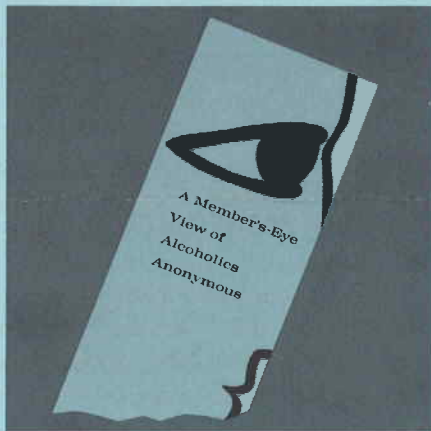


# BOX 4-5-9

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

Vol. 16 No. 1

February-March 1971



## NEW PAMPHLET FOR PEOPLE IN THE HELPING PROFESSIONS

The above Conference-approved pamphlet explains the program in terms that a nonalcoholic can readily appreciate.

With this pamphlet, public information committees and other A.A.'s in contact with outside agencies can answer the question: "How do alcoholics get sober and stay sober in A.A.?"

And it can provide fresh insight into A.A. for newcomers and old-timers, as well.

(see order blank enclosed)

## PROFESSIONAL EXHIBIT

Local A.A. members man the big exhibit we send to *national* professional meetings, such as recent ones of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the National Council on Alcoholism, the American Public Health Association, the National Conference on Social Welfare, the American Medical Association, the Congress of Correction, the American Academy of General Practice, and the American Public Welfare Association.

A.A. pamphlets were distributed at each of these, and every meeting generated dozens of requests for specialized material on A.A.

For similar regional or state conventions, we send a smaller one-way display.

## DOES P.I. WORK DO ANY GOOD?

"Brace yourself," began a story in newspapers throughout the U.S. and Canada recently. "Here comes some of that stuff newspapers are accused of neglecting: good news.

"It concerns the growth of one of the world's most useful organizations, Alcoholics Anonymous."

Nope. We here at G.S.O. did *not* write that. Such high praise for A.A. is by a senior editor of United Press International and was distributed by UPI from its Washington, D.C., office.

The story concluded, "...all that a prospective member needs to know is that it works."

### Possible Results

Maybe scores—or maybe only a handful—of sick alcoholics who read that story were thus encouraged to telephone your local A.A. central office for help.

And once again, as we hear so often in our recovery stories, we re-

member with gratitude that public news media often carry the A.A. message to people who need it.

After all, as a recent Public Information (P.I.) report said, "That vast body which we refer to as 'the public' is where the alcoholic is, before he gets to us."

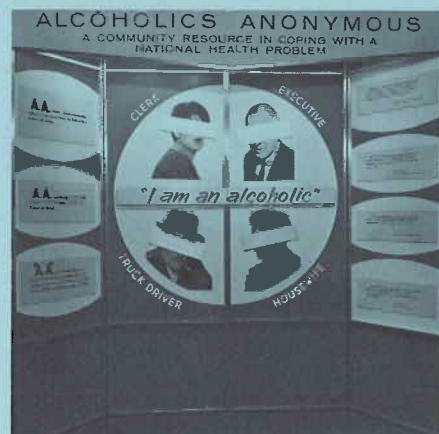
### Behind the Scenes

If you remember the story of how A.A. started, you may recall that in 1935 co-founder Bill W. told his own story on the telephone to nonalcoholic clergymen in Akron, O., in trying to find another alcoholic to help, for only one purpose: *to keep himself away from that first drink.*

That is still the chief reason behind today's worldwide activities carried on by local groups and by P.I. committees (P.I.C.'s) attached to intergroups and area general service committees. They do by far the bulk of the important A.A. public information work.

Here at G.S.O. three committees (G.S. Board and Conference P.I.C.'s, and the Board's new Professional Relations Committee) have the job of backing up local efforts, as well as furnishing A.A. facts to national and international news outlets.

We also see some of the results. For example, in one recent 12-month period we answered about 9,000 inquiries that came "out of



(Professional Showings only)

(cont'd. p. 3)

## SOME CONFERENCE AGENDA TOPICS FOR 1971

Please discuss these in *your* group and make known to your delegate how the group conscience of grass roots A.A. views these matters:

1. Should G.S.O. and A.A. service offices accept contributions from clubs formed by A.A.'s for A.A.'s?
2. What can young people contribute to older members?

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEES BUSY

With "Communication: Key to A.A. Growth" as its theme, the 1971 General Service Conference (Apr. 19-24) in New York is already nearing final preparation stages—not only here at G.S.O., but also in area Conference Committees.



Four areas—Florida, Iowa, Michigan and West Virginia have recently sent us excellent reports of various lively local sessions which demonstrate once again how G.S.R.'s and area committee members are the heart of A.A.'s Third Legacy—Service.

From Pat G., Bradenton, Fla., we have minutes of an excellent meeting of the Southern Florida Conference Committee. They show that every district helps support the committee financially, and tell how wisely the committee handles district requests for additional committee members.

In addition to hearing brief reports on local A.A. activities from each member present, the committee planned its next session—including a showing of the new color film, "Bill Discusses the 12 Traditions"—and worked out necessary mechanical details for smooth elec-

3. Is there a generation gap in A.A.?

4. Responsibility of sponsorship—is sponsorship declining?

5. What can be done in areas that are becoming slums when groups are moving out and not being replaced?

6. Value of Traditions.

7. Cooperation but not affiliation.

8. Questions about future International Conventions: (a) Non-A.A. speakers? (b) Tapes? (c) Panoramic photo?

tion of its regional trustee candidate.

From Marie M., Everly, Iowa, comes an account of Third Legacy workshops in district No. 1 cooperative showings of the "Bill's Own Story" film, distribution of *Conference Reports* to G.S.R.'s, meeting Third Legacy expenses, plans for the state conference, plus mouth-watering references to Marie's home-made beef stew!

Floyd D., Big Rapids, Mich., told us of a week-end get-together in Traverse City, including a four-panel meeting and sharing session on "Years In," "Sponsorship," "The Doctor and Other Professional People," and "Money." Those present unanimously called for a repeat soon.

## PANELS 21 AND 20. . . . .

. . . . .did annual Jan. 1 rotation of G.S.O.'s mailing lists put *your* name where it belongs?

We have now added Panel 19 names to our ex-delegates' list, and added Panel 21 names to those of Panel 20 as ACTIVE.

Since *area* G.S. committee members and officers also rotated as of Jan. 1, *please be sure we at G.S.O. have YOUR committee's correct latest active list!*

## NEWS OF BILL

As we go to press, Bill is home from the hospital once more. As you probably know, he has been in and out in recent weeks. He is still far from well and the Doctor will not allow any correspondence or personal autographing. We know you will understand. There have been so many messages of love and prayers for Bill, and Lois, too, that we know that they feel the concern of A.A.'s everywhere.

## NURSES LIKE 'YOUNG' PAMPHLET

"Our group uses a lot of literature for its size," writes T.M., La Crosse, Wis. "We have found this to be a wonderful way to do 12th Step work.

"And I have to repeat that we think the new 'Young People and A.A.' pamphlet is among the greatest of all A.A. literature, and the response has been accordingly, as you can see by our order.

"I'm a nurse and the young girls I work with are really impressed with this pamphlet."

## TO COME IN THE GRAPEVINE

The February issues carries a moving article on the 3rd anniversary of a group in the Watts section of L.A., a group which had to overcome hostility and resentment after the 1965 riots there.

Also: "Come Make My Rounds With Me"—a vivid picture by an A.A. nurse of problems of the hospital which treats alcoholics; "The Washingtonians"—a history of an earlier organization devoted to recovery from alcoholism; a three-article section on A.A. work in prisons and institutions; and "Ninth Step" in the current series on the Steps.



## ACCIDENTAL (?) 12th STEP IN AFRICA

From Kampala, Africa, Joseph K. sent G.S.O. the name of a new Loner, Alfred S.

"I know neither his face nor his voice," writes Joseph. "A.A. was taken to him by one of my step sons who visited me a few months ago and I told him how I recovered from alcohol. He read some of my documents but was not willing to join. Fortunately enough he managed to spread it to his friends, and to my surprise I got a letter from one of them, Alfred, asking for my advice. He is improving with A.A. and is anxious to communicate with G.S.O."

## EVEN IN WAR A.A. GOES ON

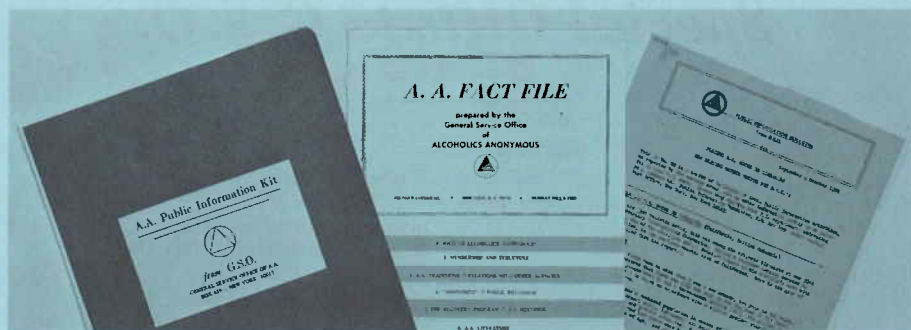
Binx Thuy, Phang Rang, Long Binh, Cam Ranh Bay, Saigon—these are names from which war news usually comes.

But they are also sites of A.A. groups which hold regular meetings even in wartime, as we are happily reminded by SEA (for South East Asia) SIDE—a new A.A. bulletin just started by M/Sgt. "Andie" A. to help A.A.'s there keep in touch with each other.

Gene A. writes from Long Binh, "Some say it is impossible to stay sober in Vietnam. The best booze is \$2 for a 40-oz. jug, beer 10¢ a can, and vodka a dollar a qt. But the price of booze has nothing to do with it; an alkie will pay thru his nose to get one drink anyway!

"But imagine how many of us are staying sober here as Loners or members of some A.A. group. It is amazing to find that we have good communications out here through SEA SIDE.

"I am really grateful to all of you in the G.S.O. office for all the 12th Step calls on me. Each day brings me a variety of experience in life and it is a real challenge."



## P.I. WORKS (from p. 1)

the blue"—from the public—about A.A., and we received 2,359 clippings about A.A. from newspapers.

## Busy P.I.C.'s

From the "Public Information Bulletin" sent out regularly, you can see that local P.I. units do a great job placing A.A. books and pamphlets in local libraries and other institutions, holding meetings open to the public, speaking before non-A.A. groups, cooperating with other alcoholism agencies, arranging local A.A. announcements by broadcasters and newspapers, and carrying the message in a multitude of other ingenious ways—all within the Traditions.

For instance: the annual A.A. Report to the Public are prepared here at G.S.O. We send the Report to local P.I.C.'s so they can fill in information about local A.A. and

## YET ANOTHER TONGUE MAKES ITS A.A. BOW

Recognize this?:

*Miniwakan unyatkanpi kin on tawacin unhunkapish i no wiconi unkitawapi kin togmosniyan ih-peunkiciyapi kin he wowicake e wicaundapi?*

Or this?:

*Iyatayena awaunkicidakapi kin he e, na yatkesni ospaye kin tanyan unpikinhan de ohnayan ecena unki-wastepi kte?*

We copied those, letter by letter, from *The Alconaire* (summer 1970

place it in their own papers.

Our Public Information Kit explains all these activities. Among the 32 items included are 10 pamphlets and specific tips on dealing with industry, the medical profession, alcoholism councils, newspapers, radio, and TV.

Spot announcements about A.A. (which local broadcasters are glad to use, free) are also available from G.S.O., of course.

## New Trustees' Committee

Our newest message-carrying arm is the Trustees' Professional Relations Committee, formed last year. In behalf of all of us, they work with the expanding number of professionals becoming interested in alcoholics.

If even one sick drunk is sent to A.A. by a professional agency, we'd say the new committee's work *does* do some good, wouldn't you?

issue), the very colorful and excellent A.A. magazine published by inmate members at the South Dakota Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. (Does that give you a clue?)

It is one of the many fine A.A. publications put out by members in various institutions and sent to us.

Let us say now, once again: thanks for every single one. We enjoy them. Keep them coming. Or, if we are not on your mailing list, please add us.

(Give up? That's the First Step and First Tradition in a Sioux Indian dialect.)

# Special Gifts to G. S. O.

ALABAMA—N.W. FLORIDA	
Area Committee.....	\$100.00
ARKANSAS	
Founder's Day Banquet.....	142.00
State Conv.....	68.00
CALIFORNIA	
Long Beach: Harbor Area	
16th Annu. Banquet.....	274.36
Gay Aridian.....	25.00
COLORADO	
Sterling: 3rd Legacy Comm.....	500.00
D.C.	
Area Gen. Serv. Assembly.....	250.00
FLORIDA	
Miami Conv. Delegates Luncheon.	197.60
Palm Beach Co. Gratitude	
Dinner.....	1,715.90
Brevard Co. Intergroup	
Gratitude Mtg.....	75.00
INDIANA	
State Conv.....	300.00
KENTUCKY	
Western Area No. 1.....	50.00
LOUISIANA	
Alexandria: In Memoriam,	
Bernard Smith.....	100.00
MAINE	
District No. 1.....	10.00
MASSACHUSETTS	
8th Convention.....	300.00
E. Mass. General Serv.	
Committee.....	25.00
MICHIGAN	
S.E. General Service Workshop....	162.70
18th State Conf.....	925.11
MONTANA	
Billings: Fall Conf.....	150.00
NEBRASKA	
State Committee.....	200.00
NEW JERSEY	
Southern Assembly.....	300.00
North Jersey Conf.....	300.00
NEW YORK	
7th Annu. State Conv.....	258.47
S.E. Area Assembly.....	2,000.00
NORTH DAKOTA	
State Round-Up.....	400.00
OHIO	
S.W. Ohio & No. Kentucky Gen.	
Serv. Area Gratitude Month ..	334.00
OREGON	
Portland: Districts 11 & 12	
Gratitude Mtg.....	18.00
Area District No. 3.....	16.00
PENNSYLVANIA	
Eastern Conf.....	484.30
TEXAS	
N.E. Area Conf.....	593.03
VIRGINIA	
Winchester: Four-State & D.C.	
Fall Get-together.....	150.00
WEST VIRGINIA	
State Conference.....	500.00
Bluestone Round-Up.....	350.00
CANADA	
B.C.: Dawson Creek Round-Up ..	33.95
Alberta: Edson: Ann. Round-Up..	24.38
Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/	
Labrador Assembly.....	291.00
Ontario: West Toronto Men's	
Mtg.....	300.00

Ontario: Georgian Bay Dist.	
Conf.....	97.00
Ontario: Sarnia & Area Inter-	
group.....	121.88
International Doctors in A.A.....	150.00
International Advisory of Young	
People in A.A.....	300.00
World Hello (International	
Correspondence Group).....	50.35

## "To G.S.O.:

The Intergroup Council in Akron passed a motion to contribute to 'the New York Office'—as it is generally referred to here—the sum of \$100.

This came after two or three of us looked through the *World Directory* (in vain) to see what other intergroups had contributed and how much. We may be starting something—something good for 'the New York Office.' We hope so.

We're aware that this hundred dollars is just a small part of the total needed by General Service. Hope you can—know you can—put it to good use.

From Akron to New York, we hope you're as happy in your sobriety as we are in ours. May the Good Lord be with us all.

—Herb M., Chairman,  
Intergroup Office"

## A.A. CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 22-24 — *Ocean Springs, Miss.*, Gulf Coast Round-Up. Write: Round-Up Chm., Box 845, Ocean Springs.
- 22-24 — *Durham, N.C.*, Tar Heel Mid-Winter Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 2271, Durham.
- 22-24 — *Galveston, Tx.*, Southeast Area Conf. Write: Chm., 710 13th Avenue N., Texas City, Tx.
- 22-24 — *Midland, Tx.*, 2nd Annu. Mid-Winter Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 710 West Ohio, Midland.

- 23 — *Portsmouth, N.H.*, 4th Annu. N.H. Mid-Winter Banquet. Write: Chm., Box 182, Portsmouth.
- 29-30 — *Blytheville, Ark.*, 14th Annu. Tri-State Coon Supper. Write: Chm., Box 401, Blytheville.

### FEBRUARY

- 12-14 — *Greeley, Co.*, 19th Annu. Stampede. Write: Stampede Chm., Box 6, Greeley.
- 19-21 — *Lexington, Ky.*, 20th Annu. Kentucky State Conv. Write: Host Committee, Box 626, Lexington.
- 20 — *Philadelphia, Pa.*, Intergroup 31st Anniv. Dinner-Dance. Write: Ann. Chm., 2202 St. James Street, Phila.
- 26-28 — *Wichita, Ks.*, 7th Annu. All "Gal" A.A. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 3805 S. Broadway, Wichita.

### MARCH

- 5-7 — *Santa Maria, Ca.*, 4th Annu. Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly. Write: Assembly Chm., 3490 Hadley Way, Santa Maria, or Assembly Chm., Holiday Inn, 1407 E. Main Street, Santa Maria.
- 12-14 — *Monroe, La.*, 25th Annu. Birthday Conv. Write: Chm., 100 Rogers Road, West Monroe, La.
- 13-14 — *Redding, Ca.*, Spring Conf. Write: Chm., 1943 Pine Street, Redding.
- 26-28 — *New Orleans, La.*, Annu. New Orleans Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Box 73042, Metairie, La.

### APRIL

- 2-4 — *Limerick, Ireland*, All-Ireland Conv. Write: Conv. Hon. Sec'y., A.A., Social Service Center, Henry Street, Limerick, Ireland.
- 9-11 — *Niagara Falls, Ont. Can.*, 7th Annu. Blossom Time Conv. Write: Chm., Box, 294, St. Catherine, Ontario.
- 30 — *Butte, Mont.*, Montana Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Butte A.A. Group, 21 W. Galena Street, Butte.

### MAY

- 7-9 — *Atlantic City, N.J.*, Philadelphia's 4th Intergroup Round-Up. Write: Round-Up Sec'y., 2202 St. James Street, Philadelphia.
- 7-9 — *Evanston, Wy.*, Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Sec'y., Box 131, Evanston.

Box 4-5-9 is published 6 times a year by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 468 Park Ave., South, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual, \$1.00 per yr.; Group, \$2.50 for each unit of 10 per yr. (Check should accompany order.)

Checks payable to A.A. World Services, Inc., Box 459, Grand Central Post Office, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10017.