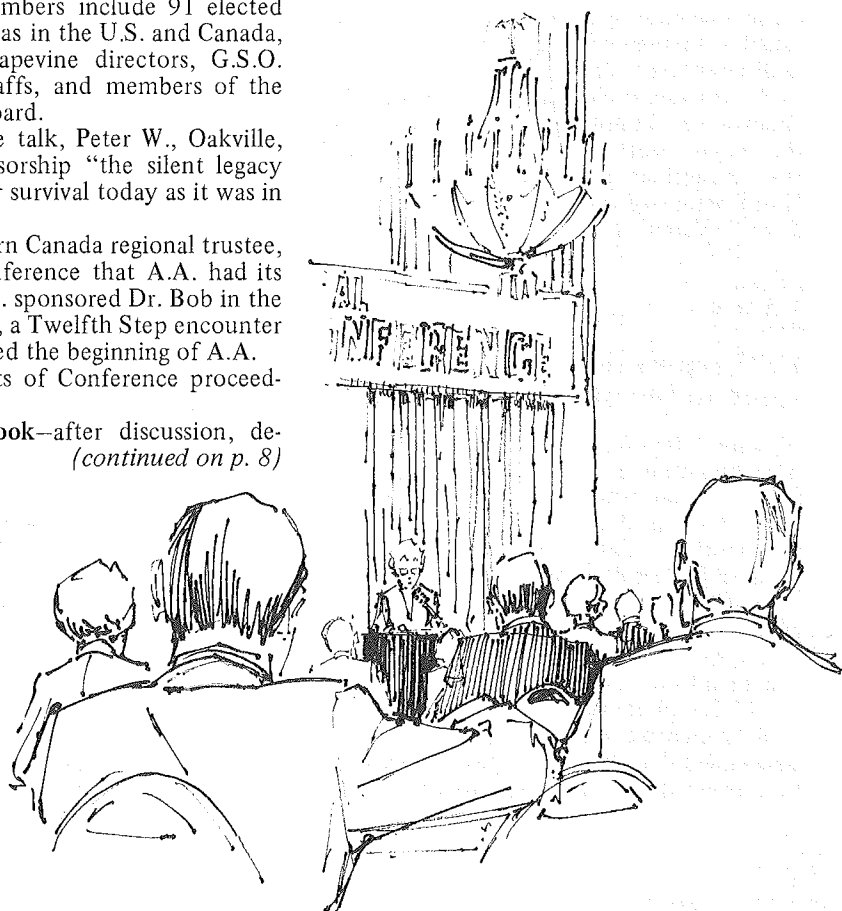
Other highlights of Conference proceedings include:

Paperback Big Book—after discussion, de-
(continued on p. 8)

Groups and Members
Spring 1976

	Groups	Members
United States	15,308	292,646
Canada	2,511	43,903
Overseas	6,153	126,455
Hospitals	1,351	32,711
Prisons	1,133	36,958
Lone Members		381
Internationalists		536
Totals	26,456	533,590

(Including nonreported groups and members, it is estimated that there are nearly 28,000 groups and more than 1,000,000 members, in 92 countries.)



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General Service Board

Trustee chairman reports membership at one million

Trustees' report: Bill W. used to dream of the day when a hundred thousand drunks might flock to A.A. in a single year. Well, that day has come. The Fellowship is growing by more than 100,000 new members per year. This year, for the first time, we conservatively estimate membership at over a million. In 1970, U.S. and Canadian groups registered at G.S.O. numbered 12,900; at the end of 1975, 20,700 (almost 28,000 worldwide). In 1970, we distributed 54,700 copies of the Big Book; in 1975, 176,300 copies! In 1975, literature sales, Grapevine circulation, and contributions also reached record high levels. Your board believes this growth has been healthy and the Fellowship is sound and vital.

Working through the Southeastern and West Central regional trustees, the board put on two regional mini-conferences. From the trustees' viewpoint, they gave us wide-open communication with local people and invaluable firsthand feeling for A.A. concerns in different parts of the U.S.

All trustees took active parts in the 40th Anniversary International Convention. At the board meeting in Denver, they passed two resolutions of thanks: to the Denver Host Committee and to the G.S.O. staff.

John L. Norris, M.D., chairman

A.A.W.S.

1975 report shows 50% spurt in literature sales

Directors' report: Sales of \$1,928,600 of A.A. literature in 1975 showed an increase of more than 50% over the \$1,250,500 of 1974. To help defray costs of services that contributions could not meet, A.A.W.S. donated \$300,000 to the General Fund.

In 1975, the distribution of books, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items reached 5,639,000 units. Free literature for groups and to inform the general public amounted to 329,600 pieces (value, \$13,125).

A committee on discount structure recommended that the present basis of discount be continued, and that discount packages be

Reports From G.S.O., the

studied in relation to the quantity discount structure.

A committee has been appointed to look into the possibility (remote as it may be) that G.S.O. might profitably move out of New York City to some other part of the country after our lease expires in five years.

Notes on departments at G.S.O.:

- **Accounting**—a supervisor, two bookkeepers, eight clerks.
 - **Files**—three people mark and process an average total of 1,000 letters a week. New equipment installed this year saves floor space, adds room to file correspondence.
 - **Records**—two supervisors with six clerks compile all directory information, maintain G.S.O.'s mailing lists.
 - **Shipping**—two supervisors, 15 other full-time employees. This year, a mail unit was instituted to process all incoming and outgoing mail, mimeographing, and maintenance of the Scriptomatic file. Orders, free literature, service material, reports, and quarterly inventories are handled here.
 - **Stenographic and Clerical**—15 women, who type all staff correspondence and bulletins. A receptionist, a switchboard operator, and a purchasing clerk are also included.
- Walter M., chairman*

Group services coordinator

G.S.O.'s key service to groups is communicating

Staff report: Primary responsibility of the service coordinator is to provide communicative services to the whole Fellowship. She supervises all service materials and conducts a monthly meeting on the service assignment of each staff member.

Three Group Handbooks now available are for new "regular" groups, prison groups, and hospital groups. Four directories published annually—Eastern U.S., Western U.S., Canadian, and International—may be purchased by A.A.'s. Institutions directories, prepared in 1975, will be issued again in 1977. As the need arises, our 13 Guidelines are updated.

Two 16mm color films, "Bill's Own Story" and "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions," are rented to regular A.A. and Al-Anon groups and distributed free to institutions groups. A new G.S.O. filmstrip is now available. We have a list of A.A. members who like to exchange tapes, or wish to correspond. We also have a listing of armed services groups.

Literature kits for special purposes are sent either free or in response to orders. The service coordinator keeps them up-to-date. Our Conference-approved literature is copyrighted. Permission for it to be used or

quoted must be granted by A.A.W.S., Inc.
Waneta N.

Group services assistant

Books, booklets, pamphlets, bulletins share experience

Staff report: The over-all responsibility is to help keep communication channels open to many segments of the Fellowship. This involves preparation, production, editorial supervision, and distribution of many publications, in coordination with other staff members.

Regular assignments include:

1. G.S.O. bulletins—over 260,000 bulletins and reports sent out in 1975. Eight bulletins have new title designs.

	Mailing list	Issues per yr.
Box 4-5-9 (English)	38,571	6
Box 4-5-9 (French)	1,225	6
Box 4-5-9 (Spanish)	5,287	6
Loners-Internationalists Meeting	1,836	6
P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin	1,501	4
Institutions Bulletin	3,315	3
Quarterly Report	3,327	3*
About A.A.	3,475	1

*The Conference Report takes the place of the fourth issue.

2. Pamphlets and leaflets—old pamphlets updated, new ones prepared.

3. Books, booklets—updated for reprinting or revised.

4. Special projects—(a) new filmstrip about G.S.O.; (b) 11 regional meeting service boards; (c) posters, such as "Inside A.A.," for A.A. conferences and conventions.

Susan D.

Finance

Wider participation needed

Trustees' committee: Literature price increases May 1, 1975, stimulated sales beforehand, raised income afterwards. Contributions (see p. 7) also rose—but the percentage of groups contributing fell from 56.9% to 55.6%. Total G.S.O. income (from publishing, contributions, and interest, plus \$83,000 in Convention proceeds) was \$543,800 over 1974; \$376,200 over budget. Total G.S.O. expenses went up, too: \$293,900 over 1974; 4% over budget. Net income surpassed 1974 by \$249,900.

To uphold our principle of self-support, the Fellowship of A.A. has a vital need for both sound financing and wide sharing of responsibility among groups and members.

Arthur Miles (nonalcoholic), chairman

General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

Staff coordinator

20,000 letters answered by G.S.O. staff in 1975

Staff report: Each of the ten G.S.O. staff members has a specific service assignment. Some assignments also carry responsibility for certain G.S.O. bulletins, and staff members act as secretaries to 19 trustees' and Conference committees and boards. A basic responsibility of the staff is to answer correspondence. In 1975, over 20,000 letters were answered.

A rewarding aspect of staff work is the invitations received yearly from many A.A. conventions, assembly meetings, and state and provincial get-togethers. There, the staff has an opportunity to acquaint A.A.'s with G.S.O. services and to obtain information on local problems and activities, so we can serve groups better.

In 1975, more than 1,000 visitors from all over the world visited G.S.O.

Weekly folders of answers to correspondence are circulated to G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs; publications and clippings mentioning A.A. also circulate. Staff meetings are held three times a month.

Beth K.

Archives

Opening ceremony held; classification recommended

Trustees' committee: The formal opening of the archives suite, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, was held November 3, 1975.

The committee's responsibility for archives material and its classification has been discussed, and it was agreed that the Archives Committee is the custodian, and that sensitive material should go into two classifications: (1) *personal - classified*, which may be released if requests are brought to the committee; (2) *personal - confidential* (chiefly involving some of Bill's correspondence), which should not be released at present.

George G., chairman

Conference

Members work all year on one-week Conference

Staff report: The Conference secretary corresponds with 133 Conference members, past delegates, and all those on U.S. and Canada general service committees.

Any A.A. member may send in sugges-

tions for the Conference agenda, usually through the delegate. Suggestions are presented to the trustees' Conference and Conference Agenda Committees, then shared in the *Quarterly Report, Box 4-5-9*, and the preliminary agenda.

The Conference secretary is responsible for: collecting items for the theme and agenda; writing monthly letters to delegates all year; working with others at G.S.O. in Conference planning; scheduling and routing all reports (material for Conference Manuals, Early Bird edition of *Box 4-5-9*, and the *Final Conference Report*); preparation of Conference Advisory Actions and summaries of Ask-It Basket questions.

Mary Ellen W.

Trustees' committee: We reviewed suggested Conference themes and recommended three, from which the Agenda Committee chose one. We discussed proposed agenda subjects, approved presentation, workshop, and discussion topics, and recommended that there be orientation for workshop moderators before the Conference.

After reviewing suggestions from delegates and 1975 Conference evaluation questionnaires, the committee made the following recommendations: (a) that a roll call be taken at the opening session; (b) that the 1976 Conference have a flow chart showing how its committee system works; (c) that the word "Area" be added to "Service Highlights"; (d) that trustees and staff rotate at workshops so delegates have a chance to meet all of them; (e) that Conference committee reports be given to delegates and trustees Thursday evening; (f) that workshop questions be distributed in early February.

Margaret C., chairman

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Professional gatherings kept aware of A.A.

Staff report: Over the past year, to further A.A.'s primary purpose through sharing information about A.A. with professionals who have contact with alcoholics, we participated in 11 professional events. Our Professional Exhibit was shown at 15 national professional meetings; as a result, we received 1,377 requests for literature from 11 of these (other returns not in yet).

The *P.I. Bulletin* is now the *P.I.-C.P.C. Bulletin*, a quarterly. We have established permanent liaison among the trustees' C.P.C., P.I., and Institutions Committees.

Phyllis M.

Trustees' committee: Our Convention in

Denver hosted over 20 professional people working with alcoholics. Examples of how to carry the message to the professional, and through the professional, were presented in many panels.

We participated in the 1975 annual conference of the National Council on Alcoholism (N.C.A.) and in the 26th annual meeting of the Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America (A.D.P.A.).

A.A. participation in the N.C.A. annual meeting this May will be integrated into specific programs of the forum. There will also be a workshop for A.A. members employed in the field of alcoholism.

New Guidelines that describe the formation of a C.P.C. committee will be presented to the joint meeting of the trustees' and Conference C.P.C. Committees.

Robert M., chairman

Institutions

300 new hospital groups, 100 new prison groups

Staff report: This desk provides services to institutions groups and committees, and acts as liaison among them. As of January 1, we had 1,351 hospital and rehabilitation center groups and 1,133 prison groups - increases of about 300 and 100 over January 1, 1975. Over 130 institutions committees serve hospitals and prisons.

To help carry the message to those confined, G.S.O. offers correspondence with the institutions staff member and, through the Institutions Correspondence Service, with about 100 other A.A.'s. We list new groups, and send each the Group Handbook and complimentary literature. We provide prison and hospital groups with updated directories, copies of *Box 4-5-9* bimonthly, and the *Institutions Bulletin* three times yearly.

Sarah P.

Trustees' committee: The chairman asked wardens and superintendents of correctional institutions in the New England and North Atlantic states about A.A. programs, those attending meetings, outside sponsorship, and other points. Results will be reported later.

The chairman suggested that A.A. membership figures in the 1975 correctional directory are incomplete because some institutions fail to report. He and the staff member on the directory assignment will seek accurate figures.

To interest more A.A. members in institutions work, it was suggested that: (1) news items about institutions be periodically printed in *Box 4-5-9*; (2) delegates help carry to groups the message that we need more institutions workers; (3) institutions commit-

tee members meet regionally, as well as locally, to exchange ideas; (4) a one-page flyer with helpful institutions sharing be sent to institutions committees.

Austin McCormack (nonalcoholic), chairman

45th Anniversary International Convention

Addition of Al-Anon to Site Committee urged

Trustees' committee: Our committee reviewed a memo from a member of the Denver Al-Anon Host Committee. It contained some excellent suggestions, particularly one that Al-Anon have representation on the Convention Site Committee. We recommended to the board that Al-Anon be invited to seat one voting member on the Site Committee when it meets.

There are presently four voting trustee members and ten voting delegate members on the committee. With addition of one voting Al-Anon member, Conference delegates will have exactly a two-thirds majority of votes.

Terrance P., chairman

Internationalists

540 carry message on seas

Staff report: About 540 participate in our Internationalists Service, for seagoing A.A.'s. Eight groups hold meetings aboard ships.

Every year, we send an updated list of Internationalists to these A.A.'s. Beginning this year, the list is also sent to Loners, making it possible for all to correspond with one another.

Thirty-two Internationalists who no longer go to sea serve as port contacts in various parts of the world; some have started A.A. groups.

Six times a year, the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* (replacing the *Round Robin* newsletter) is sent to Internationalists, port contacts, and Internationalist groups. On alternate months, *Box 4-5-9* is sent. They also receive A.A. directories.

Yolanda L.

Literature

Big Book #3, 'Living Sober,' 'Different' among projects

Trustees' committee: Completed literature projects include "Living Sober," revision of "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," addition of special questions to "A.A. for the Woman" and "Young People and A.A.," and "The Last Talks of A.A.'s Co-Founders."

Current literature projects include: "So

You Think You're Different"; "Do You Live With an Alcoholic?" (combining "The Alcoholic Wife" and "The Alcoholic Husband"); the third edition of the Big Book; and a teenage cartoon pamphlet.*

The committee tabled a suggestion for a service pamphlet; is exploring a pamphlet for agnostics; plans to discuss updating "A.A. Comes of Age."

George G., chairman

**New pamphlet titles were tentative.*

Loners

G.S.O. serves about 380 Loners; many start groups

Staff report: Approximately 380 Loners are currently listed at G.S.O. In about 80 countries besides English-speaking, Spanish, French, German, and many other nationalities are represented, including two Czechoslovakians and two Hungarians.

Lone Members, as the name implies, are A.A.'s unable to attend meetings, usually because no A.A. group is available. We send them the appropriate directory, *Loners-Internationalists Meeting, Box 4-5-9*, a complimentary package of literature, and mimeographed sheets of ideas drawn from the experience of other Loners on how to stay sober through correspondence.

We encourage the Lone Member to seek another alcoholic who wants help, and form an A.A. group. We have seen the birth of many such groups.

An important contribution to this service is the participation of Loner Sponsors.

Yolanda L.

Nominating

Regional changes, Class A trustees considered

Trustees' committee: The committee reviewed Alaska's 1975 request for a change of region (subsequently withdrawn) and proposed to the Conference Committee on Trustees additions for the procedure when an area requests a region change.

After studying the new procedure for reducing the number of candidates for election as general service trustee — U.S./Canada (recommended by the 1975 Conference), we suggested an additional item for consideration by the Conference Committee on Trustees.

The committee considered a suggestion that the board consist entirely of A.A. trustees. We are convinced that nonalcoholic trustees perform a necessary function, and that their voluntary contributions to the Fellowship are invaluable.

The committee approved as eligible for election all candidates for regional trustees

from the West Central and Western Canada Regions. We approved the résumés of Edward S. for general service trustee — New York and Michael Alexander for Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee to be elected members of the board; approved the résumés of John R. and Fred S. as directors of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and approved the slates of officers and trustees of the board, A.A.W.S., and the Grapevine.

Charles H., chairman

Overseas

Overseas A.A. has 65 new groups, 19,000 new members

Staff report: Group membership overseas — 126,455; number of groups — 6,153. Since last year, 65 new overseas groups have started, and membership has increased more than 19,000. Outside U.S. and Canada, literature distribution centers in 19 countries provide their new groups with complimentary literature.

Australian A.A.'s incorporated their General Service Board this year, and Brazil is forming its General Service Board. Colombia has added "Living Sober" to its publications list and has arranged new terms with the central office in Caracas, Venezuela, to encourage A.A.'s growth there. El Salvador's A.A. population is the highest of the Spanish-speaking countries — 670 groups.

Finland is bidding to host the 1978 World Service Meeting. France, which has had a General Service Board for several years, has been getting literature from Montreal, but is now requesting permission to reprint some in France. Germany's directory will include Austria and German-speaking Switzerland for the first time.

Mexico's first national convention is being held this month. South Africa's board is examining the possibility of hiring a paid G.S.O. worker. A.A. in Great Britain ended 1975 with 838 groups, a 14% increase, compared with 10% or 12% in previous years.

In the past year, we've also seen a lot of A.A. progress in Trinidad, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and India.

Betty L., Yolanda L.

Policy

Confidential A.A. material, 'special' pamphlets discussed

Trustees' committee: Voting members of the committee (not to exceed 18) are eight regional trustees, two general service trustees from outside the New York area, two G.S.O. staff members, a Grapevine director (who is also a trustee), the president and a director of A.A.W.S., and two additional trustees designated by the chairman of the

board. The committee is responsible for problems or projects involving A.A. policy and Traditions.

Highlights of the two Policy Committee meetings held since the 1975 Conference are:

- The question of release of confidential A.A. information has come up because G.S.O. has received requests from outside and inside A.A. for certain information — such as the breakdown of the 1974 survey or a copy of a *Conference Report*. Sense of the meeting: There are no secrets in A.A.; each request should be handled individually.

- A subcommittee was appointed to study the question of distribution of A.A. directories requested by non-A.A. agencies.

- Many requests for pamphlets for “special” alcoholics have been received recently; the trustees’ Literature Committee reported its provisional moratorium on such new pamphlets, until “So You Think You’re Different” is available.

- Dr. Paul McDonough, La Hacienda Treatment Center, Hunt, Tex., told of his first contact with A.A. in Wiesbaden, Germany. He felt that without the help of A.A., the Air Force program would not have survived. He posed questions on the working relationship between A.A. and professionals, and an interesting discussion followed.

- The C.P.C. Committee will review the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate.”
Jim G., chairman

Public Information

Over 10,000 queries, 5,200 A.A. stories processed

Staff report: Through the media (news-papers, magazines, radio, and TV), we make an effort to reach active alcoholics and those in a position to help them. We have 229 local P.I. committees and 541 P.I. contacts.

In 1975, we answered 10,158 requests for information about A.A. and processed 5,219 press clippings.

Color TV spots: 165 distributed. Radio spots: 118 distributed. One-Way Displays: 25 sent to county and state meetings, with pamphlets. Material was supplied for 41 writers and six major radio and TV programs.
June R.

Trustees’ committee: The following projects were completed in 1975.

- Media coverage of the Convention was worldwide, with six A.P. stories, three U.P.I., three Reuters, and one Religious News Service, plus one A.P. photo. Stories published: 2,562. Total circulation: 128,355,570. A 362-page clipping report was turned over to the archives.

The “Profile of an A.A. Meeting” pamphlet and the One-Way Display were revised, to reflect the 1974 survey, and retitled “A.A. — a Community Resource.”

New projects in progress include:

- General 1976 objectives — writing a human-interest story on A.A. self-support and anonymity; clarifying A.A.’s role in the field of alcoholism; making a greater effort to reach minority groups; updating radio spots to include black and Hispanic alcoholics; exploring new methods for distributing TV spots to local P.I. committees; producing radio spots for young alcoholics.

- In the January Grapevine there was a nine-page symposium on doctors. We plan to send about 500 copies to medical directors, medical science writers, large newspapers, and news syndicates.

- The P.I. background editorial material (ten stories about A.A.) has been updated.

Walter M., chairman

Regional mini-conference coordinator

Trial mini-conferences held

Staff report: Two regional mini-conferences were held on an experimental basis: in the Southeast in December; West Central Region, March.

The coordinator plans meetings with the regional trustee and the G.S.O. general manager, works with the regional host committee, makes room arrangements with the hotel in the host city, and handles the travel and hotel plans for trustees and G.S.O. staff.

The agenda is planned with the regional trustee and current delegates in the region. Regional mailings go to current and past delegates and trustees, G.S.R.’s, D.C.M.’s, area committee officers, and central offices.

Reports From the A.A. Grapevine

Grapevine

Over 84,000 magazine buyers read about tools of sobriety

Editors’ report: Circulation is now (as of April 1) over 84,000.

In the past 12 issues, we published 59 articles on the A.A. way of coping with problems of sober living. Eleven articles were on spiritual experience; 13, on the Twelve Steps; 12, on the disease of alcoholism; 12, on carrying the message and sponsorship. We have had 11 pieces by psychiatrists and other doctors, and seven dealing with alcoholism agencies other than A.A. and with A.A.’s employed there. We covered the Denver Convention, structure and service work, group experience, and just about everything from social drinking to panhandling, from sex to insomnia. Every issue carried a piece on the Traditions. We have now scheduled a new 12-month series on them.

We have reports that groups hold Grapevine discussion meetings, but many good A.A.’s still do not know the GV. We pray

The coordinator is also responsible for mini-conference boards, sample literature, and the report on the mini-conference, mailed to all participants, trustees, and current delegates. All sessions are taped, except the workshops, which are summarized in written form.

Cora Louise B.

World Service Meeting

17—no, 18!—delegations to fourth A.A. world meeting

Staff report: The Fourth World Service Meeting will be held in New York October 7-9, 1976. Countries participating are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Central America (Northern Zone), Central America (Southern Zone), Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and U.S./Canada. We’re hoping Brazil will be able to participate.*

The theme will be “Working With Others.” Workshop and discussion topics include: how A.A. works in institutions around the world; special-interest groups; service bulletins; Central America’s solutions and progress with literature-distribution problems; building a service structure worldwide; site of the Fifth World Service Meeting; review of language requirement for delegates; reporting on and using the World Service Meeting at home.

Betty L.

*Soon after this report was turned in, Brazilian representation was assured.

that you will carry with you the message of the Grapevine, one of our best tools for finding and maintaining sobriety.

Jack M., Paula C.

Corporate Board: The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., tries to “keep it simple.” The editorial staff consists of an editor, a managing editor, and a part-time copy-editor and proofreader, all A.A.’s, assisted by an editorial secretary. Board members are available to the staff on any business day. Six people handle circulation, distribution, and bookkeeping.

We are now in a transition stage; the editor, managing editor, and circulation manager will be retiring. To insure continuity, new people are being trained. Our managing editor, Paula C., has been with the Grapevine more than 14 years. Her identification with the GV is so total, it is nearly impossible to quantify her contribution.

In December 1975, the Grapevine reached a paid circulation of 83,000. With our estimated pass-along rate of three readers per copy, more than 250,000 people read the Grapevine every month.

Charles H., chairman

1976 G.S.O. Budget

A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC. — PUBLISHING

Income: Sales income has been budgeted at \$2,222,000. This is 15% higher than 1975 and allows for additional income generated by an increase in retail prices for a full year (less the cost of bulk discounts) and, of course, by Fellowship growth. Sales income is based on the sale of 195,000 copies of "Alcoholics Anonymous," 99,000 "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" — regular edition, 28,000 "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" — pocket edition, 20,000 "A.A. Comes of Age," 29,000 "As Bill Sees It," 90,000 booklets, and 6,500,000 pamphlets and miscellaneous items. After deducting \$855,500 — the cost of producing the literature and the royalties paid on book sales — the gross profit from sales is estimated at \$1,366,500.

Expenses: Expenses charged against the publishing operation are budgeted at \$661,900, an increase of 21% over 1975. This increase provides for expected higher costs related to an increase in publishing activity, higher postal rates, and the cost of implementing electronic data-processing equipment and systems. Net publishing income after operating expenses is expected to be \$704,600.

GENERAL FUND — GROUP SERVICES

Income: Against the cost of servicing groups, we have budgeted contributions to be \$864,200. This is 7% higher than 1975 actual and is considered a conservative increase, because of the prevailing economic conditions that are affecting both the U.S. and Canada.

Expenses: Total expenses that represent the cost of group services, and are charged against group contributions, are expected to be \$1,047,700. Included in this portion of the expense budget is the cost of the General Service Conference — \$59,600. Service expenses are budgeted to be \$182,900 greater than contribution income. This deficit will be funded out of the net income of the publishing operation.

GENERAL FUND — OTHER EXPENSES

Other expenses of the General Service Board are budgeted at \$107,700 less interest earned on cash flow. These expenses represent the cost of quarterly trustee meetings, the expenses of the Public Information Committee and the Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, the cost of four mini-conferences, the 1976 World Service Meeting, legal and auditing expenses, plus other special board projects. This net expense, totaling \$104,200, will also be paid for out of the income from the publishing operation.

After contributing \$287,100 toward the budgeted deficits, the total net income for the General Service Office is anticipated to be \$417,500.

1976 Grapevine Budget

Total income is budgeted at \$489,500, an increase of 17% over 1975 actual. This increase reflects subscriptions which are still at the rate of \$3.50 and will be renewed at the current \$5.00, plus a 5,000 additional order of 1977 Calendars at \$2.00 to individuals and less to groups.

Total expenses are budgeted at \$456,800, an increase of 23% over 1975 actual. This increase includes a separate sum of \$50,000 under administration to cover an orderly transition from the present staff.

Income from operations is budgeted at \$32,700, and **net income** (which includes interest), at \$51,700, a decrease of 21% from 1975 actual.

1976 G.S.O. Budget

The budget for 1976 operations of G.S.O. activities is as follows:

BUDGET

A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC.—PUBLISHING

INCOME

Sales	\$2,222,000*
Less: Cost of products	855,500
Gross profit from sales	1,366,500

TOTAL EXPENSES

Excess of income (expense)	704,600
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*Based upon the sale of:

195,000 books — "Alcoholics Anonymous"
99,000 books — "Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions" (Reg.)
28,000 books — "Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions" (Pocket)
20,000 books — "A.A. Comes of Age"
29,000 books — "As Bill Sees It"
and
Pamphlets, booklets, and miscellaneous items

GENERAL FUND — GROUP SERVICES

INCOME

Contributions	\$ 864,200
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TOTAL EXPENSES

Excess of income (expense)	1,047,700**
	(182,900)

**Includes cost of General Service Conference — \$59,600

GENERAL FUND — OTHER EXPENSES

INCOME

Interest	\$ 3,500
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TOTAL EXPENSE

Excess of income (expense)	107,700***
	(104,200)

***Board meetings, P.I.C. expense, C.P.C. expense, legal and auditing fees, World Service Meeting, mini-conferences, special projects

The publishing activity will contribute \$287,100 to offset the budgeted deficits.

1976 Grapevine Budget

Estimated income from subscription and other sales	\$489,500
Estimated expense	456,800

Net income from operations	32,700
Interest from investments	19,000

Net income	51,700
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1975 Group Contributions

U.S.	# Gps. re-ported	# Gps. contrib.	% of Gps. contrib.	# of Gps. on R.C.P.	% of Gps. on R.C.P.	Amount of contrib.	Member-ship	Contrib. per capita	CANADA	# Gps. re-ported	# Gps. contrib.	% of Gps. contrib.	# of Gps. on R.C.P.	% of Gps. on R.C.P.	Amount of contrib.	Member-ship	Contrib. per capita
Alabama	109	66	60.6%	16	24.2%	\$ 4,141.45	1,700	\$2.43	Alberta	206	96	46.6%	5	5.2%	\$ 6,238.97	2,172	\$2.87
Alaska	50	31	62.0	1	3.2	2,203.50	549	4.01	Atlantic Provinces								
Arizona	238	128	53.7	18	14.0	8,112.92	3,103	2.61	New Brunswick	83	34	40.9	4	11.8	2,067.82	947	2.18
Arkansas	109	68	62.3	9	13.2	4,873.31	1,676	2.90	Nfld. & Lab.	29	12	41.4	1	8.3	836.01	326	2.56
California	2,225	1,204	54.1	498	41.3	84,022.17	62,222	1.35	Nova Scotia	92	53	57.6	1	1.9	2,936.88	1,019	2.88
Colorado	238	161	67.6	43	26.7	12,212.38	3,369	3.62	Prince Ed. Island	29	17	58.6	-0-	-0-	1,166.88	430	2.71
Connecticut	437	133	30.4	36	27.0	17,069.80	7,682	2.22	British Columbia	317	190	59.9	26	13.7	17,466.78	4,115	4.24
Delaware	64	40	62.5	7	17.5	2,804.10	958	2.92	Manitoba	98	56	57.1	4	7.1	5,989.97	2,211	2.70
Dist. of Columbia	80	46	57.5	20	43.5	5,535.03	1,896	2.91	N.W. Territories	8	1	12.5	-0-	-0-	63.52	54	1.17
Florida	599	361	60.2	84	23.2	38,259.17	9,011	4.24	Ontario	709	402	56.7	100	24.9	50,168.06	10,296	4.87
Georgia	237	160	67.5	55	34.3	10,909.08	4,010	2.72	Quebec	779	373	47.8	82	22.0	16,420.53	20,204	.81
Hawaii	67	40	59.7	10	25.0	5,753.83	1,255	4.58	Saskatchewan	159	92	57.8	5	5.4	8,641.95	2,073	4.16
Idaho	61	29	47.5	6	20.6	1,442.94	551	2.61	Yukon Terr.	2	1	50.0	-0-	-0-	47.50	56	.84
Illinois	1,141	416	36.4	124	29.8	27,859.65	19,820	1.40	TOTAL for CANADA	2,511	1,327	52.8%	228	17.2%	\$112,044.87	43,903	\$2.55
Indiana	315	204	64.7	50	24.5	17,534.13	4,786	3.66	TOTAL for U.S. and CANADA	17,819	9,910	55.6%	2,709	27.3%	\$795,202.91	336,549	\$2.36
Iowa	181	109	60.2	13	11.9	7,739.17	3,488	2.21	FOREIGN AND OTHER								
Kansas	161	113	70.1	22	19.4	8,383.65	2,968	2.82	Foreign						4,222.35		
Kentucky	183	79	43.1	14	17.7	6,912.40	2,289	3.02	International Doctors in A.A.						250.00		
Louisiana	149	97	65.1	20	20.6	5,460.60	2,502	2.18	Hospital groups						5,801.17		
Maine	95	66	69.4	10	15.1	3,146.17	1,270	2.47	Prison groups						263.88		
Maryland	386	241	62.4	66	27.4	17,567.37	5,358	3.27	Internationalists						750.03		
Massachusetts	512	251	49.0	79	31.4	20,059.88	11,777	1.70	Internationalist groups						1,023.50		
Michigan	558	326	58.4	97	29.7	31,246.42	12,015	2.60	GRAND TOTAL						\$807,513.84		
Minnesota	484	279	57.6	54	19.3	23,692.61	14,191	1.67									
Mississippi	81	43	53.0	10	23.3	2,292.80	1,157	1.98									
Missouri	311	189	60.0	36	19.0	11,718.37	4,401	2.66									
Montana	96	65	67.7	5	7.7	3,218.33	1,202	2.67									
Nebraska	168	108	64.2	25	23.1	7,622.24	2,649	2.87									
Nevada	74	43	58.1	15	34.9	2,715.70	1,227	2.21									
New Hampshire	91	46	50.5	29	63.0	2,591.00	1,487	1.74									
New Jersey	489	222	45.4	81	36.5	26,066.61	8,234	3.17									
New Mexico	87	67	77.0	11	16.4	4,120.92	1,171	3.51									
New York	1,017	583	57.3	223	38.3	52,521.80	20,838	2.52									
North Carolina	252	97	38.4	40	41.2	13,083.05	3,852	3.39									
North Dakota	90	59	65.5	2	3.4	3,462.72	1,316	2.63									
Ohio	678	366	53.9	54	14.8	25,760.03	12,626	2.04									
Oklahoma	167	140	83.8	78	55.7	11,270.30	2,277	4.95									
Oregon	151	99	65.5	29	29.3	6,834.50	1,847	3.70									
Pennsylvania	561	364	64.8	114	31.3	34,050.63	9,698	3.51									
Rhode Island	65	40	61.5	14	35.0	3,413.15	1,030	3.31									
South Carolina	106	68	64.1	16	23.5	5,949.89	1,637	3.63									
South Dakota	74	48	64.8	2	4.2	4,331.09	1,250	3.46									
Tennessee	155	87	56.1	8	9.2	4,287.73	2,173	1.97									
Texas	519	318	61.2	87	27.4	27,209.37	14,426	1.88									
Utah	85	49	57.6	16	32.7	3,553.60	1,138	3.12									
Vermont	54	37	68.5	3	8.1	2,250.35	630	3.57									
Virginia	280	205	73.2	58	28.3	16,453.09	4,387	3.75									
Washington	357	229	64.1	103	45.0	19,011.31	5,093	3.73									
West Virginia	87	54	62.0	16	29.6	3,979.95	962	4.13									
Wisconsin	413	236	57.1	40	16.9	13,444.17	5,842	2.30									
Wyoming	44	27	61.3	2	7.4	1,384.31	433	3.19									
Commonwealth of P.R.	63	42	66.6	10	23.8	2,690.19	1,073	2.50									
Canal Zone	3	2	66.6	-0-	-0-	729.11	66	11.04									
Bahama Islands	7	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	62	-0-									
Virgin Islands of U.S.	4	2	50.0	2	100.0	200.00	16	12.50									
TOTAL for U.S.	15,308	8,583	56.1%	2,481	28.9%	\$683,158.04	292,646	\$2.33									

	# Gps. re-ported	# Gps. contrib.	% of Gps. contrib.	# of Gps. on R.C.P.	% of Gps. on R.C.P.	Amount of contrib.	Member-ship	Contrib. per capita
U.S. 1975	15,308	8,583	56.1%	2,481	28.9%	\$683,158.04	292,646	\$2.33
U.S. 1974	14,448	8,225	56.9	3,540	43.0	629,816.99	287,863	2.18
Increase								
(Decrease)	860	358	(.8%)	(1,059)	(14.1%)	\$ 53,341.05	4,783	\$.15
Canada 1975	2,511	1,327	52.8%	228	17.2%	\$112,044.87	43,903	\$2.55
Canada 1974	2,427	1,377	56.7	488	35.4	110,957.17	42,922	2.59
Increase								
(Decrease)	84	(50)	(3.9%)	(260)	(18.2%)	\$ 1,087.70	981	(\$.04)
U.S. and Canada 1975	17,819	9,910	55.6%	2,709	27.3%	\$795,202.91	336,549	\$2.36
U.S. and Canada 1974	16,875	9,602	56.9	4,028	42.0	740,774.16	330,785	2.23
Increase								
(Decrease)	944	308	(1.3%)	(1,319)	(14.7%)	\$ 54,428.75	5,764	\$.13

LATEST ESTIMATE OF MEMBERSHIP

(continued from p. 1)

cided against it at this time. Authorized study of feasibility of publishing a limited quantity of original 1939 edition.

"Bill W."—voted that G.S.O. should discontinue distribution of this biography (published by Harper & Row) after disposing of present supply.

Mini-conferences—approved going forward with these experiments in communication as soon as possible, at the invitation of a region wanting one. Decided to call them "regional forums" for the present.

G.S.O. location—sense of the meeting was that A.A.W.S. should continue its study, at cost of up to \$5,000, on feasibility of relocating G.S.O. at some future time.

Finance—recommended the board consider reducing net income from literature sales by appropriate means, emphasizing that this

anticipates a solid base of group support. **Institutions**—recommended that the trustees' and Conference Institutions Committees be divided into two subcommittees each: (a) correctional institutions and (b) hospitals and rehabilitation centers.

Cooperation with the professional community—suggested preparation of a paper for referrals and those referring them to A.A., sharing items from existing material on what A.A. does and does not do.

Public information—recommended for the 1977 Conference a joint meeting of the trustees' and Conference P.I., C.P.C., and Institutions Committees.

Delegates-only meeting—recommended rearrangement of Conference schedule to get Conference committee reports into delegates' hands earlier on Thursday. Jim S. (Ariz.) named 1977 delegate chairman; Stan C. (Sask.), alternate.

Literature—approved stories and title for

new pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" Also approved titles "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" (new pamphlet combining "The Alcoholic Wife" and "The Alcoholic Husband") and "Teenagers and A.A." (new cartoon pamphlet).

Conference format—recommended that a study on changes be presented to the 1977 Conference.

1977 Conference—recommended a theme built around the A.A. group.

Grapevine—with standing ovation, passed a resolution in gratitude for the service of Paula C., retiring from managing editorship in August.

Trustees—recommended no change in structure of General Service Board.

In Memoriam

Walter F. (S.E. N.Y.), Panel 25

Digest of Agenda

Monday, April 19

Roll call of all Conference members
Welcome and keynote
Area delegate chairman
Conference committee chairmen
G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs
General Service Board report
Presentation, discussion, workshop:
"Sponsorship"
Opening dinner and A.A. meeting

Tuesday, April 20

Members of General Service Board (trustees)
Reports of A.A.W.S., Grapevine, and trustees' committees

Joint trustees' and Conference committee meetings
Conference committee meetings
Presentation, discussion:
"On Literature"
Workshop: "A.A. in Hospitals"

Wednesday, April 21

Ask-It Basket
Conference committee meetings
Workshop report-back: "A.A. in Hospitals"
Report on regional mini-conferences
Trustee elections
Unstructured workshops

Thursday, April 22

Convention Site Committee report
Presentation, discussion, workshop:
"Public Information"
Ask-It Basket

Tour of G.S.O. and Grapevine offices
Delegates-only meeting

Friday, April 23

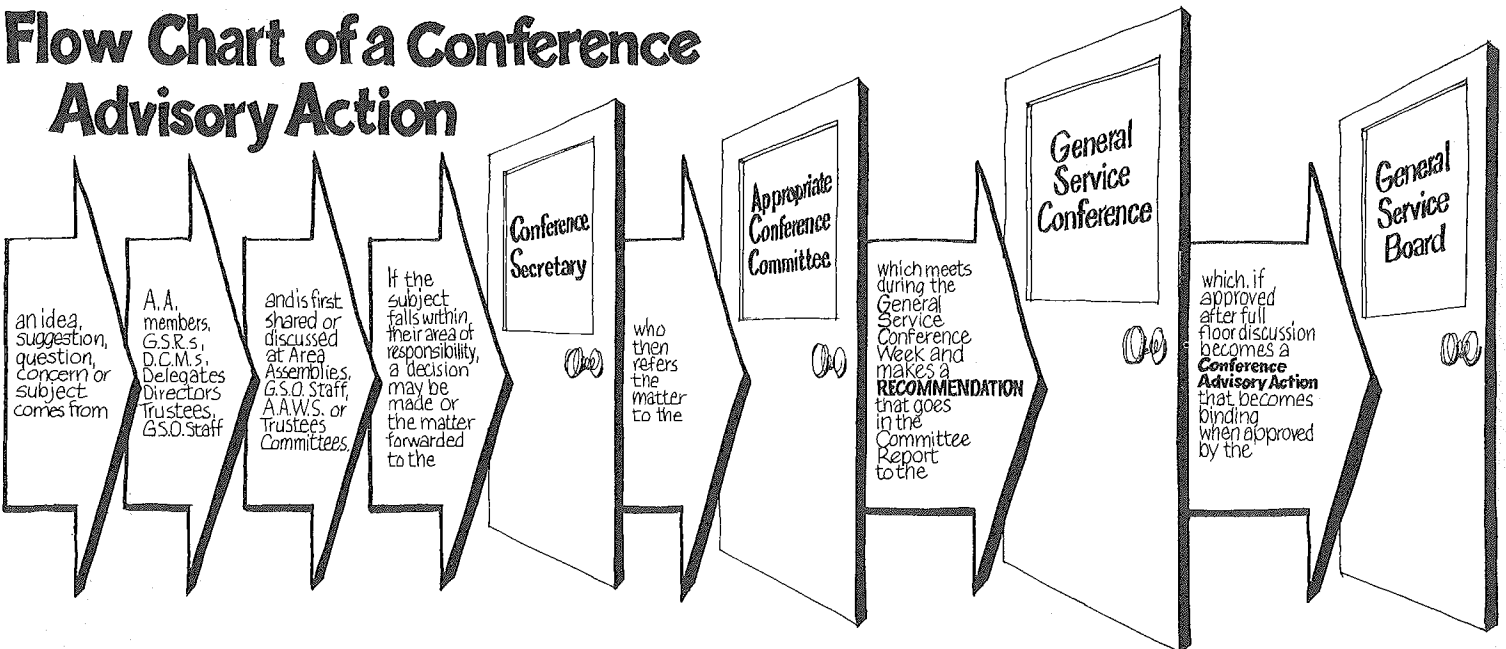
Report on delegates-only meeting
Conference committee reports, discussion
Workshop report-back: "Public Information"
Discussion topics:
"The Twelve Concepts"
"Back to Basics"
"The Role of the General Service Delegate"
Closing talk

Saturday, April 24

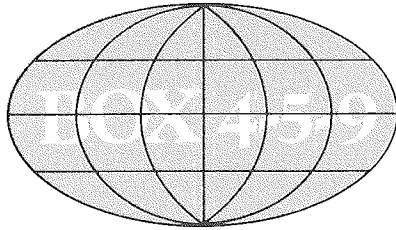
Closing brunch and A.A. meeting
Trip to Stepping Stones

Area Service Highlights: At intervals, Panel 26 delegates shared experiences of their areas.

**Flow Chart of a Conference
Advisory Action**



"Were it not for committees, it is doubtful that any Conference could get over a fraction of the ground it now covers. As the Conference has grown in size and influence, the committees' importance has grown even more." ("The A.A. Service Manual," p. 72)



THE BULLETIN BOARD

June-July 1976

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

A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 28-30 - *Bakersfield, California*. Third Annual Golden Empire Roundup. Write: Roundup, P.O. Box 3489, Sta. A, Bakersfield, CA 93305
- 28-30 - *Tulsa, Oklahoma*. 35th Anniv. Okla. State Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., P.O. Box 4554, Tulsa, OK 74104
- 28-30 - *Castlegar, British Columbia, Canada*. Third Annual Castlegar Intergroup Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., Box 3091, Castlegar, B.C., Canada
- 28-30 - *Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Gateway Roundup. Write: Secty., 12-12th St. E., Prince Albert, Sask., Canada S6V 1B2
- 29 - *New Brunswick, New Jersey*. 20th Annual North Jersey G.S.C. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 251, Clifton, NJ 07011

JUNE

- 3-6 - *Palm Springs, California*. 16th Annual Desert Roundup. Write: Desert Roundup, P.O. Box 1317, Palm Desert, CA 92260
- 4-6 - *Omaha, Nebraska*. 17th Annual Nebr. State Reunion. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 27001, Omaha, NE 68127
- 4-6 - *Las Cruces, New Mexico*. 19th Annual N.M. Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 1852 Foster Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88001
- 4-6 - *Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada*. 16th Annual Parksville Rally. Write: Reservation Chm., P.O. Box 281, Port Alberni, B.C., Canada
- 5-6 - *Winchester, Virginia*. 22nd Four-State & D.C. Spring Get-Together. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 651, Winchester, VA 22601
- 10-13 - *St. Simons Island, Georgia*. 12th Golden Isles Family Weekend. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 508, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 11-13 - *Sedona, Arizona*. Sedona Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm., P.O. Box 3070, West Sedona, AZ 86340
- 11-13 - *San Jose, California*. Northern Calif. Council Summer Conf. Write: Chm., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108
- 11-13 - *Montrose, Colorado*. Summer Conf. Write: Conf. Secty., 1440 Detroit, #2, Denver, CO 80206
- 11-13 - *Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota*. Sixth Annual Upper Minn. Get-Together. Write: Reg. & Tickets Chm., 212 Fairfax Rd., Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750
- 11-13 - *Salem, West Virginia*. 24th Annual State Conf. Write: 24th W.Va. Conf., P.O. Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301

- 11-13 - *Pine Lake, Alberta, Canada*. Sixth Cent. Alta. Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm., Box 474, Innisfail, Alta., Canada
- 11-13 - *Dawson Creek, British Columbia, Canada*. 19th Annual Roundup. Write: Chm., Box 111, Dawson Creek, B.C., Canada
- 12-13 - *Le Mars, Iowa*. Iowa Spring Conf. Write: Chm., R.R. 2, Box 173, Sheldon, IA 51201
- 18-20 - *Detroit, Michigan*. First North American Indian Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., P.O. Box 32098, Detroit, MI 48232
- 18-20 - *North Conway, New Hampshire*. 11th Annual N.H. Conv. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 500, Derry, NH 03038
- 18-20 - *Akron, Ohio*. Founders Day. Write: Founders Day Comm., P.O. Box 12, Akron, OH 44309
- 18-20 - *Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*. 15th Kawartha Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 865 Alexander Ct., Peterborough, Ont., Canada K9J 7J5
- 19-20 - *Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Second Roundup. Write: Roundup Secty., P.O. Box 1761, Humboldt, Sask., Canada S0K 2A0
- 24-27 - *San Antonio, Texas*. 31st Annual Tex. State Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., P.O. Box 32902, San Antonio, TX 78216
- 25-27 - *San Francisco, California*. Gay AAs Western Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm., P.O. Box 31474, San Francisco, CA 94131
- 25-27 - *Tupelo, Mississippi*. 30th Annual Miss. State Conv. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 603, Tupelo, MS 38801
- 25-27 - *Alcoa, Tennessee*. Blount County 18th Anniv. Conv. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 296, Maryville, TN 37801
- 25-27 - *Lubbock, Texas*. Second Annual Hub of the Plains Conv. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79413

JULY

- 2-4 - *Minneapolis, Minnesota*. Gopher State III Roundup. Write: Gopher State III, P.O. Box 225, Hopkins, MN 55343
- 2-4 - *Seattle, Washington*. Pacific N.W. Conf. Write: Pacific N.W. Conf., 18332 8th Ave. N.W., Seattle, WA 98177
- 16-18 - *Atlanta, Georgia*. Second Annual Atlanta Roundup. Write: Roundup, P.O. Box 29607, Atlanta, GA 30329
- 16-18 - *Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. 19th Annual La. State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 15685, Baton Rouge, LA 70815
- 16-18 - *Hagerstown, Maryland*. Sixth Annual Md. State Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., P.O. Box 15405, Baltimore, MD 21220
- 16-18 - *St. Louis, Missouri*. Mo. State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., 10338 Yarwood Ct., St. Louis, MO 63136

- 16-18 - *Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. Fourth Annual Lakeshore Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 1092, Sta. B, Oshawa, Ont., Canada
- 23-25 - *Binghamton, New York*. 13th Annual N.Y. State Conv. Write: State Conv., P.O. Box 53, Binghamton, NY 13905
- 23-25 - *Cleveland, Ohio*. 20th Ohio State Conv. Write: Host Comm., P.O. Box 6331, Cleveland, OH 44101
- 23-25 - *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*. 19th International Conf. of Young People in A.A. Write: 19th I.C.Y.P.A.A., Box 8537, Philadelphia, PA 19101
- 30-August 1 - *Edson, Alberta, Canada*. 16th Annual Dist. Five Roundup. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 15, Edson, Alta., Canada
- 30-August 1 - *North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Biennial W. Canada Regional Conf. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 86031, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada
- 30-August 1 - *Kingsville, Ontario, Canada*. First Annual Essex County Conf. Write: Essex County Conf., Box 249, Kingsville, Ont., Canada N9Y 2E9
- 31-August 1 - *Mackenzie, British Columbia, Canada*. Fourth Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., P.O. Box 801, Mackenzie, B.C., Canada

CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

June: Four articles on ego provide material for a helpful discussion on immaturity, the need to surrender personal will, and the growth we can achieve; a fruitful Traditions meeting may spring from Bill W.'s "Freedom Under God," written in 1960, but timeless in its importance; "As a Doctor Sees It" examines the pill question—are we playing doctor?

July: Read the six-article section on A.A. and prison, and ask what the group and individual members can do for alcoholics in confinement or just released; "Do We Need Each Other?" starts a new series on the meaning of the Traditions in our personal lives, and may also start us sharing our own experiences with the First.