



BOX 4-5-9

1973
General Service
Conference Issue

Theme: Responsibility—Our Expression of Gratitude

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

Vol. 18 No. 3

June-July 1973

Gratitude, Responsibility Shape Conference Actions



Millionth Big Book at White House

Just before the 23rd Conference, President Richard M. Nixon accepted as a gift the one-millionth copy of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous," in a White House ceremony Monday, April 16.

John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., non-alcoholic chairman of the A.A. General Service Board, made the presentation.

The event marked the 34th anniversary of the date on which the very first copy of the Big Book rolled off the press in April 1939, starting the worldwide spread of A.A.

In the company of Caspar E. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, James Cavanaugh, Presidential aide, and two members of A.A., the President remarked on the successful record of the self-supporting Fellowship and expressed appreciation of its accomplishments.

Specially bound in light blue leather, the Presidential copy of A.A.'s basic textbook was imprinted, in goldleaf: "The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is honored to present to Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, this millionth copy of its Big Book."

(continued p. 4)

'Speak Out Loud and Clear,' Keynoter Urges

"You have a responsibility to speak out, loud and clear," members of the 1973 General Service Conference were charged at the opening session by keynote speaker Jack M., Kalamazoo, Mich., East Central trustee on the General Service Board.

And Conference-attenders did just that, as you can see in their actions shown to the right on this page.

The 23rd Conference was planned as the most participatory yet held, Jack pointed out, with wide-open time the first day, when the delegates could raise any topic they wished. Two unstructured workshops, a Sharing Session on workshop topics, and Ask-It-Basket sessions gave those present unprecedented opportunities, he said, to "express gratitude by taking the responsibility of speaking out."

Jack, himself a delegate in 1955, was echoing this year's Conference theme: "Responsibility — our expression of gratitude."

The speaker attributed his own 24 years' sobriety, not only to meetings and the Higher Power, but also to "willingness to accept responsibilities."

(continued p. 4)

More Delegate Participation Marks 23rd Annual Meeting

NEW YORK, April 29—Grateful for the recent White House honor to A.A., members of the 23rd General Service Conference plunged into the work of their six-day session Tuesday with a noticeable sense of responsibility.

The 131 voting members gathered at the Roosevelt Hotel in midtown New York City, sometimes dividing into groups for workshops and committee meetings.

By the time of the closing Sunday brunch today, the weary but happy 90 delegates from the U.S. and Canada — plus General Service Board trustees, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors, and staff members — had worked through the most wide-open agenda in Conference history, touching on matters affecting every A.A. group worldwide.

Here are highlights of the 1973 Conference advisory actions, decisions, and recommendations:

NEW U.S. TRUSTEE — Elected Margaret C., Agawam, Mass., to the Board for a four-year term as G.S. trustee, U.S., succeeding the late Jim H., Huntsville, Ala. Sober since February 1959, Margaret served as a delegate on Panel 20, and was Conference Literature Committee chairman that year. Forty-one excellent candidates had been nominated for the trusteeship. At present, Margaret is the only woman on the Board.

BILL W. MEMORIAL FUND — Decision of how this money is to be used was postponed at first by the entire Conference, but the Delegates-Only Meeting later recommended it be placed in the General Fund.

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GROUPS and MEMBERS

Spring 1973

	Groups	Members
United States . .	12,137	211,686
Canada	2,031	32,740
Lone Members . .		502
In Hospitals . . .	914	28,995
In Prisons	986	34,977
Internationalists		400
Totals	16,068	309,300
Overseas*	4,761	85,944
Totals	20,829	395,244

*1972 count; later figures not yet complete.

(Including nonreported members, actual membership is estimated at more than 650,000 worldwide, in 92 countries.)

IN MEMORIAM

Two Panel 22 delegates

Red D., Ariz.
Jim W., N.W. Ohio/S.E. Mich.

G.S.O. Reports Show Burst of

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

8,057 Queries, 3,290 Clippings Reflect Public Interest in A.A.

STAFF REPORT: During 1972, we held out the hand of A.A. to the public through response to 8,057 inquiries. Another way of carrying the message is through the press, and within the past year, we had 3,290 press clippings about A.A. We distributed 195 radio and TV spots, and 25 one-way displays were sent for use at local, county, and state meetings.

We provided information for 16 news and magazine writers, seven national TV shows, and seven major magazine articles.

A.A. is now listed in 34 encyclopedias and reference books.

We have 150 A.A. public information committees, including 26 new ones, and 415 P.I. contacts. We send out the committee's bimonthly *P.I. Bulletin*, the new *P.I. Manual*, radio and TV spots, and Guidelines for P.I. Committees. Seven of our pamphlets are also furnished as P.I. message-carriers.

—Valerie S.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE: Nine projects completed in the past year include the new "Understanding Anonymity" leaflet; the "Profile of an A.A. Meeting" display and folder; four color-TV public-service spot announcements (of which one 60-second and one 30-second are now in distribution), approved by NBC for network showing as well as by the Office of Information for the Armed Services in Washington, D.C.; "A Brief Guide to A.A.," which replaces "Student's Guide" and is much more useful, and a new P.I. literature discount package (a 6.58 value for \$5). In addition, we updated "Responsibilities of the Movement" and Public Information Policy of the G.S.O.

We have just completed 20 radio spots, featuring both men and women members telling what their lives were like, and what they are like now. The million-mark for the Big Book was celebrated as shown on page 1. We are also exploring suggestions for a film about A.A. and examining possibilities of a newspaper story on the 1971 survey.

—Walter M., chairman

INSTITUTIONS

50% More Hospital Members Since 1970 Indicate Rising Activity

STAFF REPORT: In 1970, we had 767 groups in hospitals, with 18,604 reported members. In 1972, the figure jumped to 914 groups, with 28,955 members—a membership gain of more than 50%. This probably reflects the proliferation of agencies and treatment centers. Whatever the initial treatment they offer alcoholics, they usually recommend A.A. as the continuing "treatment" necessary for recovery.

In correctional facilities, there was in 1970 a reported membership of 32,481 in 925 A.A. groups. Our 1972 figures showed 986 groups with 34,977 members. There are also 203 local A.A. committees (and contacts) on institutions.

G.S.O. corresponds with all these. We send complimentary literature to new groups, and an *Institutions Bulletin* goes out three times a year. Every two years, we issue updated directories of groups within institutions.

Guidelines for institutions committees, and for cooperation with rehab centers and courts, are free, and tapes and films are loaned free.

—Phyllis M.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE: At the committee's request, the chairman notified 400 correctional officials, departments, and institutions about this newest of the Board's committees, which held its first meeting in January '73. He wrote in his professional capacity in the correctional field (as executive director of the Osborne Association), in the hope this would further facilitate acceptance of A.A. "behind the walls." A copy of the letter was sent to all A.A. institutions committees and contacts.

This committee plans a survey to collect information showing that A.A. in institutions really works. All institutions literature is now being reviewed, to make sure all levels of understanding are reached. A.A.'s 7th Tradition (self-support) will also be covered in future editions.

—Austin MacCormick, chairman

STAFF COORDINATOR

1,000 Letters per Month Get Answered by G.S.O. Staff

STAFF REPORT: As it was in the beginning, it has remained. Ever since the first great rush of letters flooded the office after the Jack Alexander story on A.A. in the *Saturday Evening Post*, the major work of the staff has always been answering correspondence. About 1,000 letters per month now get individual replies.

Our nine staff members also prepare *Box 4-5-9* (in English, French, and Spanish), the *Quarterly Report, About A.A.* (the new professional Relations newsletter), the *P.I. Bulletin*, *World Service Meeting reports*, the *Institutions Bulletin*, the *International Round Robin*, and *Loners Meeting*. We serve as secretaries to 13 Conference and Trustee committees, to the Board, and to A.A.W.S.

We also enjoy getting to visit A.A. assemblies, conventions, and state and provincial get-togethers all over the continent, and we are glad to see the many A.A. friends from all over the world who come to visit G.S.O. We are pleased to welcome the newest addition to our G.S.O. family, June R.

—Ann

SERVICE COORDINATOR

2,278 New Groups Receive G.S.O. Services; 13 Guidelines Ready

STAFF REPORT: We added 2,278 new U.S. and Canadian groups in 1972. Each new group gets a complimentary package of literature and a Group Handbook, then starts receiving, like all other groups, our *Box 4-5-9* bimonthly newsletter.

Up to now, groups have also received *World Directory* each year. Our directories of course, are confidential, to be used only for providing A.A. contacts.

We also provide A.A. Guidelines on 13 subjects: Rehab Centers, Armed Forces, Central Offices (Intergroups), Clubs, Conventions

No World Directory Part I in 1974

No A.A. *World Directory* will be published for one year after the 1973 *Part I*, to allow time for a switchover to a new, better production system. Conference members agreed to the *Directory* moratorium recommended by a special study committee. It means the 1973 *Part II* (overseas) and 1974 *Part I* (U.S. and Canada) will not be published at all.

Under the new system, 1974 *Part II* (overseas) will appear next summer, and others regularly thereafter.

Despite added help and much overtime, 1973 *Part I* is late this year because producing an accurate, up-to-date *Directory* has grown into such a mammoth task, that to A.A. growth.

Growth in A.A. Groups and Services

Courts, Institutional Committees, Public Information, Relationships with Al-Anon, Industry, Alcoholism Information Month, Cooperation with Alcoholism Agencies and Facilities, and "Wearing Two Hats" (for members employed in the alcoholism field). The new (fourth) G.S.O. filmstrip is ready, and we rent three films: "Bill's Own Story," "Bill Discusses the 12 Traditions," and "Time for Decision." Eight tapes and one cassette are available.

-Beth K.

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS

First Newsletter Doubles Requests for Facts About A.A.

STAFF REPORT: We mailed our first newsletter for professionals, *About A.A.*, to about 1,000 people last July. Since then, our mailing list has more than doubled in size, because so many professional men and women are thirsty for more and better information about A.A. We were invited to sit in on 11 professional meetings on alcoholism last year, and our professional exhibit was shown at 11 national professional conventions, resulting in 1,953 requests for literature on A.A.

During the past year, guided by the Trustees' Professional Relations Committee, work was completed on six pieces of literature.

-Mary Ellen U.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE: In order to express our gratitude to the memory of Dr. Silkworth, Sister Ignatia, Rev. Shoemaker, Father Dowling, and others like them, we

have a responsibility to respond whenever professional men and women today ask for information about A.A.

For this purpose, in 1972, we distributed 28,741 copies of "If You Are a Professional," our newest pamphlet; 9,630 copies of A.A. Guidelines for Cooperation with Alcoholism Agencies and Facilities; and 3,200 copies of A.A. Guidelines for Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field.

This committee takes to heart Bill W.'s suggestion "Let's be friendly with our friends," because our friends send us so many alcoholics—about one-third of our present membership, our 1971 survey showed.

-Steve O., chairman

GRAPEVINE

71,000 Circulation Saves 35¢ Price; Book of Bill's GV Pieces

EDITORS' REPORT: Grapevine circulation has risen 12,000 in the past two years to an all-time high of 71,000. This healthy growth has enabled us to hold the price of the magazine at 35¢ despite the inflationary trend of our times.

The most exciting project on our horizon is a book of Grapevine pieces written by Bill W. over the years. The Grapevine will bring out this new hard-cover book in commemoration of A.A.'s fortieth anniversary, in 1975.

Some of Bill's best Grapevine articles are familiar to most of us. But many of them, from early Grapevines through the forties and fifties, will seem excitingly new.

This resulted from our project of indexing every article ever published in the Grapevine

since its beginning, in June 1944. Every piece is cross-indexed under some 400 categories, such as resentment, self-pity, depression, structure, group experience, and history. The index is a very useful tool for answering inquiries.

We increased the print order of our Grapevine calendar to 20,000 for 1973, and again completely sold out. Our full-color reproduction of the painting now known as "The Man on the Bed" also continues in demand.

In many areas, our Grapevine Representatives—many of them former Conference delegates—have been doing great work. They build interest in the magazine and explain its use as a helpful tool in A.A.

Editorially, we continue to focus on the A.A. way of life, with fewer stories of drunkard episodes. We have carried multiarticle sections on the search for spiritual awareness and on the Twelve Steps. This year, we completed publication of Bill's Twelve Concepts. Articles on A.A. growth, the Big Book, and anonymity have been very popular.

Our November issue of classic Grapevine pieces was received so well that we plan more of them.

-Jack M., Paula C.

CORPORATE BOARD REPORT: We're happy we were able to vote-out of 1972 Grapevine income—a gift of \$12,000 to the G.S.O. General Fund (for group services). We're also glad that our rapidly increasing circulation makes it necessary for us to go to a computerized system for mailing out the magazine, and we hope to have the conversion completed for the June or July issue.

-Ralph A., chairman

LITERATURE

New A.A. Booklet

'Came to Believe' Set for Conference Debut

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE REPORT: Scheduled for its first appearance at the 1973 Conference was A.A.'s newest publication, the booklet "Came to Believe." Its completion climaxes the year's work of this committee.

With the help and cooperation of the Conference Literature Committee, other projects in the works include:

(1) Updating (and possibly retitling) the pamphlet "Sedatives, Stimulants, and the Alcoholic" to reflect modern concern with other drugs

(2) Completion of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services," which is awaiting additional A.A. stories (possibly one by a woman, one by a marine, and one by a young A.A. who sobered up in the Army)

(3) Possible revision of the fifth question in

"Is A.A. for You?" (referred to the Conference Literature Committee)

(4) Exploration of possibilities of a better format for excerpts from the reprint of Bill's Grapevine article about A.A. and drug addicts, "Problems Other Than Alcohol"

(5) The booklet "Staying Sober," on which preparation continues by the writer

(6) Recommendation that when the "Illustrated Traditions" pamphlet is rerun, its drawings be revised to include representation of minority groups

(7) Continuing exploration of the idea of a cartoon-style leaflet on service structure and responsibilities

(Because of the 2nd World Service Meeting, this committee held only two meetings during the past year.) -George G., chairman

CONFERENCE

Conference Lives All Year in Area Actions, Agenda, Records, Reports

STAFF REPORT: Our thanks to all delegates who informed us of newly elected delegates, officers, and committee members before the Dec. 1 deadline for the *World Directory, Part I*. Also to those who collected group cards from your area and got them to us on time. We count on your continuing help to keep our mailing list up to date.

We also appreciate area committee secretaries' sending us minutes of your meetings so faithfully.

Many of you would like to have Conference agenda topics in hand for discussion at your first assembly meetings of the new year. Since the agenda has to be approved by the Trustees' Policy Committee at its meeting the end of January, it's February before we can get this information to you.

We are grateful to a Virginia committee member for editing "Building a Service Structure . . . One Area's Experience." We hope you found it a helpful addition to your Conference kit.

Responsibilities of the Conference secretary include the *Quarterly Report*, preparation of the Conference agenda (in consultation with the Agenda/Admissions Committee), correspondence with delegates and area committees, and supervision of this *Box 4-5-9* issue and the final *Conference Report*.

—Cora Louise B.

INTERNATIONALISTS and LONERS

400 Internationalists, 550 Loners Hear Regularly From G.S.O.

STAFF REPORT on Internationalists: This is the 25th anniversary of G.S.O.'s service to Internationalists. It began in 1948 when a sea-going A.A. left the Big Book in three Far Eastern ports. Gradually, other seamen learned of A.A. Many A.A. groups in foreign lands were started by our Internationalists.

Close to 400 sea-traveling Internationalists now keep in touch with A.A. in two ways: (1) correspondence with the G.S.O. Internationalist desk, which sends them *World Directories* (both parts serve as their meeting list), the bimonthly *Round Robin* (excerpts from their letters), *Box 4-5-9*, and a list of Internationalists' names and addresses so they can have (2) correspondence with each other. Some of them also use ham radio.

—Phyllis M.

STAFF REPORT on Loners: Among our 550 Loners, 41 are Hispanic; 31, French. Each gets an introductory package of literature free, along with a compilation of thoughts and ideas from other Loners on staying sober, *World Directories*, and a list of other Loners so he or she can start keeping in touch with them by mail. Bimonthly, they receive *Loners Meeting* (a sharing of their mail) and on the alternate months, *Box 4-5-9*.

We have almost 300 Loner Sponsors, who also correspond with Loners, and we can al-

ways use more. Each Loner is encouraged to seek out another alcoholic who wants help and in this way to start an A.A. group. Last year, groups in New Zealand, Georgia, and Turkey started this way. —Betty L.

OVERSEAS

840 New Groups Mean 17.6% A.A. Gain Overseas

STAFF REPORT:

Membership Overseas: 86,623
Groups Overseas: 4,761

According to the 1972 *World Directory, Part II*, the increase in the membership overseas in 1971 is 5,274. The increase in groups is 840, a gain of 17.6%.

Of the 20 literature distribution centers outside the U.S. and Canada, these furnish complimentary literature to new groups: Belgium (Flemish), Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland (French), Switzerland (German), and the United Kingdom.

Argentine A.A.'s are forming a center in Buenos Aires. Australian members have their own G.S.O. in Sydney. Colombia publishes 26 pamphlets, 2 books; Norway, 9 pamphlets, 2 books; and Sweden is printing the Big Book. Mexico wants to add pamphlets in Indian languages to its list of 18 in Spanish, and to have four new groups in Turkey. —Waneta

Sixth International For A.A.—'Mile-High Convention' in '75

- The Currihan Convention Hall, which seats 14,000 and has cafeterias and snack bars under the same roof . . .
- 4,850 rooms set aside in 52 hotels, and 250 inexpensive double rooms in a college dormitory . . .
- Ample space for additional workshops, daytime alkathons, panel meetings, midnight alkathons, dancing . . .
- An active, dedicated host committee . . .

. . . All these point to a truly "Mile-High Convention" in Denver, Colo., July 4-5-6, 1975, when A.A. celebrates its 40th anniversary year at our sixth International Convention. Bob H., convention chairman, reported to the '73 Conference.

'Drunk on A.A. Love!' Says Delegate of '72 World Service Meeting

"Although I've been sober several years, I was intoxicated from October 4 to 8, 1972 — drunk on A.A. love!" Ben P., Pratt, Kans., U.S.-Canadian Conference delegate to the second World Service Meeting, told the '73 Conference.

He spoke of the Mexican delegate who learned English in months so he could participate; of problems of nationalism, anonymity, affiliation, controversy, and membership requirements. "A.A. Comes of Age" is now coming true in other countries," he said.

The '73 Conference agreed with our G.S. Board that U.S. & Canada should not have "favored status" at future W.S. Meetings. The third will be in London in 1974.

BIG BOOK (from p. 1)

The two A.A.'s specifically invited by the White House for the presentation were Bob H., G.S.O. manager, and Tom P., a California who helped arrange the ceremony.

The President told his visitors he knows number of A.A. members, and "some people who ought to be." He said he wishes A.A. principles were more widely applied to other problems in addition to alcoholism. He gave to Dr. Jack, Bob, and Tom sets of cufflinks bearing the Presidential seal.

Many White House attendants accompanied the A.A.'s from the moment they entered the famous Pennsylvania Avenue gate in Washington, D.C., until they left an hour later. One man managed to draw Dr. Jack and Bob aside to whisper, "I couldn't be hearing what society you fellows are from. I guess you're here for some honor for A.A. and I'm awfully proud and glad. My dad's been sober in A.A. for years."

KEYNOTE (from p. 1)

"We are all responsible," Jack continued "as our expression of gratitude, for carrying the message to the still-suffering world: there are no boundaries of color, nationality, age, influence, wealth, education, language or status in A.A."

The Final Conference Report

About June 15, *Conference '73*, final report of the 23rd annual G.S. Conference (North America), will be published and sent to all Conference members. (Additional copies can be obtained for \$1.75 each.)

It will carry extensive coverage of 1973 sessions, including Ask-It-Basket Questions and Answers, Advisory Actions, Floor Discussions, Workshops, Presentations, Rosters, and more.

G.S. Board, A.A.W.S. Reports Show Substantial A.A. Growth

Digest of Agenda

Tuesday, April 24

"A.A. is in excellent shape, in your Board's opinion," declared Dr. John L. ("Dr. Jack") North (nonalcoholic), chairman of A.A.'s General Service Board, on opening day of the 23rd Conference. But, he cautioned, "One cause for concern is that group contributions are still below the cost of group services."

Figures reported for A.A. World Services, Inc., backed up Dr. Jack's conclusions. Steve O., trustee chairman of A.A.W.S., announced that literature sales in 1972 totaled \$834,800, an increase of \$156,300 over 1971. But, besides carrying its own costs, A.A.W.S. had to donate \$100,000 to the General Fund to pay for service costs group contributions failed to meet. (A.A.W.S. is the corporate business arm of the Board.) Dr. Jack's report was largely optimistic, however.

His recent three-week trip to U.S. Air Force bases in Germany, England, Spain, and Greece was encouraging, Dr. Jack said. "In all areas, there is great respect for A.A. and dependence on A.A. for maintenance of sobriety." There are and will be problems, he admitted, because "in a highly structured organization where title and status are the name of the game, anonymity and the 'trusted servant' concept are strange ideas!"

Dr. Jack also reported that the Board, at

the request of Lois W., widow of A.A.'s co-founder Bill, had agreed to defer final arrangements for disposing of Stepping Stones, Bill's and Lois's home, until after her death. He said the Board feels in no hurry to find use for the Bill W. Memorial Fund — "When the right thing comes along, the group conscience will make itself felt."

Acknowledging the effect of economic inflation even on A.A., the Board finally decided to raise the ceiling on its reserve fund from \$300,000 to \$500,000, Dr. Jack said, "as a prudent measure in times of rising costs."

In 1972, 4,750,000 books, pamphlets, and such items were distributed, Steve said in his A.A.W.S. report. To service new groups and acquaint the public with A.A., 294,200 free pieces of literature were used, and the Accounting Department processed 19,800 literature orders and 23,200 contributions, he added.

Also, the Shipping Department processed:

Incoming letters	81,187	
Outgoing letters	87,240	
Outgoing parcels		60,384
<i>Directory Part I</i>		18,724
<i>Directory Part II</i>		6,986
Total outgoing parcels		86,004

Jack pinpointed two concerns on which the Conference later expressed itself: (1) the influx of government money into alcoholism treatment, and (2) problems of the A.A. who finds himself suddenly working as a pro in the field of alcoholism.

Spiritual needs are an important reason for members' participation in the Conference, Jack went on. He noted that Bill W., in his Fourth Concept of World Service, said we all want to belong. So we all have a responsibility to see that "no one, no one in A.A. is ever regarded as 'second class.'" Jack urged delegates to protect and make use of minority opinion for that purpose.

"A.A. is not judged by its literature or its use of public relations techniques," he said. "A.A. will be judged by its own attractive examples, not only as alcoholics who have learned to live a life without the use of alcohol or pills, but as human beings. If these examples are not good, any publicity is too much, and dangerous."

"My greatest responsibility is to walk down the street sober," he declared.

Average length of sobriety of delegates to the 23rd Conference was 11.8 years.

CONFERENCE ACTIONS (from p. 1)

NEWEST A.A. PUBLICATION—Greeted A.A.'s just-published, flexible-cover booklet entitled "Come to Believe," first-press copies of which were distributed to Conference members. (For picture, see p. 3.) It offers 75 members' differing personal accounts of a "Power greater than ourselves . . . at we understood Him," ranging from atheists' versions to stories of fairly orthodox religious experiences. Price: \$1.25.

PAST DELEGATES—Reaffirmed that because the Conference is committed to the principle of rotation, it is better if G.S.R. and district committee member jobs are not held by past delegates, but they can perform valuable A.A. services at the area level.

NEW TV SPOTS—Previewed four new color announcements about A.A. for local public information use on television (see P.I. reports, p. 2).

PROFESSIONAL AGENCIES—Recommended that alcoholics referred from professional
(continued p. 8)

Welcome and Keynote
Why We Have a Conference
Area Delegate Chairman
Conference Committee Chairmen
G.S.O. and Grapevine Staffs
General Service Board Report
Unstructured Workshop
Sharing Session
Opening Dinner and A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, April 25

Reports of A.A.W.S. and Trustees' Committees
Request for Change of Region: Utah
International Convention Report
Trustees' and Conference Committee Meetings
Presentation: Institutions
Film Showings
Workshop: The A.A. Group

Thursday, April 26

Trustee Election
Presentation: Electoral Procedure for Regional Trustees
World Directory
Bill W. Memorial Fund
Unstructured Workshops
Building a Service Structure

Friday, April 27

Grapevine
Conference Committee Meetings
Tour of G.S.O./Grapevine
Delegates Only Session

Saturday, April 28

Committee Reports
World Service Meeting Report
Report-Back on Workshops
Conference Evaluation Questionnaires

Sunday, April 29

Brunch and A.A. Meeting

"PERSONAL SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS": Each day some Panel 23 delegates reported service experience in their areas.

"ASK-IT-BASKET": Questions submitted anonymously from the floor were answered and discussed at several sessions.

Conference Prayer

Paraphrasing Bill W.'s famous comment about the first meeting of the General Service Conference, in 1951, Ralph A., trustee from Glen Head, N.Y., suggested the following prayer for 1973 members: "God grant us the serenity, the courage, and the wisdom to so behave at this Conference that A.A. is entirely safe, especially from us!"

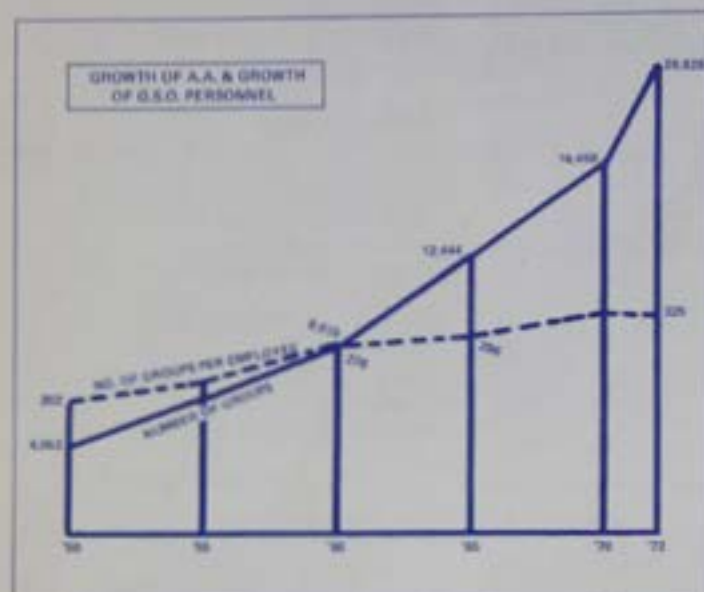
In his opening-day remarks on "Why We Have a General Service Conference," Ralph noted that Third Legacy work repeatedly teaches selflessness, because A.A. as a whole is more important than individuals or sections in the Fellowship.

Growth & Money at G.S.O.

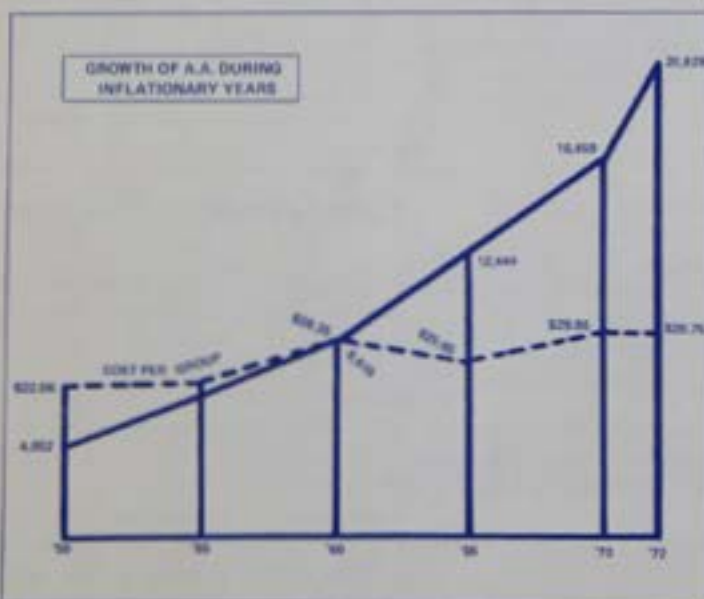
How efficient has been G.S.O.'s growth? In terms of personnel — in 1950 there was one employee for each 202 groups. Today, one employee serves each 325 groups.

During the past twenty-two years, the G.S.O. budget has increased from \$89,500 to \$619,800 for group services. During that same period, cost of living increased 79%. Adjusting for this change in dollar value, we find that the cost of services per group actually showed a decrease from \$22.06 to \$16.66.

	Groups	Employees	Groups per Employee	\$ Cost per Group	Living Cost
1950	4,052	20	202	\$22.06	100
1955	6,249	27	230	22.81	107
1960	8,615	31	278	28.25	119
1965	12,444	42	296	25.65	126
1970	16,459	50	329	29.86	159
1972	20,829	64	325	29.75	179



1. (Above) There are more than 5 times as many groups today as in 1950. The number of services has increased greatly, too, in the same period. Today, however, there are 325 groups for each G.S.O. employee, compared with only 202 in 1950.



2. (Above) During the years 1950 through 1972, the cost of living increased 79 percent. Constant striving for increased efficiency succeeded in keeping G.S.O. service cost per group to \$29.75 in 1972 compared with \$22.06 in 1950, an increase of only 35 percent.

1973 G.S.O. Budget

The budget for 1973 Operations of G.S.O. activities — exclusive of the A.A. Grapevine — is as follows:

BUDGET

A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC. — PUBLISHING

INCOME

Sales	\$958,500*
Less: Cost of Products	393,000
Gross Profit from Sales	565,500

TOTAL EXPENSES

Excess of Income (Expense)	222,800
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*Based upon the sale of:

- 97,400 Books — "Alcoholics Anonymous"
- 37,400 Books — "12 Steps & 12 Traditions" (Reg.)
- 12,300 Books — "12 Steps & 12 Traditions" (Pocket)
- 11,100 Books — "A.A. Comes of Age"
- 17,400 Books — "As Bill Sees It" and Pamphlets & Miscellaneous Items

GENERAL FUND — GROUP SERVICES

INCOME

Contributions	\$620,800
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TOTAL EXPENSES

Excess of Income (Expense)	685,100**
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**Includes cost of General Service Conference — \$40,400

GENERAL FUND — OTHER EXPENSES

INCOME

Interest	\$ 4,000
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TOTAL EXPENSE

Excess of Income (Expense)	52,700***
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***Board Meetings, P.I.C. Expense, P.R.C. Expense and Special Projects.

The Publishing activity will contribute \$113,000 to offset the budgeted deficits.

1973 Grapevine Budget

Estimated income from subscription and other sales	\$309,400
Estimated Expense	303,400
Net income from operations	6,000
Interest from investments	9,500
Net Income	15,500

A.A. CALENDAR

MAY

- 25-27 - *Minden, La.* 19th Annual Convention. Write: Minden Group, Box 43, Minden, La. 71053
- 25-27 - *Reno, Nev.* 2nd Annual Reno Spring Festival of A.A. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 72, Reno, Nev. 89505
- 26-28 - *Ely, Minn.* Upper Minnesota Area A.A. and Al-Anon Get-Together. Write: Banquet Comm., 32 East Sheridan St., Ely, Minn. 55731
- 25-27 - *Prince Albert, Sask.* Prince Albert Gateway Roundup. Write: Roundup Secy., 12 - 12th St. East, Prince Albert, Sask., Can. S6V 1B2
- 31-June 3 - *Palm Springs, Calif.* 13th Annual Desert A.A. Roundup. Write: Desert A.A. Roundup, P.O. Box 539, Palm Springs, Calif. 92262

JUNE

- 1-3 - *Jackson, Miss.* 27th Mississippi Convention. Write: 27th Mississippi A.A. Conv., P.O. Box 429, Meridian, Miss. 39301
- 1-3 - *Marion, Ill.* Down-State Spring Conference Meeting. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 217, Benton, Ill. 62812
- 1-3 - *Peterborough, Ont.* 12th Annual Kawartha District Conference. Write: Conf. Chm., 268 Lansdowne St. W., Peterborough, Ont., Can.
- 1-3 - *Kearney, Neb.* Annual Nebraska A.A. State Reunion. Write: Reunion Chm., P.O. Box 412, Kearney, Neb. 68847
- 1-3 - *Winchester, Va.* Four-State & D.C. Get-Together. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 651, Winchester, Va. 22601
- 1-3 - *Clovia, N.M.* Annual State Conference. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 1301, Clovia, N.M. 88101
- 1-3 - *Durban, South Africa.* 9th Thokwini Roundup. Write: Secy., 47 Princeton, 94 Hospital Rd., Durban, Natal, Republic of South Africa
- 2-3 - *Vancouver Island, B.C.* Annual Parkville Rally; Island Hall Hotel. Write: Secy., Parkville Rally, 1070 Fir St., Campbell River, B.C.
- 6-8 - *Aleota, Tenn.* 15th Blount Anniversary Convention; Holiday Inn. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 296, Maryville, Tenn. 37801
- 8-10 - *Dawson Creek, B.C.* 16th Annual Roundup; Notre Dame Auditorium. Write: Reser., Box 111, Dawson Creek, B.C.
- 8-10 - *Richmond, Calif.* Northern California Council of A.A. Conference; Richmond Memorial Auditorium. Write: Conf. Secy., 166 Geary St., Suite 84, San Francisco, Calif. 94018
- 8-10 - *Halifax, N.S.* Annual N.S. Roundup. Write: Chm., Roundup '73, Box 3064, Halifax South Postal Station, Halifax, N.S. Can.
- 8-10 - *Fairmont, W. Va.* 21st A.A. State Convention. Write: Chm., Box 624, Fairmont, W. Va. 26554
- 9 - *New Brunswick, N.J.* 17th Annual New Jersey General Service Convention; Douglas College. Write: 17th Annual G.S. Conv. Comm., Box 102, White House Station, N.J. 08889
- 9-10 - *Des Moines, Iowa.* All-Iowa State Conference; Savery Hotel. Write: Savery Hotel, 4th and Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
- 14-17 - *St. Simons, Ga.* 9th Golden Isles Family Weekend. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 508, Statesboro, Ga. 30458
- 15-17 - *Sylvan Lake, Alta.* 3rd Central Alberta Roundup. Write: Chm., Box 474, Innisfail, Alta., Can.

- 21 - *Trinidad, W.I.* Trinidad & Tobago 14th Annual Convention. Write: Secy., Parloce St., Bonne Aventure P.O., Bonne Aventure, Trinidad, W.I.
- 28-July 1 - *Dallas, Tex.* 28th Texas State Convention. Write: Texas State A.A. Comm., Box 2081, Dallas, Tex. 75201
- 29-July 1 - *Akron, Ohio.* A.A. Founders Day. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 12, Akron, Ohio 44309
- 29-July 1 - *Vancouver, B.C.* Pacific Northwest Conference. Write: Conf. Chm., P.O. Box 126, Burnaby 1, B.C., Can.
- 30-July 1 - *Wiesbaden, Germany.* English-speaking Roundup; American High School. Write: Chm., Box 3343, A.P.O., N.Y. 09057

JULY

- 5-8 - *Palm Beach, Fla.* 17th Annual Florida State Convention; The Breakers. Write: 17th Fla. State Conv., P.O. Box 14223, No. Palm Beach, Fla. 33408
- 6-8 - *San Francisco, Calif.* 16th International Conference of Young People in A.A. Write: GYST, P.O. Box 6759, San Francisco, Calif. 94101
- 13-15 - *Moorhead, Minn.* Red River Valley Roundup. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 315, Moorhead, Minn. 56560
- 14 - *Swansea, Wales.* 1st Welsh Intergroup Mini-Convention. Write: Wales Intergroup, 18 Eversley Rd., Sketty, Swansea, Wales SA2 9DA
- 20-22 - *Santa Maria, Calif.* 22nd District, 6th Annual A.A. Convention. Write: Conv. Chm., 1814 Osos St., San Luis Obispo, Calif. 93401
- 20-22 - *Albany, N.Y.* 10th New York State Convention. Write: Conv. Chm., P.O. Box 22, Monroe Bridge, Mass. 01350
- 27-29 - *Delmar, Md.* 3rd Maryland State A.A. Convention. Write: Conv. Comm., P.O. Box 84, Easton, Md. 21061

SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

LOUISIANA	
Greater New Orleans Area:	
Special Activities.....	5 100.00
NEBRASKA	
Omaha Area:	
AB-Group Dinner	11.30
OREGON	
Portland: S. Ore. General	
Serv. Comm.	42.00
PENNSYLVANIA	
Eastern Area: Conference ...	2,292.69
CANADA	
Alta.: Assembly.....	45.00
B.C.: Nanaimo Feb. Rally ...	131.34
Man.: Gratitude Dinner	700.00
Ont.: Brantford Intergroup ..	67.50
Toronto, Sun. Morn.	
Men's Meeting.....	50.00

CONFERENCE ACTIONS (from p. 5)

alcoholism programs be welcomed into A.A., recognizing that the growth of professional interest in alcoholism results in growth of A.A. membership, and in increased needs for Twelfth Step work and use of our Traditions.

SERVICE MANUAL—Approved various updating and clarifications for the next printing, available late in the summer.

CONFERENCE EVALUATION—Recommended yearly evaluations by questionnaire.

INSTITUTIONS—Recommended that local institutions committees send G.S.O. lists of hospitals and prisons where there are no A.A. groups.

PENNY-A-DAY—Recommended that the suggested yardstick of \$3.00 per member per year be changed to \$3.65, emphasizing a "Penny-a-Day for Sobriety" idea.

NEW QUEBEC DELEGATE—Voted that Quebec be allowed a fourth delegate.

UTAH'S REGION—Unanimously agreed Utah's requested shift from the Southwest to the Pacific region.

NEW G.S.O. FILMSTRIP—Previewed (final after equipment breakdowns forced one postponement) "Welcome to G.S.O.," a new 4 minute color filmstrip tour of G.S.O. Grapevine offices, with narration by 14 members. Each delegate was given one copy; others may be ordered from G.S.O. for \$6.00 (if sound track on tape cassette is desired add \$5.00).

DELEGATES-ONLY—Don P., Colo., elected area delegate chairman; Al B., Bt Yukon, alternate chairman for the 19 Conference.

CIRCULATION OF WORLD DIRECTORY—Approved guidelines (based on delegate survey) restricting distribution for A.A. purposes only (with delegate's approval required for any use by a non-A.A. in his or her area). Delegates granted permission for their names to be given to nonalcoholics for purposes of referring alcoholics to A.A.

1974 DIRECTORY MORATORIUM—5 page 2.

WORLD SERVICE MEETING—Agreed U.S.-Canadian representation to the next W.S.M. should meet criteria recommended the 1972 W.S.M.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCEDURE—Agreed to fill out an information questionnaire to assist the Trustees' Nominating Committee in making a recommendation to the 1974 Conference.

GRAPEVINE—Advised the Grapevine to accept no more "Pay as You Go" group subscriptions (because of bad debts), but recommend prepaid group subscriptions.

LITERATURE—Recommended that words "sometimes heavily" be deleted from question No. 5 in the pamphlet "Is It for You?"

READINESS FOR SERVICE—Unanimously agreed that newcomers are ready to leave A.A. service structure "as soon as practical possible."