



AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

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INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR

12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING THIS MONTH

OPEN HOUSE AT G.S.O.

On Saturday, May 19, G.S.O. will be open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. so that G.S.R.'s and others interested in A. A. World Services can visit the office and meet the A.A. Staff.

At 1 p.m., the Southeastern New York Area Committee is serving a buffet luncheon, to be followed by an A.A. meeting at 74 Trinity Place, New York City. Visitors to G.S.O. are invited to attend the luncheon and meeting.

THEME TO BE "ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE"

A.A.'s one primary purpose .. "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers," will be the theme of the Twelfth General Service Conference when it opens at the Hotel Roosevelt on April 25. For five days eighty-five Area Delegates and approximately thirty Trustees, Directors and Staff members of G.S.O. and The Grapevine will review and discuss the services that strengthen A.A. unity and Twelfth Step work.

A feature of the Saturday afternoon session will be a special presentation to consider the question: "Is A. A. Growing?" Area Delegates have been asked to bring answers to these four questions:

1. Is A.A. growing in my Area?
2. When and where was the first member and group?
3. How many groups and members now?
4. Is my Area fulfilling its "one primary purpose?"

This inventory, we believe, will provide the information needed to help us assess our progress and improve our services.

In addition, Conference members will hear reports on A.A. World Service activities during the past year and the discussion of any business which Area Delegates wish to bring to the Conference.

The following items, already on the agenda, have been approved by the Conference Agenda Committee and the General Service Board and its Policy Committee:

Bill W.'s "Twelve Suggested Concepts for World Service" and his recommendations to strengthen A.A.'s service structure.

Discussion of whether to hold the 1965 Conference in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary Convention in Toronto; of a film on G.S.O. for Delegates' use; of "World Directory" policy; and whether 3rd class mail might be used for the monthly "A.A. Exchange Bulletin."

Discussion of whether Grapevine Editorial Board and

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LASKER AWARD?



Since 1951, over 100,000 A.A.'s have joined the Fellowship and some of them may not know that in that year the Lasker Award was presented by the American Public Health Association to Alcoholics Anonymous in recognition of its unique and highly successful approach to that age-old public health and social problem, alcoholism.

In its last paragraph the Award's text ventures to predict for the Fellowship a high niche in man's climb to spiritual freedom: "Historians may one day point to Alcoholics Anonymous as a society which did far more than achieve a considerable measure of success with alcoholism and its stigma; they may recognize Alcoholics Anonymous to have been a great venture in social pioneering which forged a new instrument for social action; a new therapy based on the kinship of common suffering; one having a vast potential for the myriad other ills of mankind." (The whole story of the Lasker Award is in "A.A. Comes of Age," available from G.S.O.)

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12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING THIS MONTH (continued from page 1)

Public Information Committee members should attend the Conference without vote; and whether Internationalists (A.A. members aboard ship) might send an Observer to the Conference.

Progress report and discussion of Birthday Plan.

Discussion of suggestion that Areas increase their share of Delegates' travel expense to Conference.

As has been customary, some services will be highlighted by special presentations. This year Area Delegates will participate in panels on:

- Institutional A.A.*
- Area Delegates at Work*
- A.A. Cooperation with Outside Agencies*

Observers from Holland and Norway will make reports at the Saturday morning session. One of the three evening sessions has been set aside as usual for the exclusive meeting of Area Delegates.

Complete reports of the Conference will be published and distributed to Area Delegates and Committee Members. In addition, a special four-page bulletin, "Conference Highlights," will be mailed with the June "A.A. Exchange Bulletin" to all Groups, Loners, Internationalists, Area Delegates and Committee Members.

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NEW CONFERENCE DELEGATES

As we go to press we are glad to hear that four new Delegates have been added to the Conference roster for 1962-63:

- Massachusetts (Western) . . . Clarence H., Wilbraham
- Alberta Don N., Cold Lake
- Ontario (Western) Charles C., Kitchener
- Puerto Rico Francisco N., Cayey

G.S.O. SERVICE MATERIAL

G.S.O. now has mimeographed material, prepared by the Public Information Committee, that suggests how to set up an A.A. public meeting to which key persons in the community are to be invited. Included are a sample invitation and an anonymity announcement. If your group would like to have this Public Meeting material just write and we will send it to you at no charge.

A public meeting can carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic himself and also to his family and his friends and to professional people who may be

close to him. Many times, as we know, a non-alcoholic has been the link between an alcoholic and an A.A. group.

Here's a report from Pedro M. of the Ever Blooming A.A. Group in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles: "It is with genuine pleasure that I report the public meeting at which we celebrated our group's fifth anniversary. Eight members of the Divi Divi Group, Aruba, were with us and all agreed it was our best meeting ever.

"Interested people from all walks of life were present. The speakers included physicians, clergymen and government officials. They all spoke words of encouragement and promised to help us in our struggle. A prison group is in the forming and soon you'll hear more about it. Our group is growing slowly but steadily."

DR. NORRIS NAMED BY GOVERNOR

Governor Rockefeller has appointed a twelve-member advisory council on alcoholism and has designated Dr. John L. Norris as Chairman.

The council will advise the New York Division of Alcoholism on combating alcoholism and assist in coordinating the activities of the state and private agencies. The members will serve without pay.

Dr. Norris is Medical Director of the Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester. He has been a Trustee of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous since 1951 and for the last year has served as its Chairman. He is a dedicated nonalcoholic friend, a pioneer in the introduction of A.A. into industry and a selfless and devoted worker.

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FRENCH GROUP WANTS CORRESPONDENTS

Joe R., founder of the new French Group in Rouen, France, has recently written: "Dear A.A. friends in New York: The new Rouen Group is now five men and two women. We have chosen as the founding day of the group, December 15, 1961. Since then we have been meeting at my home or at the home of a friend in Rouen. I am very happy that at the beginning of the group Providence favored me with A.A. friends who had the desire to stop drinking.

"In our meetings, we have presented everything pertaining to the Twelve Steps. At the same time we have attended meetings in Paris to inform ourselves as new A.A.'s of the methods used there.

"It would be nice if we could correspond with American friends who know the French language. Perhaps you could put this request in your Bulletin."

Anyone who would like to correspond can get Joe's address from Eve at G.S.O.

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THE A A Grapevine

Did you ever hear a *DOG TALKING*?
Have you ever heard an *ATHIEST SPEAK OUT*?
Have you ever been a *FATHER OF THE BRIDE*?
Have you heard about the *1980 SUMMIT CONFERENCE*?

Read all about these and other timely topics in the *MAY GRAPEVINE*.

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NEW A.A. TRUSTEE

Mary B., an active A.A. member, a lawyer by profession, and a Director of The A.A. Grapevine's Corporate Board for the past year, was elected a Trustee of the General Service Board. Mary is the second woman to serve in this capacity. The first woman Trustee was a nonalcoholic, Margaret F. Farrand who served from 1941 to 1944.

FRENCH TRANSLATION

The General Service Board approved an expenditure by A.A. World Services, Inc. not to exceed \$4,500., to underwrite the printing cost of a composite book in French. It will include the first eleven chapters of the Big Book and some of the stories, as well as material from "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" and from "A.A. Comes of Age."

The French Literature Council of Quebec A.A. has assumed responsibility for translation and printing. The Board's funds will be given to the Council as needed with the understanding that these underwriting monies be returned from funds received from book sales.

The French Group in Paris is providing stories and Canadian French stories will also be included in the book.

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A.A. INFORMATION FOR ROCHESTER CLERGYMEN

In February the Office Committee of the Rochester (New York) Service Center of A.A. advised us of a plan whereby each group would assume part of the task of informing key people in the community about Alcoholics Anonymous.

The East Rochester Group was assigned the doctors in the area and the Northside Group the clergymen. A copy of the letter that was mailed to the local ministers is reprinted below. Judd B., Secretary of the Northside Group, tells how they distributed 600 copies of the G.S.O. pamphlet, "A Clergyman Asks about A.A." – "Even though we are few in number we have been able to handle this mailing quite easily because of unsolicited help from the entire group. One member provided the envelopes, another got the clergymen's names from the yellow pages and others did the addressing. The cost was borne by the group. It has been heartwarming to see the members' response to this project. Your Literature Committee has done an excellent job on the pamphlet and we are proud of it.

"If this effort helps one alcoholic to leave the rat race and rejoin the human race we will consider ourselves well repaid."

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The A A Service Center
of
Alcoholics Anonymous
Room 820 Granite Bldg.
Rochester 4, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Alcoholics Anonymous renders a unique service to those unfortunates who suffer from the insidious disease of alcoholism. We would like to acquaint you, a clergyman, with this service.

In addition to the information given in the enclosed pamphlet, "A Clergyman Asks about Alcoholics Anonymous", our local office at the above address may be visited in person or by calling HA 6-3347.

Since many of our present membership were referred to us by clergymen, we wish to express our thanks to the clergy for helping us to become part of the answer to alcoholism rather than part of the problem.

Should you like to attend one or more of our meetings, the Service Center Secretary would be glad to give you particulars as to time and place.

Very sincerely yours,

The A A Service Center

**SOUTHEASTERN NEW YORK CONVENTION
WILL HIGHLIGHT "OLD-TIMERS"**

The place of the "old-timers" in the group, a matter of increasing interest throughout A.A. as our Fellowship grows older, will be the subject of the Saturday morning session at the S. E. New York Area Convention. There will be brief remarks from several speakers and then lots of audience participation.

All eighty-five General Service Conference Delegates and their spouses have been invited by the local committee to be its guests at the Convention, which will be held in New York City, on April 21.

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TV PROGRAM ABOUT A.A.

As this Bulletin goes to press some of us at G.S.O. have seen the taped program about A.A. which is one of the ABC-TV series, "Faith for Today." Three A.A. members answer questions about the Fellowship and express their personal views. Anonymity is protected by an ingenious lighting pattern which leaves faces in complete silhouette.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church has been sponsoring this series of programs which have been running every Sunday for several years. The one on A.A. will be shown in New York on March 25, at 11 a.m. It is scheduled to run in hundreds of other cities around the country over the next three or four months.

If this series is being carried by a TV station in your city the Station Manager will tell you when it is going to run.

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LOST!

The location of a club and two groups. Yes! It is unusual, but here's the story: Anita R., G.S.O. Staff member in charge of *Records & Directory* received a letter listing a new club and two groups. Unfortunately, the city and state were not included in the address, so we cannot put them on our mailing list.

Here's the information. If you can identify them, please let Anita know the location:

- Club 24 - 2209 St. Paul Street
- Phone: 889-9624
- Sunday Afternoon Discussion Group (3 p.m.)
- Late-Late Group (11 p.m., Fridays)

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LITERATURE ORDERS INCREASE

Orders for conference-approved literature for 1961 ran about 10% ahead of 1960 orders, reports Herb M., Manager, G.S.O.

A.A. CALENDAR

APRIL

- 14 - N. Wisconsin - N. Michigan Area Spring Conference
Antigo Group, Box 263, Antigo, Wisc.
- 21 - Southeastern N.Y. Convention
% P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Sta., N.Y. 17, N.Y.
- 28-29 - Second Chicago Intergroup Conference
Chairman, Conference Committee,
361 N. Garfield St., Lombard, Illinois

MAY

- 4-6 - N. Illinois-Downstate Spring Conference
Alano Club, 421 Glen Rock Ave., Waukegan, Ill.
- 5-6 - Montana Spring Conference
Hamilton Group, Box 281, Hamilton, Mont.
- 6 - Southern Wisconsin Spring Conference
St. William's Catholic Grade School, Janesville, Wis.
- 11-13 - Tennessee State Convention
Noel Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.

- 11-13 - New Mexico State Annual Conference
Carizzo Lodge, Ruidoso, N. Mex.
- 11-13 - South Carolina State Convention
Ocean Forest Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
- 13 - Fifteenth Annual Baltimore Banquet
Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md.
- 18-20 - 22nd Cook Forest Conference, Cooksburg, Penna.
Box 265, Verona, Pittsburgh, Penna.

- 19-20 - Wyoming Spring Conference
P.O. Box 169, Laramie, Wyoming
- 19-20 - Third Temiskaming & Cochrane Area Conference
McIntyre Arena, Schumacher, Ontario, Canada
- 19-20 - Northern Arizona Regional Conference
Sedona Group, Box 445, Sedona, Ariz.
- 25-26 - Central New York Area Spring Conference
Watsons Homestead, Corning, New York
- 26-27 - Central Vancouver Island Second Annual Rally
Parksville Island Hall, Nanaimo, B.C.
Nanaimo Group, Box 15, Nanaimo, B.C., Canada

CONFERENCE-APPROVED PAMPHLETS

For some of our professional friends
Available from G.S.O.

- "The Alcoholic Employee".....15¢
- "A.A. & the Medical Profession"..... 15¢
- "A Clergyman Asks about A.A.".....10¢
- "Correctional Officials Evaluate A.A."25¢
- "Hospital Administrators Evaluate A.A."25¢
- "A.A.-Helpful Ally".....3¢