

## Widening Circles of Sobriety Mark Native American International A.A. Convention

*I started out drinking with Indians, fought with Indians, laughed with Indians and despaired with Indians. Now it is only appropriate that I am in recovery with Indians—the circle is complete.*

These words leapt out of the note an A.A. thrust into the hand of a speaker at the opening ceremony of the Seventh Native American International A.A. (NAI-AA) Convention. Held in Reno, Nevada, last October 9-12, it attracted more than 300 A.A.s and Al-Anons from the U.S./Canada and was hosted by members of the Paiute, Washoe and Shoshone tribes. The purpose, as noted by the NAI-AA Convention committee, was to provide an opportunity for Native Americans to celebrate their sobriety, working the Twelve Steps of A.A. so that "all of us can carry the message back to our people who are still suffering from this disease of alcoholism."

Kenneth "Ken" S., a Lakota from South Dakota and the speaker committee chairman, reports, "I heard many people say they found something at the convention that they had been looking for all their lives. It was an awesome sight to see so many Indians in one place, sober in A.A. I think one of the most powerful spiritual elements of the convention was that people from all tribes were helped in terms of identity." Californian Juan V., a past convention committee member, told the gathering, "In this circle of life all cultures bring something. I honor and respect Bill W. and Dr. Bob for founding A.A.—it saved my life. I also honor and respect my culture and my heritage."

Speaker Jack B., of Erhart, Minnesota, reflected that at the A.A. meetings and conventions he had attended over the years, someone would occasionally comment, "I see in the audience there are a few Natives getting sober. It is so good to see you here." So he enjoyed the polite ripple of laughter that greeted his parody: "I see in the audience that some of our non-Native friends are here. It is good to see you getting sober."

Says Ken: "Growing up in a mainstream culture that was hostile to Indians and having to exist with a guarded sense of self for fear of rejection and violence over so

many years—then suddenly walking into the NAI-AA Convention and experiencing the tremendous sense of celebration in claiming the part of us we'd so long repressed. . . the feeling was powerful. Others have gotten in touch with their roots and have committed to relearning their tribal ways and languages that were lost in generations of drinking. For many it has been the missing piece of the puzzle in their sobriety."

He adds that "the most frequently asked question at the meeting was, 'Are non-Indians welcome to attend?'"

"Let me stress," Ken declares, "that the NAI-AA Convention is open to the entire A.A. family worldwide. All are welcome to attend."

Various activities at the NAI-AA Convention included 24-hour marathon meetings, dances, a social powwow and both men's and women's "talking circles" that afforded the opportunity to share what the program described as "social concerns and issues of intimacy." A banquet Saturday night featured tempting Southwestern/Native American dishes. The speaker, Rose Y., of Alberta, Canada, told of her long experience in taking A.A. into correctional facilities. She emphasized that "it is our responsibility to look after our young people: I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that I am responsible." Sunday, the final day of the convention, started with a spiritual speaker meeting and concluded with a closing ceremony. This was highlighted by a sobriety countdown, from a couple of months up to 45 years' recovery.

Marked by fellowship and unity, the Convention was tangible evidence of A.A. efforts over more than a decade to reach out to Native North Americans. To help facilitate the ongoing effort, the 1985 General Service Conference had directed that information concerning this population be gathered. Accordingly two surveys were undertaken by the General Service Office, one of area delegates and another of 600 professionals in the alcoholism field. Of 92 areas, 55 percent responded; 45 percent of those reported little or no contact with Native Americans. The findings also noted the hundreds of Native languages and dialects in use today.



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By 1990, increasing numbers of Native Americans in the U.S. and Canada were coming to A.A. and staying. But, as Ken points out, “there was as yet no common meeting ground where they could share their common journey.” Then, about eight years ago, a young Paiute Indian, A.A. member Earl L., of Bishop, California, dreamed of a great gathering of Native people, with sobriety as the central theme. At once excited and nervous, he sought the help of a medicine man, who told him he had experienced a vision of what the future could hold. Earl took heart; at the next area assembly he announced there would be a national/international gathering for Native Americans in the fall of 1991—without the vaguest idea of what organizing such an event entailed!

But armed with inspiration, determination and the help of enthusiastic A.A. friends far and wide, Earl realized his dream: The first NAI-AA Convention, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1991, drew hundreds of participants, and as word spread, those that came after were successively larger. After the first three conventions, all held in Las Vegas, it was decided to vary the locale, holding future ones in Indian communities around the country in order to attract those who could not afford to travel to Las Vegas each year. Thus, the fourth and fifth conventions were held in Rapid City, South Dakota, which is within driving distance of the densely populated Indian reservations in Montana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Wyoming and the Dakotas; the sixth took place in Seattle, Washington, because of its proximity to the more than 100 Indian tribes in the Northwest. In Washington State alone, there are 21 tribes living on 22 reservations.

At those first NAI-AA conventions, says Ken, who came to A.A. in 1986, “I felt at last like I was at the heart of Alcoholics Anonymous: a place where Indians could talk about their lives and have people listen with respect and dignity, and relate what they were hearing to their own experience. A.A. has a universal solution to an age-old problem. For Native Americans, trusting and accepting the Fellowship has not been easy. It was once

thought that you would have to sell out your culture to make it in A.A. Now Indians understand that there is room for us, for all peoples.”

The Eighth NAI-AA Convention will be held at the Flamingo Hilton Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada, Oct. 29–Nov. 1, 1998. For more information or to register, write: Dorian G., registration chair, NAI-AA Convention, P.O. Box 1402, Elk Grove, California 95759-1402; call the 24-hour information line (702) 674-2666; or see the NAI-AA home page (<http://www.nai-aaconvention.org>).

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## The Buck Stops Here

Few A.A.s would argue with the First Tradition, which states (in long form) that “each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live, or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first....” And yet, writes B.R. in *Unity*, the newsletter of the Dayton (Ohio) Intergroup, “everywhere I go, groups are struggling to fill their service positions. This group hasn’t seen its treasurer in six months; that one can’t get a volunteer to make coffee; the group down the street folded because no one was showing up to open the meeting. Why is this happening? Because too many people think the responsibility belongs to someone else or to some vague, nebulous concept called ‘the group.’”

The problem, B.R. says, “doesn’t end there. Hospitals and jails are asking for meetings but getting none. Service boards such as intergroup and the area assembly are lucky to get 20 or 30 representatives at a meeting that should draw hundreds. I know. I attend these meetings, serve on these boards, chair a committee and I am sick of hearing ‘No report’ from one committee after another, simply because none are willing to give back to A.A. what was so freely given to them. People are dying out there, but too few of us seem to care. Our common welfare is not coming first. Why?”

In looking for answers, B.R. says, he turned to his own experience and concluded that sponsorship had played a vital role. “My sponsor didn’t suggest A.A. service work to me,” he remembers, “he demanded it as a vital and necessary part of my recovery. And he made it attractive to me by being a steadfast example. I learned responsibility, I learned to be dependable. From small beginnings, such as serving coffee, I learned lessons that enabled me to rejoin society as a contributing member instead of an unwanted leech.”

The same holds true, B.R. suggests, when it comes to being “a part of general service. The benefits are count-



less, but to give a single example: If I had to move suddenly to Cincinnati or Cleveland, I would know members there by name. I have friends all over Ohio and beyond whom I'd never have met but for being involved in intergroup and area activities. There are countless ways to be a part of the solution instead of the problem. Ask at your group: Are there any positions that need to be filled? Attend an intergroup meeting or an area assembly. Ask your sponsor. *Be a sponsor. Participate!*

"We cannot look to 'the group' to place the common welfare of A.A. first—we must do it for ourselves because it is vital to our own recovery, to our very survival. It is the only way to ensure that the hand of A.A. will be there for you, for me, for that poor soul stumbling along out there, dying of alcoholism."

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## Fourth Edition Update

After the announcement in the November 1997 issues of the Grapevine and in *Box 4-5-9* (Oct./Nov.) that the trustees' Literature Committee was seeking story submissions from the Fellowship for possible inclusion in a proposed draft for a 4th Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, there began a weekly trickle of manuscripts.

Yee Eng (nonalcoholic), the Literature assignment's staff assistant, and a G.S.O. support services veteran, leisurely processed the 20 or so a week stories that dribbled in during the early months.

To process a story, Yee would take the author's name and address and enter it into her computer. Then, she would make a copy of the manuscript, removing the author's name and address, and assigning the story a number. She would then make multiple copies which would be sent out to the six subcommittee members reviewing the submissions.



*Yee Eng, (nonalcoholic), working with gloves.*



*Stacks of 4th Edition stories in storeroom, waiting to be processed.*

Ah, the quiet days of December and January. Speculation around the office was that we would receive a total of maybe 400 stories—500 at the most! By the end of February, the 400 figure was passed. By the time the 1998 General Service Conference rolled around, the 600 story mark had passed. Yee had to start wearing gloves because of the paper cuts she was getting processing so much paper.

The flood began in mid-May as the June 1, 1998 deadline approached. Yee's "In" box would no longer hold the deluge. Bins of unopened envelopes surrounded her desk as she and Doug R., the Literature coordinator, sorted and collated the batches of stories that had to get out to the subcommittee members in order for them to try to keep up on their reading schedule. The French and Spanish stories were sent off to be translated.

June 1, the Deadline! Stories came by Fed-Ex, by fax, by e-mail, by messenger and even by hand, brought in by the authors themselves—all this is in addition to the regular postal delivery. But the deadline had been reached, and the flood gates closed.

The final count is just shy of 1,200 stories. The Fellowship's participation has been spectacular. Yee still worked hard through June, catching up with the backlog of acknowledgment letters and making copies. Did she look forward to her vacation in July? You bet!

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## 1998 Intergroup/ Central Office Seminar

It's time to register for the Thirteenth Intergroup/Central Office Seminar, which will be held at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo, California, Oct. 9-11, 1998. Sally Mae S., who heads the San Mateo County Fellowship of A.A., observes that, "for us this is a real family affair. We are



cohosting the seminar with four neighboring intergroup offices here in Northern California—Contra Costa Service Center, Walnut Creek; East Bay Intergroup Central Office, Oakland; Monterey Bay Area Intergroup; and Intercounty Fellowship, San Francisco.”

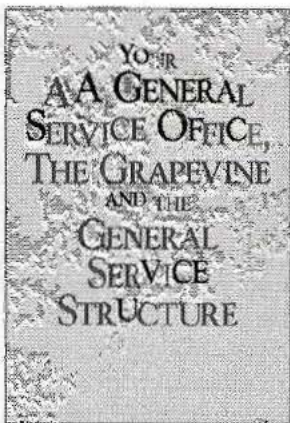
Sally Mae notes that “the spirit of cooperation among these service centers is heartwarming, and we’re all looking forward to welcoming more than 150 A.A.s to the seminar. We really appreciate the chance this annual get-together gives us to exchange ideas, share our common problems... to renew old friendships and form new ones.”

The weekend of workshops, panel discussions and fellowship will bring together intergroup/central office managers and employees from across the U.S. and Canada; they will be joined by trustees of the General Service Board along with A.A. World Services and Grapevine directors and staff. Says Sally Mae: “For those who can come early, there will be a tour of San Francisco on Thursday, October 8. That evening, A.A.s from the area will spirit our visitors away to dinner, and then to a local A.A. meeting.”

The registration fee for the seminar is \$20. For further information, or to register, contact Sally Mae S., San Mateo County Fellowship, Inc., 1941 O’Farrell Street, Suite 107, San Mateo, CA 94403; call (650) 573-6811; or fax (650) 573-6897.

Also, copies of the 1997 Seminar’s Final Report, hosted by the Central Ohio Fellowship of Columbus, are still available. Write: Central Ohio Fellowship Intergroup, 1561 Leonard Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43219-2580; or call (614) 253-8501. A \$5 contribution is requested (except from seminar participants) to help cover production and mailing costs.

## Now Available...



*Visit the Grapevine and General Service Offices! This new video will give you a flavor of both, plus additional information on A.A.'s General Service Structure. 21.49 minutes, (VS-24), \$15.00, 20% discount applies.*

## 1998 A.A. Membership Survey

Once again it is time for a survey of A.A. membership, which will be conducted in randomly selected groups throughout the United States and Canada. The information gathered by this survey will be used as the basis for the Public Information pamphlet “Alcoholics Anonymous 1998 Membership Survey.” This informational pamphlet, which describes the composition of our Fellowship, has been very successful in introducing and explaining A.A. to nonalcoholic professionals and the general public.

The survey procedure is approved by the General Service Conference, and participation is anonymous and voluntary. If you are asked to fill out a Survey Questionnaire between August 1st and 14th, you will be helping to provide information about our membership to our fellow A.A.s and anyone who would like to know more about us.

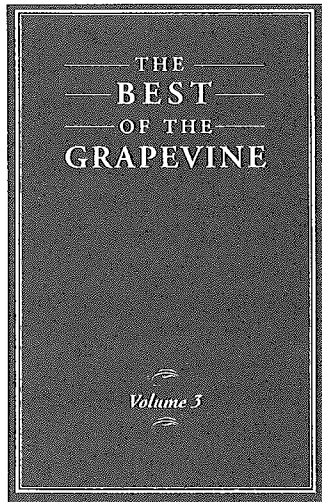
If you have any questions about the A.A. Membership Survey, call the Public Information desk at G.S.O.

## From the A.A. Grapevine—A New Anthology

*I was... reminded of what I'd said to the group at my first meeting. I had somehow admitted to strangers that I'd prayed for guidance before calling A.A. They had me and they knew it. "You have already sought a power greater than yourself," they informed me. I was bewildered. I couldn't make my case. They remembered every word I had uttered at that first meeting. I had never had so much attention. No one had cared before, or knew how to show me the way out of my dilemma. I didn't know it at the time but I was discovering a power greater than myself—the love of the A.A. group.*

This simple expression of a faith in a home group was written by a California member, and appears in “In the Grip of the Group,” a story in *The Best of the Grapevine 3*, an anthology of 63 stories just published by the A.A. Grapevine. The stories in this book are filled with examples of sober living—how A.A. members have worked the Steps, depended on A.A.’s basic principles to overcome adversity, utilized the Traditions, and found experience, strength, and hope in a home group. Like other related items produced by the Grapevine, this one is based on material which previously appeared in the magazine.

The book is the result of more than two years of planning, beginning when the Conference Committee on the Grapevine gave the go-ahead to the idea in 1996



Hardcover, 328 pages, topical index. \$8.00 each; 5 or more, \$7.50 (GV-09). To order, send check or money order to: Grapevine, P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-1980.

and forwarded it to the Grapevine Corporate Board for approval. In the summer of 1997, each member of the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board was asked to take a year's worth of issues from 1987 to 1997, read through them, and make recommendations. About 120 articles were suggested by board members and from that, the editors at the magazine made their final selection.

Diversity is the hallmark of the magazine, and readers of *The Best of the Grapevine 3* will encounter a wide variety of A.A. members, including a Scottish

immigrant to South Africa, a truck driver whose CB handle is Camel Jockey, a wheelchair-bound New Yorker, the members of El Grupo Serenidad in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the first A.A. in Romania, a parish priest in South America, and a "BBT" (Big Book Thumper) in Alabama. Some of the book's section titles include Stories, The Home Group, A.A. Around the World, Is A.A. Changing? and Old-Timers Corner. There are interviews with oldtimers whose stories appear in the Third Edition of the Big Book, and with Nell Wing, Bill W.'s nonalcoholic secretary for many years, as well as special features on intergroups in the U.S. and Canada, the General Service Office, and the General Service Conference. In all cases, the stories reflect the Grapevine's commitment to A.A.'s singleness of purpose—staying away from alcohol a day at a time through A.A.'s program of recovery.

The following joyous words, written by a Native Canadian woman, appear in "Mended by A.A.," a story in the volume: *I like me just the way I am, and I am proud of my heritage. A.A. has helped me be the kind of person I always wanted to be. I have that peace back that I once possessed as a child on Lake Winnipegosis. I feel the Great Spirit's presence and I'm not scared anymore.* This story reflects such basic A.A. principles as acceptance, peace of mind, and a relationship with a Higher Power, and in it and others like it—as one Grapevine editor put it—"We hope readers will find solace, inspiration, and practical tools for living a sober life."

## New Special Needs Catalog Is Part of Widespread Effort

A new service piece, "A.A. Literature and Audiovisual Material for Special Needs" catalog, is now available from G.S.O. For A.A.s who are blind or visually impaired there is A.A. literature in Braille and on audiotape cassettes. Similarly the deaf and hard of hearing will find complete listings of available films and videotapes, closed-captioned videos and illustrated, easy-to-read pamphlets. The catalog is expected to be of help as well to Special Needs committees in disseminating literature to professionals working with alcoholics who have special needs.

The catalog lists two books that are available in American Sign Language (ASL): a five-volume 1/2" VHS video of *Alcoholics Anonymous* that contains the Forewords, the first 11 chapters, "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," "The Doctor's Opinion" and the Appendices; and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, also a five-volume, 1/2" video. Included are the A.A. Guidelines Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs and Carrying the Message to the Deaf Alcoholic. There's a listing of material that is confidential and available to A.A. members only, such as *LIM (Loners-Internationalists Meeting newsletter)* along with meetings online and via taped correspondence. Under the heading Miscellaneous are noted several correspondence groups, the A.A. Grapevine and other audiovisual materials and resources.

The new catalog is just one way in which A.A. is making a concerted effort to reach out and help alcoholics with special needs. At a Special Needs Workshop of the Southeast New York Area, a panel of A.A. members shared their experience, strength and hope, with two ASL signers there to interpret throughout. On hand was Margaret, with aphasia, who couldn't talk at all when she came to A.A. a few years ago, but has laboriously learned new social skills and coping mechanisms. And there was Charlene, deaf but sober eight years, who said that the New York City area needs more meetings with ASL interpreters. And then there were those who were blind or deaf or had other disabilities. Most of the participants expressed their need for a sponsor, someone able to understand them as an alcoholic as well their disability. In Toledo, Ohio the Brain Guys and Gals Group, for alcoholics with brain injuries, studies the Big Book at a pace they are able to manage.

In the Tucson, Arizona, a Special Needs committee sent out a flyer to groups asking them to "Help S.N.C. carry the message.... Tell us your special need.... We'll try to find a way to fill it." And from Denver, Colorado, comes a letter from Kayla K., about sharing her "miracle of recovery" with Scott, a homeless alcoholic who was



also deaf and understood little English. "I am still an interpreting student, and though proficient in sign language I am not yet bilingual," Kayla explains. "No big deal—God always makes me available and understood by deaf people who have a desire to get sober. The only problem is all the clichés we use in A.A.—some are difficult to interpret, and the Big Book is not easy either. I knew I needed to get a copy of the Big Book on tape so I could stay true to the A.A. message and not do my own interpretations of it in ASL."

In the 14 or so meetings she wound up interpreting for Scott, Kayla says, "he showed no emotion, said nothing. I got only blank stares. Not the black-holed eyes of a newcomer in pain, but worse: the look of an angry alcoholic who has nowhere else to turn and a hurt that runs even deeper. No one could communicate with him, and he had no one to communicate to. But then came time to leave, and I hugged Scott goodbye. The miracle happened—he hugged back! He was displaying genuine emotion, I knew, because even an alcoholic can't lie in ASL." Kayla has not seen Scott since. "I don't know if he's sober or not," she says, "but the seed was planted, and he now knows where to get help. What he did for my recovery was a true gift."

Finally, in a report he gave at the winter quarterly of the British Columbia/Yukon Area that was reprinted in the March/April issue of the area newsletter *Grassroots Forum*, Larry B., who chairs the Special Needs Committee, said that in B.C. alone "there are about 14,000 profoundly deaf people and 21,000 who are hearing impaired." Mentioning "some solutions this area has already taken," he noted that "three years ago we bought our own sound system, at a cost of \$1,600. And for people who are physically challenged, we made sure that the building we're in is wheelchair accessible." Recently, Larry said, the committee has been eyeing two sophisticated electronic "hearing" systems, but has been slowed down by the high cost factor. Nonetheless, he stressed, "it is the area's responsibility, whatever it puts on—whether a quarterly or an assembly—that we supply equipment so people can get in here in wheelchairs, stretchers or walkers and know what's going on."

Speaking at the same quarterly meeting, area delegate Ric D. suggested that "the function of the Special Needs Committee at the area level is to create an awareness of the problems so that together we can find solutions. I know we need to change, and I know we have to work a little harder." At the same time, he asked rhetorically, "what are the responsibilities of people with special needs? Quite simply, the answer is that we have to know who you are and what you require. If it is within our means, and this area approves, we will provide the necessary services."

Then he added, "As usual, our co-founder Bill W. said it much better than I ever could. In a July 1965

Grapevine article he wrote, 'Let us never fear needed change. Certainly we have to discriminate between changes for worse and changes for better. But once a need becomes clearly apparent in an individual, a group, or in A.A. as a whole...we cannot stand still and look the other way. The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever the responsibility.'" (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 334)

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## Longtime Friend of A.A. Joins the Board...

In April the General Service Board welcomed its newest Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee: psychiatrist George E. Vaillant, M.D., of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has long been a supporter of A.A. on the front lines of research and treatment.

George, who succeeds John N. Chappel, M.D., of Reno, Nevada, holds both his A.B. and M.D. degrees from Harvard. After he completed his residency in psychiatry at Massachusetts Mental Health Center, his first appointment took him to the U.S. Psychiatric Hospital at Lexington, Kentucky. "In the early '60s," he recalls, "hero-in abuse was getting the lion's share of medical attention. I soon learned at Lexington that the problem was minor compared with alcoholism—yet very few health professionals understood or were even interested."



George E. Vaillant, M.D.,  
Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee

Several years later, in 1971, he returned to Massachusetts as Consultation Service chief and associate director of the Alcoholism Clinic at Cambridge Hospital. Thanks to "an enlightened program," George says, "the doctors and administrators had to go to either an A.A. or Al-Anon meeting every month. For the next 10 years I regularly went to A.A. I learned 'to take the cotton from my ears and stuff it in my mouth'... 'to live one day at a time'... that for the alcoholic 'it's the first drink that gets you drunk' and that A.A. is a spiritual fellowship made up of winners. As one member put it to me, 'If you come to an uncharted minefield and see footprints, you had better follow them, very closely.'"

A professor in Harvard Medical School's Department of Psychiatry since 1976, George today is Senior Physician



and Director of Research, the Division of Psychiatry, at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, he notes that he was "particularly pleased when, in 1985, I was invited to speak at the Fellowship's 50th Anniversary Convention in Montreal as a friend of A.A.'s." He also has published extensively, and his 1995 book *The Natural History of Alcoholism, Revisited* was widely acclaimed.

George says his "most memorable experience with A.A. to date concerned a young, dutiful surgeon in a small East Coast town whom I'd referred to the Fellowship. He expressed worry about small-town gossip, I assured him of his safety and anonymity, and off he went. Some weeks passed, and on his next visit to me, he told of having seen the mother of a young patient at a local A.A. meeting. Her son had sustained a less than satisfactory outcome at his hands, and now the mother would know that he was also a drunk.

"The boy had an appointment with the surgeon the next day, and the mother came with him. During the examination she said little, but the surgeon was trembling inside. Then, as she left, she silently pressed a card into his hand. Written on it was the Serenity Prayer: 'God grant me the serenity to change the things I cannot change/Courage to change the things I can/ And wisdom to know the difference.' She had respected his anonymity. Within the principles of A.A., it had been safe to trust her." Looking back, George adds ruefully, "I'd undoubtedly been guilty of excessive optimism—but, as it turned out, the boy's mother and his surgeon were both blessed with faith and hope."

During a 1995 lecture he gave on "Hope and Alcoholics Anonymous" at the Institute of Medicine and Religion in Houston, Texas, George emphasized the role of hope in recovery. "The most important characteristic of hope is that it is realistic," he said. "In A.A., hope begins with the first two Steps: 'We admitted we were powerless over alcohol...' and 'Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.' But hope is not something we can give to another; we can only share our own hope... as we can only share our strength and experience [in sobriety]."

In joining the board, George sees himself as "a trusted servant for whom nothing, with the exception of family, can stand in the way of full commitment to A.A." He is in distinguished company: six other Class A trustees, serving six-year terms, and 14 Class B (alcoholic) trustees, who serve four. Chairpersons traditionally are elected from among the nonalcoholic trustees.

The Class A board members today are a vital group with varying expertise that they share generously for the good of A.A. Besides George Vaillant, they include: Gary A. Glynn, New York, president and chief investment officer of the U.S. Steel and Carnegie Pension Funds; Linda L. Chezem, J.D., a former judge in the Indiana Court of

Appeals; Elaine M. Johnson, Ph.D., Maryland, a former director of the Center for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Arthur L. Knight, Jr., Illinois, a retired businessman who has served as president, director and chief executive officer of manufacturing, distribution and financial service companies; Robert Oran Miller, D.D., Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama; and Peter Roach, Ontario, Canada, a retired schoolteacher and director of education. As A.A. co-founder Bill W. noted, over the years "our nonalcoholic trustees have given an incredible amount of time and effort; theirs has been a true labor of love." (*The A.A. Service Manual*, p. S17)

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## ... And New Class B Trustees Share a Love of World Service

The General Service Board has gained three new Class B (alcoholic) members: regional trustees Marne H., Eastern Canada, and Jim C., Pacific U.S.; and general service trustee Jacqueline J. All share a strong bond in their commitment to A.A. worldwide. All in their own ways underscore their gratitude to those who have gone before—and their desire to keep A.A. alive and well for the alcoholics to come.

Marne H. succeeds Bill B. of Newfoundland. She points out that her Thunder Bay, Ontario, home is "a peninsula on Lake Superior known as the Sleeping Giant, because from the air it looks like a native in full head-dress." Excited about being elected Eastern Canada regional trustee (one of eight such trustees representing six regions in the U.S., two in Canada), Marne notes that though the Northwest Ontario Area "is huge sizewise, its population of about 113,000 people is very thin." In all, she notes, "we have 92 groups with a total of approximately 1,500 members. But what our A.A.s lack in numbers, they make up for in enthusiasm and dedication. We have G.S.R.s (general service representatives) who not only will drive 500 miles in often treacherous weather to attend a weekend assembly, but may have to take time off from work to do so. The needs and wishes of my region, especially as they relate to the group conscience of A.A. as a whole, will be of enormous concern to me as a trusted servant of the board."

Sober since May 1977, Marne recalls that her introduction to service began when "I was barely three months dry. I was handed a key and told to come early for the meeting of my home group and get the coffee going." When speaking of her past service, she starts



with "group cup washer" and works her way on from every other group office to 1991-92 Northwestern Ontario delegate (Panel 41), area chairperson, and more. Then, when describing her current activities, Marne begins with, you guessed it, "group cup washer" for the Grandview Group. She frequently serves as greeter, too, participates actively in regional assemblies and roundups, and helps out at a local Native American treatment facility.

Now a financial planner for a Canadian corporation, Marne has a 23-year background in banking. But she is into play as well as work, especially when it comes to curling. She belongs to a local business women's curling association and has served as the skip, or captain, of the team. But her favorite sport is playing soccer with her two grandsons, Braydan, 3, and Chanse, almost 2, whom she calls "the lights of my life." In May 1994, Marne lost her husband, Bob, just as he was about to celebrate his 10th A.A. anniversary. "It was a very rough passage and still is," Marne says. "But God has a plan for our lives, and I'm ready for the next step of the journey."

Jim C., of Newport Beach, California, has just signed off as an appointed member of the trustees' Literature Committee, since July 1995, and plunged into his newest role as Pacific regional trustee, following Nevada's Julian R. "I'll never forget my first area assembly, in January 1982, when I was two years sober," Jim says. "I saw people I admired who had sobriety and a genuine love about them. What impressed me most was that they were able to be loving even in the heat of discussion. Until then I'd always figured I had to win an argument or else walk off, unless I could get you to go away instead." A 1992-93 Mid-Southern California delegate (Panel 42), Jim also has served as editor of the MSCA newsletter and on the area's Finance Committee.

"As delegate, I chaired the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee," Jim says, "and at the Conference I saw the same kind of A.A.s to whom I'd been so attracted at that assembly in '82: wise and kind, with high ideals and A.A.'s best interests at heart. Being around such people helps me to live my life better. And I'm in love with world service. It brings home the importance of working together for the good not of just the group or the district or the area, but of all A.A."

A semi-retired naval architect, Jim and his wife of 25 years, Linda, who came to A.A. when he did, own and operate four galleries specializing in original animation art. Between them they have six children and 11 grandchildren who keep them hopping—and sailing, a favorite sport. "And now," observes Jim, "comes the privilege of being a trustee. I'm ready to listen, learn and serve the Fellowship in every way I can."

Jackie J., of Westlake Village, California, is A.A.'s newest general service trustee. (Four in all, these trustees are active on the service corporate boards; each of them

generally has an area of expertise—such as finance, public relations or administration—that is applicable to the challenges at hand.) Last year, Jackie served as non-trustee director of A.A. World Services, so she brings a wide-angled view to her responsibilities as a trustee.

Sober in A.A. since November 1967, Jackie was introduced to service early and inadvertently, she says, "by a friend who needed a round-trip ride to the general assembly, which was some 100 miles away. Being there greatly widened my then-myopic view of service," she remembers. "Then, around my fourth year in sobriety, I became a G.S.R. and was hooked for good, I hope."

Over time Jackie, who was a Panel 41 delegate from Southern California, has stayed active in group, district and area affairs. She is a C.P.A. certified in New York and California; after 17 years with a major financial house, she shifted gears and taught for another 19 years. Now retired, she is absorbed in genealogy, which she says is "a time-consuming hobby—an addiction!" She has learned that while her parents weren't alcoholic, "several relatives from long ago certainly filled the bill, including one who owned a generous number of stills and left behind notes securing his favorite barrels of rum."

As a trustee, Jackie says, "I want to contribute just as much as I can." She sees general service as "the glue that unifies A.A. and is saving countless lives of alcoholics all over the world every day. Right now."

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## Vision Is Mostly A Spiritual Thing

In El Salvador, in Central America, a group called Una Luz en Argentina (A Light in Argentina) marked its second anniversary last November. The "Light" in the name signals how much A.A. means to the 21 members: 11 blind men, 7 blind women and 3 seeing alcoholics.

Writing to G.S.O. the group sent "warm regards and our best wishes for the continuance of our Third Legacy of Service." The group had written earlier to request a copy of the Big Book in Braille. "Since we do not as yet publish any of our literature in Spanish Braille," says Danny M. of G.S.O.'s Spanish Services desk, "the group was referred to our friends at Mexico's G.S.O., which does. With their help we were able to contribute a Spanish-language edition of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in Braille, as well as our own Big Book audiotapes in Spanish.

There are approximately 1,500 A.A. groups in El Salvador, a country about the size of New Jersey. The message was first carried there, more than 40 years ago by an Irishman whom the A.A.s affectionately hailed as Mr. Eddie.



## Correctional Facilities

### New Video Turns Walls into Windows Of Opportunity

A new A.A. video, "Carrying the Message Behind These Walls," is now available. (VS-25; \$15.00, 20% discount applies). In the works for more than two years, it was developed by the trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee in response to an Advisory Action of the 1996 General Service Conference, which recommended that sample footage be made "that focuses on encouraging more A.A. participation in carrying the message into correctional facilities...." This was done, and the final version was approved by the '98 Conference in April.

The 15-minute film candidly addresses both the need for volunteers and the concerns that hold many A.A.s back. As the trustees' C.F. Committee has explained, "many inmates across the U.S. and Canada, along with prison counselors and other personnel, said that meetings either were not available at their facilities or else were occurring only sporadically." Moreover, numerous area and district chairs expressed distress over the shortage of A.A.s willing to go into the facilities, reporting that many have been put off by the sight of barred windows, fears about personal safety and protecting their anonymity, and having to comply with security and other regulations, to mention some deterrents.

Also covered in the video are several areas as they relate to A.A. principles and Traditions, including: hewing to A.A.'s Singleness of Purpose; reactions from men and women inmates attending A.A. meetings in their facilities and also from outside members who carry the message inside; the roadblocks and unpredictable nature of Twelfth Step work in correctional facilities; and ways in which A.A.s can improve communication, both within the Fellowship and with prison administrators.

"Carrying the Message..." begins with a tour of a prison, panning unsparingly over the barbed wire, clanging gates, guards and other aspects of prison life that too often turn off potential A.A. volunteers. Then the camera rolls on to an A.A. meeting in progress inside; the warmth of the kinship and sharing between inmates and outside A.A.s is a moving contrast to the starkness of the prison itself. In keeping with A.A.'s Anonymity Tradition, no faces are shown, but the voices of individual members are heard as they share their experience, strength and hope and speak of how service has enhanced their own recoveries in A.A.

In one segment of the film, an administrator explains that while an outsider might think some prison rules are unnecessary and even ridiculous, there are ample reasons for them. Tight security, it's stressed, is a prison's No. One priority, and regulations are based on significant experience. Later in the video, immediate past Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee chairman W.J. "Jim" Estelle, a retired corrections administrator, tells how the program of A.A. is a lifeline to incarcerated alcoholics who are trying to turn their lives around.

Finally, an inmate who received the A.A. message in prison and is now out and carrying it back inside declares, "I was just like you... I'm no different. A.A. worked for me; it can work for you."

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### SOS for C.C.S.

As you may know, the Correctional Correspondence Service (C.C.S.), coordinated by the Correctional Facilities desk at G.S.O., endeavors to link men and women behind the walls with outside A.A. members for the purpose of sharing strength, hope and experience.

Currently, there are approximately 175 men waiting to be linked with outside A.A. members. Just as in sponsorship, A.A. experience suggests that it is best for men to write to men and women to write to women.

Please get the word out to A.A. members in your groups and area with regard to the shortage. We urgently need male volunteers.

If you are interested in this very rewarding Twelfth Step service, please write to: G.S.O., Correctional Facilities desk, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

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### C.P.C.

### Reaching Professionals 'Every Way We Can'

"Our area committee tries to stay focused in unity, and from that our service flows. At times, due to conflicting schedules, we can't be present for each other's county events, but we are stronger for the spirit of service, love and understanding that helps us reach the professionals in our communities—sitting, standing, every way we can."

Adds Pauline C., who chairs the Southeast New York



(S.E.N.Y.) Area Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community: "Reaching out to professionals by phone, letters, newsletters, videos, literature and personal contact has its frustrations, as when calls are not returned or some person or group seems not to understand, or even care about, the A.A. message we are carrying. But with perseverance we frequently see our disappointments turn into joy. On a personal level the act of explaining the A.A. program to others—'the only requirement for A.A. membership,' nonaffiliation, self-support, anonymity and much more—helps each of us to see that we may be more familiar with our Traditions than we'd realized."

Pauline explains that the densely populated S.E.N.Y. Area—"instead of spreading out, we spread up"—is composed of 14 counties, or districts, each with its own, very active C.P.C. committee. "Our commitment plate is full," she notes, "but in every appropriate instance we keep each other informed and work together, remembering at meetings to stay in tune with our Traditions and Concepts, especially Tradition Two, which reminds us that, 'For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience....' And for sure, 'cooperation' is not just the first word of our committee's name, it characterizes everything we do." Looking back over her area's activity this past year, she says that a record number of C.P.C. workshops and orientation sessions were held for healthcare workers and students, court personnel, and educators and pupils in both public and private schools and colleges.

"For me personally," Pauline notes, "establishing communication with the various police departments proved a challenge. When I first called the precincts, identified myself and spoke to a captain, say, about holding a C.P.C. orientation session, the initial reaction at the other end of the line was likely to be, 'Oh, no, we don't need that. Nobody here has an alcohol problem.' I would quickly reply, 'We don't think you have a problem, but we know that when it comes to recognizing the alcoholics out there and maybe steering them to help, you are on the front line. They may be in trouble with alcohol, and you don't even know it.'

"Almost at once the captain's tone of voice would switch from defensiveness to interest. Then, with the barricade down and aware of the constraints on departmental time, I'd manage to schedule a 15-minute A.A. presentation for the officers and other personnel—15 minutes that would usually stretch into an hour or more. One positive encounter led to another, and as word has spread among the departments, making contact is not a piece of cake but certainly much easier."

Pauline feels strongly about the rewards of general service. Taken to intergroup and instructed "to help out" by her A.A. sponsor just 90 days after sobering up in

October 1978, she says, "I think of my C.P.C. work not as a job but as a privilege. I get back so much more than I give—I love A.A. in my life."

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## Treatment Facilities

### Shared Experience Makes a Difference

In April the General Service Conference Treatment Facilities Committee discussed the most recent experience from T.F. committees throughout the U.S. and Canada in their efforts with Temporary Contact/Bridge the Gap service. Some highlights shared by the delegates:

- One area maintains a statewide contact list by zip codes in the home community. Consequently, TC/BTG contacts are available in both the treatment center and the home community. Yet another area maintains a contact list using three criteria: zip code, gender and age.

- One state has 500 volunteers who serve as temporary contacts for 100 patients a month. Presentation teams work with staff first, then patients. And there's an area that invites T.F. professionals to area-sponsored Public Information meetings with gratifying results.

- One area has more than 1,000 names on a database and has spent several years establishing cooperation with a major urban central office. This area rotates responsibility for updating the contact list. Because the program is long-established, the area reports, maintaining enthusiasm is a challenge.

- Several districts have tried to set up separate TC/BTG committees, but experience has shown that these service efforts are better handled under the umbrella of one T.F. committee.

- TC/BTG programs generally employ the same procedures in detox (short-term) centers as in long-term facilities, but find it more difficult to provide temporary contacts.

- Some A.A. contact volunteers pitch in to write letters, contact the treatment facility in person (they don't wait for contact requests), involve Spanish districts and update their lists about every six months. Another area encourages district and group participation in preparing and maintaining a contact list, and is in touch with these A.A. members regularly.

- Many TC/BTG programs find A.A.'s International and U.S./Canada directories an invaluable tool.



Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s—Via G.S.O.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1998

## Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

### August

- 7-9—*Katherine, Australia*. Katherine Mini Roundup. Write: Ch., Northern Region Area "A," Box 40760, Casuarina, NT 0811 Australia
- 7-9—*Squamish, British Columbia, Canada*. 25th Anniv. Squamish Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2015, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0
- 7-9—*Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada*. 13th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
- 7-9—*Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. 12th Annual Algoma District Campout. Write: Ch., 197 St. Georges W., Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1L4
- 7-9—*Scottsdale, Arizona*. Summer Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o Salt River Intgp., 4602 N. 7th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014
- 7-9—*Los Angeles, California*. Sixth Annual Foothill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 184, Montrose, CA 91021
- 7-9—*Erlanger, Kentucky*. Eighth Annual Northern KY Rule 62 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 62, Covington, KY 41012
- 7-9—*Moorhead, Minnesota*. 23rd Annual Red River Valley Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 558, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 7-9—*Riverdale, New York*. New York State Informational Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 49, Old Westbury, NY 11568-0049
- 7-9—*Toledo, Ohio*. 42nd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13040, Toledo, OH 43613
- 8-9—*Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 34th Annual Windsor & Area Mini Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 533, Hantsport, NS B0P 1P0
- 13-16—*Mountain View, Arkansas*. 58th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 15, Camden, AR 71711
- 14-15—*Helsinki, Finland*. 50 Years Convention & Nordic Service Delegate Meeting. Write: Suomen AA-toimisto, PL 137, 00521 Helsinki, Finland
- 14-16—*Alice Springs, Australia*. Centralian Roundup. Write: Ch., Northern Region Area "A," Box 40760, Casuarina, NT 0811 Australia
- 14-16—*Tiel, Holland*. Scanelux Intergroup 12th Annual Round-Up. Write: Ch., Harstenhoekweg 74, 2587 SM The Hague, Holland
- 14-16—*Red Deer, Alberta, Canada*. Red Deer and Area Roundup. Write: Ch., 15 Fern Rd., Red Deer, AB T4N 4Z3
- 14-16—*Mattawa, Ontario, Canada*. Second Annual Campout. Write: Ch., Box 448, Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0
- 14-16—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. Lakeshore District Conf. Write: Secy., 212-300 Grenfell St., Oshawa, ON L1J 4W6

- 14-16—*Powers, Oregon*. Eighth Annual Powers Campout. Write: Ch., Box 242, Coquille, OR 97423
- 15-16—*Helena and Mile City, Montana*. (Special) West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 20-23—*Mobile, Alabama*. 54th SE Conference/43rd Alabama NW Florida Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7204, Mobile, AL 36670-0204
- 21-23—*Paso Robles, California*. 31st Annual 22nd Dist. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 21-23—*Cartersville, Georgia*. Allatoona Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 200856, Cartersville, GA 30120-9009
- 21-23—*York, Pennsylvania*. Sunlight of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3538, York, PA 17402
- 28-30—*Cleveland, Ohio*. OYPAA. Write: Ch., 19407 Winslow Rd., Shaker Heights, OH 44122
- 28-30—*Jackson, Mississippi*. 12th Annual Miss. Old Timers Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289
- 28-30—*Dallas, Texas*. 27th Annual Lone Star Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 836221, Richardson, TX 75083-6221

### September

- 4-6—*Stettler, Alberta, Canada*. Stettler Heartland Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1961, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0
- 4-6—*Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada*. 26th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1641, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6
- 4-6—*San Francisco, California*. Sixth Annual Conv. The Spirit of San Francisco. Write: Ch., Box 423832, San Francisco, CA 94142
- 4-6—*Westlake, California*. 20th Ventura County Conv. Write: Ch., 601 Daily Dr., Ste. 300, Camarillo, CA 93010
- 4-7—*Tampa, Florida*. 12th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685-2545

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

August (page 53): Along Spiritual Lines

September (page 55): Solutions in Sobriety

- 11-12—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada*. 32nd Annual Dunnville Conv. and Campout. Write: Ch., 43125 Pettit Road, Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0
- 11-12—*Columbus, Ohio*. Correctional Facilities Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1201, Columbus, OH 43216-1201
- 11-13—*Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada*. Revelstoke Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1177, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
- 11-13—*Angels Camp, California*. Gold Country Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 865, Angels Camp, CA 95222
- 11-13—*Santa Barbara, California*. 14th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 91731, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1731
- 11-13—*Many, Louisiana*. Western Louisiana Intergroup Conv. Write: Ch., 440 Byles St., Many, LA 71449
- 11-13—*Park Rapids, Minnesota*. Eighth Annual Heartland Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 256, Osage, MN 56570
- 18-20—*Angeles City, Philippines*. Third Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o 9-29 Marcellius St., Diamond Subdivision, Balibago, Angeles City, 2009 Philippines
- 18-20—*Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. 11th Annual Roundup (sponsored by gay/lesbian members). Write: Ch., Edmonton Central Off., #206 10010 107A Ave., Edmonton, AB T5H 4H8
- 18-20—*Brampton, Ontario, Canada*. 16th Annual Brampton/Bramalea Conv. Write: Ch., Box 345, Brampton, ON L6V 2L3

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on October, November or December events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by August 10, the calendar deadline for the October-November issue of Box 4-5-9.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (city, state or prov.): \_\_\_\_\_

For information, write: (exact mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # (for office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Flip up this end of page - for events on reverse side

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board



- 18-20—*Salinas, California*. Coastal Rally. Write: Ch., 9 West Gabilan, Ste. 11, Salinas, CA 93901
- 18-20—*Grand Junction, Colorado*. Color-Daze '98. Write: Ch., Box 4013, Grand Junction, CO 81502
- 18-20—*Lenox, Massachusetts*. Back to Basics Weekend. Write: Ch., 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210
- 18-20—*Taos, New Mexico*. Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., HCR 74 Box 22013, El Prado, NM 87529-9520
- 18-20—*Aberdeen, South Dakota*. Dakota Prairie Round-Up. Write: Ch., 402 South Kline, Aberdeen, SD 57401
- 18-20—*Martinsburg, West Virginia*. Area 73 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., HC84, Box 24A, Burlington, WV 26710
- 25-27—*Lunteren, The Netherlands*. 1998 Nederland Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1594, 1000 BN Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 25-27—*St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada*. Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 25-27—*Tucson, Arizona*. Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 85694, Tucson, AZ 85754-5694
- 25-27—*Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*. 27th Fellowship by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box 818, Lowell, NC 28098-0818
- 25-28—*Page, Arizona*. Lake Powell Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2781, Page, AZ 86040

## October

- 1-4—*Amarillo, Texas*. Top of Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 412, Amarillo, TX 79105
- 2-4—*Tucson, Arizona*. Area Conv. Write: Area Secy., 1730 E. Lehi #3, Mesa, AZ 85203
- 2-4—*Crescent City, California*. Sobriety by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531
- 2-4—*Modesto, California*. 51st Annual NCC Fall Conf. Write: Tr., Box 508, Rocklin, CA 95677
- 2-4—*Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado*. Joy of Living Roundup. Write: Ch., 626, Vine St., Aspen, CO 81611
- 2-4—*Spearfish, South Dakota*. Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 8816 Valley View Dr., Sturgis, SD 57785
- 3-4—*Rochester, New York*. Weekend of A.A. — "Do It." Write: Ch., 10 Manhattan Square Dr., Ste. D., Rochester, NY 14607-3997
- 9-11—*Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. 43rd North-East Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1298, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6N1
- 9-11—*Quincy, Illinois*. Mississippi Valley Regional Conf. Write: Ch., 604 Huckleberry Heights, Hannibal, MO 63401
- 9-11—*Sioux City, Iowa*. Area 24 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 5246, Sioux City, IA 51102
- 10-11—*Dickinson, North Dakota*. Fall Fellowship Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1764, Dickinson, ND 58601
- 16-18—*Lake Geneva, Wisconsin*. "Happiness Is" Conf. Write: Ch., ON115 Windermere Rd. #2101, Winfield, IL 60190-1281
- 23-25—*Mackinac Island, Michigan*. 10th Annual Fall Weekend. Write: Ch., 302 S. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48917
- 23-25—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 50th Laurel Highland Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6, Bovard, PA 15619

## November

- 5-8—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. 37th Annual Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823-3434
- 6-8—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. 54th Manitoba Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., #505 -365 Hargrave, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2K3
- 6-8—*Burlington, Vermont*. 28th Annual NE Regional Conv. Write: Ch., RR #1, Box 677, Cuttingsville, VT 05738
- 12-15—*Orlando, Florida*. Big Book Study. Write: Ch., Box 4911, South Daytona, FL 32121
- 13-15—*Fitchburg, Massachusetts*. 35th Annual State Conv. Write: Rgsr., Box 344, Westminster, MA 01473-0344
- 20-22—*Fontana, Wisconsin*. Ninth Annual McHenry's Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 717, McHenry, IL 60051
- 27-29—*Omaha, Nebraska*. Great Plains Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 34222, Omaha, NE 68134