

About AA

A.A. Welcomes Two New Class A (Nonalcoholic) Trustees

A.A. has always relied upon its many nonalcoholic friends to provide professional expertise, sound business judgment and balance to the dedicated group of trustees who donate their time and interest in service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Of the 21 members of A.A.'s General Service Board, seven are specifically designated as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees. Historically, the Fellowship owes a tremendous debt to these Class A trustees, men and women from a variety of disciplines whose vision and faith not only helped the struggling movement through its difficult early years, but were instrumental in shaping the principles that continue to guide its present course.

Elected to six-year terms, the two most recent Class A trustees, Christine Carpenter, of Columbia, Missouri and Nancy McCarthy, of St. Louis, Missouri began their service to the Fellowship following the 66th General Service Conference in April 2016. Both have been associated with A.A. and its program of recovery on a professional basis.

Christine Carpenter is an attorney who served as a judge on the Boon County Adult Drug Court for over 15 years, which is where she first became involved with A.A. "Although I had some idea of the mission of A.A., I learned more about the Fellowship as I worked with addiction, alcoholism and treatment professionals," she says. "My interest in A.A. grew as I got more educated about the difference between treatment and support groups, including the concept of anonymity."

Joining the board is an opportunity for Carpenter to expand her knowledge base about recovery and to find new ways of helping those in need. "I believe my experience in the criminal court system, and particularly Drug Court, will help me to assist both A.A. and the Courts in a better understanding of

how we can help those in need in a therapeutic rather than strictly punitive environment," she says.

Nancy McCarthy has served in various positions with the Missouri Department of Corrections, Division of Probation and Parole, assisting with numerous drug and alcohol programs. She says: "I have worked within the Corrections field for 32 years and fully understand Corrections cannot do this work alone. We need the help and assistance of others."

Currently serving as the Missouri Regional Administrator responsible for the supervision of 18,500 offenders, Nancy continues teaching what she has learned about the value of A.A. and the role it can play in the recovery of the many alcoholics in the correctional system. "I hope to help corrections professionals understand how A.A. can help their clients achieve and sustain sobriety," she explains. "We have incorporated A.A. into the training for new probation and parole officers. Members of the Fellowship outline for staff the tenets of A.A., including what the Steps are, what types of meetings there are, as well as telling their stories. This has allowed staff to understand sobriety from those who have walked in their shoes."

The 24th World Service Meeting

A.A.'s 24th World Service Meeting (WSM) will take place October 23-27, 2016, in Rye Brook, New York, drawing 63 delegates from 40 of the world's countries or zones. A.A. has a presence in more than 180 countries, with an estimated 117,000 groups and more than two millions members. There are 61 general service offices worldwide, including the New York office.

The first World Service Meeting was held in New York City in 1969, and it has since alternated, every two years, between New York and another country. The WSM brings together representatives from A.A.'s service offices and boards from around the globe to talk over common problems and share common solutions to help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous wherever it is needed. The theme for the 24th World Service Meeting will be "One World, One A.A., One Language of the Heart," the latter referencing Bill W's belief that A.A.'s "channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart." It was Bill's belief that A.A. membership on other continents would someday exceed that of the U.S. and Canada, and the World Service Meeting is proof that the Fellowship continues to thrive and grow wherever the need for recovery exists.



Christine Carpenter



Nancy McCarthy

Resources for Professionals

Available at www.aa.org

For many years A.A. has depended on its close relationship with the professional community. Many thousands of alcoholics owe their lives to a nonalcoholic professional—a medical doctor, psychiatrist, counselor, law enforcement official, corrections officer or member of the clergy—who was knowledgeable enough about alcoholism to recognize the illness and take the actions that would cut through the alcoholic's denial and start him or her on the road to recovery.

How can professionals who want to help tap into A.A.'s long-standing, ongoing support system for alcoholics? For a general overview of A.A.'s resources, a first step can be accessing A.A.'s website, www.aa.org. The home page has material useful to anyone seeking help with a drinking problem. Professionals can click on the link "[For Professionals](#)" and find themselves on a page rich with resources useful for working with alcoholic clients. There are short videos designed specifically for health care, legal and corrections, and human resource professionals. A.A. literature can be accessed on this page, including pamphlets that help in understanding the A.A. concept of anonymity and A.A.'s views on medication and other drugs. The pamphlet [A.A. Membership Survey](#) also provided data on membership characteristics and information about A.A. to the professional community, the general public, and A.A. as a whole. This page of the website also allows professionals to subscribe to [About A.A.](#), the free newsletter for professionals.

This page also provides doctors, lawyers, health care professional, corrections officials and clergy with a [link to contact the Cooperation With the Professional Community \(C.P.C.\)](#) desk at A.A.'s General Service Office in New York, with any questions or issues they might have. The C.P.C. desk can inform professionals and future professionals about A.A.—what we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we don't do. Since Alcoholics Anonymous believes that working with professionals at a local level is extremely important, a zip code locator is also provided, which helps professionals [find the local A.A. service offices](#) nearest to them.

Professionals who work with alcoholics share a common purpose with Alcoholics Anonymous: to help the alcoholic stop drinking and lead a healthy, productive life. As a source of personal experience with alcoholism, www.aa.org is just the first step in providing an ongoing support system both for alcoholics and professionals.

A New Freedom

Filmed inside correctional facilities in the U.S. and Canada, this 30 minutes video features a diverse group of A.A. members

who are currently incarcerated or have been incarcerated and are staying sober one day at a time. They share what it was like when they drank, what happened after participating in A.A. in prison, and what it's like now as a result of working the Twelve Steps and continuing to participate in the A.A. Fellowship. (DV-18; \$10.00).

A.A. Archives

The materials in G.S.O.'s A.A. Archives are available to A.A. members and non-AA.s (historians, sociologists and other professionals) who have a legitimate interest in researching A.A.'s growth and history. If A.A. members or non-A.A.s wish to make use of specific material in the Archives, a written request for access should be made to the trustees' Archives Committee, specifying the material desired, and the use to which it will be put.

The archives is a popular place for visitors who come to tour G.S.O. and Grapevine offices. Often members will drop by to research their group's history or to view the scrapbooks of newspaper clippings regarding A.A. from the 1930s through the 50s.

The couch in the background of this photo is from cofounder Bill W.'s office.



How Can A.A. Help You?

Would you be interested in having an A.A. presentation at one of your professional gatherings? Or would you like information about recovery from alcoholism in A.A.? If so, please contact the [C.P.C. desk](#) at the General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, or cpc@aa.org. We welcome your questions, comments and requests.

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