



# AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A. A.

April-May 1964

Vol. 9 - No. 3 • 305 East 45th Street, New York 17 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 •

## What about Statistics? DELEGATES TO DISCUSS

Probably the most serious, least social of all big A.A. get-togethers is the Annual Meeting of the General Conference, when elected Delegates from Canada and the U.S., G.S. Trustees, Bill W., and the G. S. O. and Grapevine Directors and Staff gather as a collective "group conscience" of North America A.A.

A glance at some of the subjects to be taken up at the April 21-26 sessions this year in New York shows why this has to be a thoughtful, prayerful working group, with almost no time for play.

"It has been suggested that some A. A. statistics may be inaccurate," said a recent letter to Delegates. "Our count of Groups may be pretty good, but our membership census figures are estimates at best." So, this subject has been added to the list of discussion topics jamming the agenda this year.

### SOME OTHER SUBJECTS

- Sponsoring "early-bottom" prospects?
- Proxy experience at Assemblies?
- Should Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees rotate?
- How can regular Groups best cooperate with institutions?
- How can an Area Committee help build local services?
- How do past Delegates serve your Area??
- Should G. S. R.'s receive mailings for Groups?
- If you have any experience to share on these matters, be sure your Delegate receives it. *Who is he or she?* See List p. 4.

## KING-SIZE SHARING

### CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS AND BASHES BUDDING OUT ALL OVER IN '64

If there isn't at least one big convention, banquet, or picnic in your A. A. calendar for 1964, you may be missing something.

At least, more and more A. A.'s every year seem to think so. As one

put it, "If the idea of two alcoholics getting together to share was a good idea when Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. did it in 1935, it's even better when 200 or 2,000 do it." For those who agree, more than 100 big A.A. get-togethers are set for 1964 around the world.

Probably every state and province has its annual convention now, with banquets, dances, meetings, and all night coffee klatches.

### REGIONAL MEETINGS

Many states have joint sessions, like the one in the Pacific Northwest. Or the annual Southeastern Conference, which draws members from 13 states (this year the 20th will be in Alexandria, Va.). It's commonplace to drive up and see the same folks you waved goodbye to just a few weeks ago.

Sometimes state and provincial Assemblies hold business sessions at these get-togethers, to elect a Conference Delegate or review service affairs.

Two conventions now held each year are those of "International Doctors in A.A." and "International Young People."

The idea of the king-size A. A. meeting has spread overseas, too. Spain had its first, and Central America its second this year. The European Round-up in Weisbaden, Germany, its twelfth. Colombia, South America, Ireland, Australia, England and many other countries have their own national conventions.

(continued on page 2)



DR. JOHN L. NORRIS, *nonalcoholic Chairman of A. A.'s General Service Board*, will open the 14th Annual meeting of the General Service Conference in New York, April 21. Dr. "Jack" has served on our Board since 1951, as chairman since 1961. He is Associate Medical Director, Eastman Kodak Co., and President, Industrial Medical Association. His article in the April GRAPEVINE, "Sharing Recover," gives tips on how to improve understanding of A.A. by doctors.

### LATEST WRITING BY BILL W.

"Twelve Concepts for World Service," the latest writing by co-founder Bill W., is now bound into "The Third Legacy Manual of A.A. World Service." The combined book of 160 pages (paper back) is priced at 75¢.

## ONE GROUP RAISES-MONEY BY LETTER

### HELP FOR CONVENTION PLANNERS

We'll gladly send you "Suggestions for Conventions, and Area 'Get-Togethers,'" with tips on programming, publicity, financing, entertainment, etc.; the big three-color cartoon poster "Inside A. A.," 40" x 60", ready for mounting; the G.S.O. display kit for literature; and the portable table-top displays on worldwide services (we only have three of these — reserve early!) The "Grapevine" display kit contains a striking poster 35" x 45", and miniature "Grapevine" address books for handouts.

### KING SIZE SHARING

(continued from page 1)

### WHAT THEY'RE LIKE

No one who has ever attended one of these super-meetings can forget the happy greetings, the coffee in paper cups and the smiling women at the registration desk. The relief you feel when you spot the name-badge on a guy or gal whose face you know from you-can't-remember-where. The inspiring guest speakers, both A.A. and non-alcoholic, whom you'd never get to hear at home.

### SEE YOU IN TORONTO

Host A.A. members in Canada are already registering for the 1965 World A.A. Convention to be held July 2, 3, and 4, 1965, in Toronto. (The rest of us register after Jan. 1, 1965.)

The very thought of such mammoth A. A. gatherings repelled lots of us, until we had been to one. And thank God all A.A. members are still free to stay away. *Somebody* has to keep the home Group coffee pot perking.

Chances are, nobody who recalls Cleveland in '50, St. Louis in '55, or Long Beach in '60, will want to miss Toronto.

The Perth Group in Scotland has already chartered a jet to bring 137 A. A.'s from Great Britain to Toronto. All of us at G. S. O. look forward to three grand 24-hours there — and to seeing you.

Here's how one Group has raised \$2,790 for A.A. World Services since 1956.

"We just send a mimeographed letter once a year reminding each of our members what it is for," said the G.S.R. Last year this letter brought in \$385.50:

Gratitude Time, 1963

Dear Friend,

Last summer in a tiny, inaccessible, telephoneless Mexican town on the Pacific Coast, I saw a very sick A. A. member wandering the streets. Later I visited this same man safe in a hospital in Mexico City.

A miracle? Yes, — a miracle that is being repeated hundreds of times a year through the work of your General Service Office.

For you see, there was a Loner in this small town, he had a 'World Directory,' and from it the right person in Mexico City was chosen to get a wire. Our patient was

met at the airport, whisked to the waiting hospital bed and, in my opinion, a life was saved.

'There,' said I to myself, 'is where my G.S.O. contribution goes — to help a still suffering alcoholic no matter where he may be. Twelfth Step work on a large scale,' and I felt mighty glad all over.

Here is where the taped meetings are held in readiness for small young Groups who need to be encouraged along the way. In a word, this is the hub of our Fellowship.

Now during 'gratitude month' is our chance to help cover the office expenses. \$3.00 is what we ask of you, if you possibly can do it. But, just as it happens in Groups, there are members and Groups who simply cannot contribute (those in institutions, jails, etc.) and, therefore, those of us who can, try to give a dollar for each year of sobriety (about what I remember paying for two drinks at a bar!) to try to make up for those who just can't give anything today!

YOUR GENERAL SERVICE  
REPRESENTATIVE

### THE DIPLOMAT AND HIS FRIEND

(In the last issue we told you about the African Government official who came to us with an interpreter from the U. S. State Department to get information about A. A., and — it turned out that he had a "friend" back home who had a drinking problem.)

The Big Book and pamphlets in French were provided his friend. We wrote him, too, and waited — first letter — little miffed — alcoholic? Well — but — *big day came* — here's his *second letter* —

Dear A.A.'s: It's with great joy that I write to you this time. Well, I think your pamphlets have transformed me. Yes, I have divorced from the glass and the bottle. You can have faith in me and count me among your companions. I hope that God will give me the courage to keep on. All this has happened, thanks to your cooperation. I also thank my friend, X, who, I don't know how, was able to contact you, I continue reading the small brochures.

Thank you all. — Best Regards

We've added this new Loner from the new country to our list and at least one more candle now helps light the Dark Continent.

### ANONYMITY BREAKS

The Public Information Committee suggests that any member who speaks before a non-A.A. Group read a statement about our Tradition of anonymity at the public level (we'll gladly send a sample), check in advance to see if reporters will be there, and otherwise be especially careful about anonymity.

About the only anonymity breaks seen in newspaper clippings lately have happened when A. A. members spoke before Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, or similar luncheon clubs *without realizing a newspaper reporter was present.*

★ ★ ★

### STOCKHOLM SHARES

"We got several newcomers already after the first program and lots of telephone calls," writes Axel of Stockholm, Sweden, reporting on two A.A. radio shows his Group put on.

"Maybe this is a good item for the 'Exchange Bulletin,'" Axel said, "to encourage A.A.'s in countries outside the U.S.A."

Maybe inside the U. S. A., too, Axel. Thanks.

Conference Digests will be mailed to  
G.S.O. mailing list June 1

AT 5:30 P.M. MONDAY APRIL 27TH

The Trustees of A. A.'s General Service Board will start their Annual Meeting — always held the last Monday of April — following the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. Busy Trustees?? Yes — (more on their activities in the next Bulletin.)

### TWELFTH STEP ON A JET

"On a flight to San Francisco Monday night, the stewardess told me of the bad drinking problem of her father.

"She was thrilled with the accounts I gave her of the help that Alcoholics Anonymous has given hundreds of thousands of alcoholics and their families. I promised her that I would send some literature and maybe some good A.A. people would call." concluded our correspondent, *who is not an alcoholic.*

We've contacted the nearest Group, so again an alcoholic may owe his life to one of our nonalcoholic friends!

### EXCLUSIVE FROM GUANTANAMO

"We have two scheduled meetings a week, Friday night at some member's home and Sunday 'brunch' at 10 A.M.

"Last Sunday was a gala day. We had a visitor from a submarine, and three visitors from a Navy cruiser. We discussed the First Step for the new pigeon. Then went to C's for a social day.

"We all have phones now. What a luxury. We can now actually reach for a phone instead of a drink. I still do it even though I had my sixth anniversary on Jan. 5. God keep you all." *John F., Guantanamo Group, Cuba.*

### Prison Chaplain Shares His Mail

"Dear G. S. O., At the moment I have quite a number of men living in freedom and doing fine. I wish all A.A. could read their letters." — Fr. Walsh, Pennsylvania

(Here's Just One Example:)

"Dear Fr. Walsh: I took a 4-mile walk on Sunday and it's the first I've really been able to take in the purity of the trees and mountains. I'm so very grateful for the wonderful help I've received from you and my fellow A.A. buddies at the ——— Group and the rest of the Outside Groups who came to us Sunday after Sunday spending time and money to share their experience.

"The question nearly always asked by the inmate in A.A. is 'What am I going to do with the vacuum created by my not drinking?'

"Believe me, Father, I'm not drinking and I can't find enough hours in the day. My answer is, *"Get active in A.A."* — J.B.

*It Works Vice Versa, Too*

Not always does A.A. move *from* "regular" Groups *into* institutions. Munich (Germany) Group No. 2 has come into being through the active A.A. work in Haar, a

### NEW 1964 DIRECTORY FOR MEMBERS ONLY

The World Directory is CONFIDENTIAL — to A. A. members for sharing A. A. information and activities. It is not to be used as a mailing list for any solicitation or any commercial venture.

One copy has been mailed to each A. A. Group for its members, to each Loner, Internationalist, General Service Conference Delegate and Committee Member. Individual members may obtain personal copies at \$1.75 each, by ordering through their Group Officers.

"The Groups request that we remind you not to use the words 'Alcoholics Anonymous' or the initials 'A. A.' on any envelope, wrapper or postal card going to any individual member."

sanitarium near Munich. Hospital inmates take meetings to the outside Group, too.

There are now 514 A. A. Groups in hospitals; with a total membership of 11,417.

### FROM OUR MAILBAG

Q. "Do you have some short talks prepared I could use to increase world service interest?"

—B. C., Nova Scotia.

A. Yes, we have several sample three-minute service talks for the use of G. S. R.'s, Committee Members, Delegates and all A.A.'s.

Q. "The nonalcoholic spouses are interested in forming an Al-Anon Family Group, which is badly needed. Please see that they get necessary pamphlets and information." —R.W.S., Tenn. A. Since A. A. is not affiliated with the Al-Anon Family Groups, we forward all queries about Al-Anon and Alateen to their own G.S.O. Why not write them directly? Their address is: Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., P.O. Box 182, Madison Square Station, New York, New York 10010.

Q. "The other night we had a visitor who has been sober in A.A. two years. He and some others have been trying to get a Group started among an Apache Tribe 150 miles from here. Anything you can do to help them get started?" —M.H.G., New Mexico. A. We'll send them information and the free packet of literature which all new Groups get. In addition, we have a list of about 30 other American Indian Groups (two in New Mexico) they can correspond and share experiences with.

## ANSWERS YOU SHARED

Just some answers (wish we had room for every word).

*Telling the Boss You're in A.A.*

"Three years ago I told my prospective employer. My willingness to lay it on the line made a good impression.

"I couldn't live in fear of being 'discovered,' and fear is one of the alky's worst problems. I'd say our alcoholism and A. A. are realities and we face them." —Pres, Oregon.

*Vulgarity — Running the Group — Home Groups — Naming a Group In Memoriam*

Thank you, thank you for sharing your wealth of experience.

On *Home Groups*, 60 members answered. "Yes, Yes," they said.

"Our inner fibre wants a place to grow through being a part of."

Fifty-four of you wrote about members *campaigning for office to run a Group*. Group conscience seems to be the best antidote (see Tradition Two), but let's be grateful to those always available for service," was added.

"Dirty jokes" and the like heard at meetings were commented on by 48 members. "Not good, but let's not get too rule-minded," was the consensus.

And, 35 offered advice on *naming a Group in memory of a beloved deceased member*. In addition to the possible legal problems, attention was called to Traditions 11 and 12.

If you want *more information* on these questions — just ask — we now have it — thanks to those who took time to write.

## Delegates for 1964

*Alabama & N. W. Florida:* Josephine D., Mobile. *Alaska:* Claude M., Juneau. *Arizona:* Leo R., Phoenix. *Arkansas:* Wade L., Blytheville; *California:* Clyde D., Los Angeles; Bill G., San Francisco; Rickey S., Central Valley; Frank S., San Diego; Tom A., San Bernardino.

*Colorado:* Floyd P., Craig. *Connecticut:* Frank J., Bristol. *Delaware:* Richard B., Dover. *D. C.:* C.W. D., Arlington, Va. *Florida:* Hartwell R., Daytona Beach; Robert R., Palm Beach. *Georgia:* Heflin D., Newnan. *Hawaii:* Ben S., Punaluu, Oahu. *Idaho:* Arnold T., Pocatello.

*Illinois:* Edwin C., Champaign; R. Bruce W., Waukegan; Chicago; *Indiana:* Bill G., Salem. *Iowa:* Ralph C., New Hampton. *Kansas:* F. Sharon F., Ellsworth. *Kentucky:* Hugh A., Paducah. *Louisiana:* Hope S., New Orleans. *Maine:* Robert V., Waterville.

*Maryland:* L. Milton H., Parkville. *Massachusetts:* George M., Brighton; Leo H. B., Springfield. *Michigan:* Edith M., Dearborn; Fred E.S., Midland; Edwin L., Grand Rapids. *Minnesota:* (Alternate) Donald F., Fergus Falls; G.J.W., St. Paul. *Mississippi:* Bish M., Pass Christian.

*Missouri:* Al S., Jefferson City; Ken S., Kansas City. *Montana:* Judy M., Lewistown. *Nebraska:* Don M., Grand Island.

*Nevada:* Kathryn A., Las Vegas. *New Hampshire:* Doris G., Keene. *New Jersey:* William L., Belmar; Ruth D., Collingswood. *New Mexico:* Darrell M., Los Alamos. *New York:* Jane K., Rochester; Frank H., Schenectady; Ralph A., Glen Head, Long Island; George S., Kenmore.

*North Carolina:* Mack F., Franklin. *North Dakota:* Gordon L., Fargo. *Ohio:* Ivan R., Newark; George M., Lakewood; Ray H., Maumee; Harold S., Hamilton.

*Oklahoma:* Lawrence F., Tulsa. *Oregon:* William G., Portland. *Pennsylvania:* Paul O., Pottstown; J. Glenn W., Erie. *Rhode Island:* Fred W., Newport. *South Carolina:* D.C. M., Charleston. *South Dakota:* Jake S., Yankton. *Tennessee:* Wayne R., Memphis.

*Texas:* Emory R., Dallas; Ralph G., Amarillo; Ruby B., Texas City; S.C. T., Arkansas Pass. *Utah:* Bill C., Kearns. *Vermont:* Pete D., Windsor. *Virginia:* Francis L., Staunton. *Washington:* Everett K., Seattle. *West Virginia:* George F., Charleston.

*Wisconsin:* Robert Z., Green Bay; Douglas M., Milwaukee. *Wyoming:* David T., Cody. *Puerto Rico:* Charlie C., Rio Piedras.

### CANADA

*Alberta:* Martin E., Edmonton. *Atlantic Provinces:* Bob C., St. John, N.B. *British Columbia-Yukon:* Jim W., Victoria, B.C. *Manitoba:* Ross M., Winnipeg.

*Ontario:* Harold F., Kingston; Cliff M., Hamilton; John K., Sault Ste. Marie. *Quebec:* William B., Montreal; Robert R., Montreal. *Saskatchewan:* John T., Regina.

### Serenity?

Try relaxing with a good book  
(Like the Grapevine)



## A.A. CALENDAR

**April 4-5:** 7th Irish Convention  
Talbot Hotel Wenford.  
Write: Secretary, c/o Country Shop, 23 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

**April 10-12:** Ontario Regional Conference  
Royal New York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.  
Write: Committee Headquarters, 2 Gerrard Street West, Toronto

**April 24-26:** 17th South Carolina Convention  
Francis Marion Hotel.  
Write: General Service Committee, Box Sumter, South Carolina

**May 1-3:** 7th Annual New Mexico State Conference. Holiday House, Ruidoso.

**May 2-3:** Fourth Chicago Intergroup Conference. Place: McCormick Place.  
Write: Conference Committee, 3121 So. Lowe Avenue.

**May 2:** S. E. New York Convention  
School of Ethical Culture.  
Write: S.E. New York Committee, G.P.O. 1850, New York 1.

**May 8-10:** 1964 Tennessee State Convention of A.A.  
Knoxville, Farragut Hotel  
Write: A. A. Northside Group, Box 3314 Knoxville

**May 8-10:** Second Annual Bilingual Conference  
New Sherbrooke Hotel.  
Write: P.O. Box 434, Sherbrooke, Quebec.

**May 9-10 or 16-17:** Spring Conference of Wyoming A.A.

## SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O. JANUARY - FEBRUARY-MARCH 1964

**OHIO:** Central & S. E. Area  
December 1963. . . . . \$100.00

**ARIZONA:** Arizona State  
Convention . . . . . \$274.52

**CANADA:** Alberta - Edmonton  
4th Annual 10th Year  
Breakfast. . . . . \$100.00  
Saskatchewan  
Bulletin . . . . . \$ 12.00

**FLORIDA:** Clearwater Area  
Groups. . . . . \$ 11.88

**HAWAII:** Second Hawaii State  
Convention. . . . . \$173.00

**INDIANA:** Annual Tri-State  
Fall Convention. . . \$ 14.00

**KENTUCKY:** 12th Kentucky State  
Conference. . . . \$450.39

**NEW JERSEY:** Southern New  
Jersey Assembly. \$ 50.00

**NEW YORK:** Buffalo Central  
Office. . . . . \$ 83.00

Write: Chairman, Program Committee,  
Box 483, Evanston.

**May 15-15:** Spring Conference of Montana  
A.A.

Write: Chairman, Box 176, Wolf Point.

**May 15-17:** 14th Annual Bilingual A.A.  
Convention, Quebec City.

Write: Quebec Intergroup, 490 d'Aiguillon  
Street, Quebec City 4.

**June 5-7:** Oklahoma A. A. Conference  
Committee

c/o Hotel Mayo, Tulsa 19, Oklahoma.  
Write: P.O. Box 231, Tulsa.

**June 5-7:** Alaska State Assembly  
Fairbanks, Alaska.

Write: P.O. Box 1434, Fairbanks.

**June 12-14:** 7th International Conference  
of Young People

Sheraton-Cadellac Hotel, Detroit, Mich.  
Write: Program Chairman, 1012 Josephine  
Avenue, Windsor, Ontario

**June 19-21:** 17th North Carolina State  
Convention

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.  
Write: P.O. Box 7495, Asheville

**June 19-21:** 8th Annual Florida State A.A.  
Convention, Ramada Inn, Cocoa Beach.

Write: P.O. Box 1266, Cocoa Beach.

**June 20-21:** 29th Annual Founders Day  
Sheraton-Mayflower Hotel, Headquarters  
Akron.