

ABOUT A.A.

...a newsletter for professional men and women

November 1977

First Ten-Nation Survey of A.A. Members Under Way

Comparative figures on A.A. membership in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States will be revealed for the first time at the 32nd International Congress on Alcohol and Drug Dependence in Warsaw, Poland, Sept. 3-8, 1978, by John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, M.D., nonalcoholic chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (U.S. and Canada).

Data collection began this summer. University staff researchers will process the information, as they have the U.S. and Canada statistics gathered triennially by the G.S. Board since 1968. Evolutionary changes with in A.A. in the two countries between 1969 and 1977 will be traced.

The Warsaw presentation will compare such variables as length of abstinence, age, sex, and vocational composition of samplings of A.A. members in the various nations.

In addition, Dr. Norris plans to report data on recovery self-assessment, multiple addictions, therapy other than A.A., influences guiding alcoholics to A.A., relapses (length of time between first A.A. meeting and last drink), and frequency of A.A. meeting attendance.

Such data gathered in 1974 in the U.S. and Canada are available from the A.A. General Service Office and are the basis of the A.A. exhibit seen at professional gatherings, as well as our leaflet "Alcoholics Anonymous — a Community Resource for Coping With a National Health Problem."

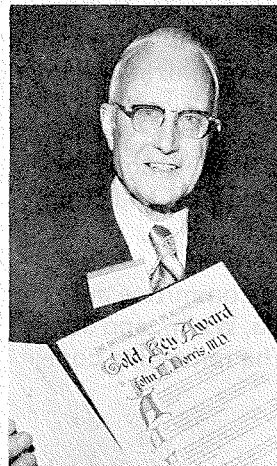
American Legion Looks at Youth and Alcohol

Cooperating with the American Legion, A.A. members are participating this fall in workshops on "Alcohol and Youth" in Midland, Mich.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Chicopee, Mass.; and Newark, N.J.

The workshops are part of the 49th annual Area Conferences on Children and Youth conducted by Legionnaires, according to Paul R. Frinsthal, program director of Americanism and Children and Youth for the Legion.

We are pleased that individual A.A. members are taking part in this activity.

Dr. Norris Receives Award



We are quite proud that "Dr. Jack" Norris (see first item) was given the Gold Key Award, highest honor of the National Council on Alcoholism (N.C.A.) at the council's 1977 Forum and Conference in San Diego, Calif., in April.

The citation read, in part: "To John L. Norris, M.D., a physician who has worked long and devotedly in the service of alcoholics throughout the world. He has brought help to suffering alcoholics who regained health and were restored to their families and friends.

"At Eastman Kodak Company, he helped establish one of the nation's first labor-management collaborations to enlighten and assist working alcoholics in overcoming their illness so that they could either remain on or return to the job as productive and fulfilled employees."

Open House at G.S.O.

Hundreds of visitors were welcomed at A.A.'s General Service Office (G.S.O.) Saturday, Nov. 5, during our annual Open House.

But you don't need to wait for the next one, nor for an invitation, if you ever want to visit us. You are welcome to tour the office, look at the A.A. archives, and

visit with any staff member present. (G.S.O. is on the sixth floor, 468 Park Avenue *South*, at 31st Street, in New York City.)

Patrick Now Chairs Trustee "C.P.C." Body



New chairman of our General Service Board's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community is Gordon Patrick, nonalcoholic trustee from Lyndhurst, Ont.

(A.A.'s board has seven non-alcoholic and 14 A.A. members. Three of the latter are also from Canada.)

Patrick was elected to our board in 1975, when he was manager of the Ontario Government Employee Alcoholism Program. He is now associated with a private firm providing consulting service to organizations interested in such programs.

Mr. Patrick had previously been with the Donwood Institute and with the Ontario Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation.

Other nonalcoholic trustees on the committee are Milton A. Maxwell, Ph.D., Olympia, Wash., and John D. Bealer, M.D., Bethlehem, Pa. The remaining committee members are A.A.'s.

1977 A.D.P.A. Meeting in Detroit Hears A.A.'s

Many A.A. members were on the program of, and more attended, the annual meeting of the Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America (A.D.P.A.) in Detroit, Mich., at the Detroit Plaza Hotel, Sept. 25-29. Most A.A.'s, of course, were there in professional capacities, not as A.A. members.

However, a session of the Private Rehabilitation Section ("Bridging the Gap Between Private/Professional Rehabilitation and A.A.") heard John L. Norris, M.D., non-alcoholic chairman of our General Service Board, and Sarah P., General Service Office (G.S.O.) staff member, currently secretary of the board's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. Discussants were James McInerney, South Miami, Fla., and Max Schneider, M.D., Santa Ana, Calif.

Alcoholics Anonymous was also part of the subject of

discussion in "Occupational Programs and the Private Provider," chaired by John Mooney, M.D., Statesboro, Ga. On the panel were Frank Burger, Flushing, N.Y.; Rowland Austin, Detroit; and Don Sandin and William S. Dunkin, New York, N.Y. Art Baker, Lake Orion, Mich., is chairman of the Private Rehabilitation Section of A.D.P.A.

A.A. members also participated in the "Management of the Alcoholic and Alcohol Abuser for the Primary Physician," Oct. 13-15 at the New York University Postgraduate Medical School, New York, N.Y., sponsored by the New York City affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and by the American Medical Society on Alcoholism.

Our Fellowship will be discussed at the Second Southeastern Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 1977, in Atlanta, Ga., sponsored by Peachford Hospital and by the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians.

Both the New York and Georgia sessions meet the criteria for credit hours in Category 1 of the Physicians' Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

Guest Speakers at A.A. Committee Meetings

During the past year, it has been our pleasure to hear from the following professionals in the alcoholism field, when each spoke at one of our trustee committee meetings: Dr. Ernest Noble, director, N.I.A.A.A.; Dr. Gregory B. Collins, medical director, A.R.C., Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital; Capt. Stuart M. Brownell, U.S.N., Navy Alcoholism Prevention Program.

Know Someone Who Wants This Newsletter?

Anyone working in the field of alcoholism can receive this news bulletin regularly, free, simply by asking for it. If anyone you know is interested, please ask the person to drop us a note on a business letterhead. (See p. 1 for our address.)

Incidentally: Do we have *your* latest correct address? Please notify us of any change.

Maybe you noticed. We have halved the size of this newsletter and now offer it every six months instead of annually, in order to provide information that is more up-to-date.