THE 'VOICE OF A.A.' WILL BE HEARD

On Monday, Apr. 17, 89 elected Delegates from U.S. and Canadian groups start six days of sessions at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York, with General Service Board Trustees, G.S.O. and Grapevine Staffs, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Board Members.

It will be A.A.'s seventeenth annual meeting of its General Service Conference. Its job? To express "the voice of the Fellowship." Can it work?

Almost no one had any hope it would that first year, 1951, when 35 U.S. and 2 Canadian Delegates first huddled with the 15 Trustees, Bill W., and 10 G.S.O. and GV Staffs.

But it's now a matter of record that the Conference has done an amazing job of helping A.A.'s "carry the message" better when one drunk first sits down at the bed of another, and warmly clasps his hand.

The 1951 Conference, for example, agreed that the printed word was a valuable sponsorship tool.

The books "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," "A.A. Comes of Age," and "Third Legacy Manual" resulted from plans at the 1952 Conference.

In 1953 Delegates learned we had 180 groups in prisons, 101 in hospitals, and

--- (continued page 2)
What Happened to Joe....

That headline is the main title of A.A.'s newest pamphlet, a distinctly new type of A.A. literature.

The 28-page pamphlet tells in brightly colored cartoon style the story of a young construction worker and his family, his development of alcoholism, his introduction to A.A., and what happened.

It also presents 13 new questions about drinking (based on known symptoms of alcoholism).

The pamphlet is the result of many years' discussion of how to present material about A.A. in a "popular" way which will get read—especially by non-reading types!

The Literature Committees of the Board and Conference, and A.A.W.S., assumed responsibility for the final story line and wording, of course.

Each group is being sent a free copy of this experimental new tool for carrying the message. Do let us know if YOU see anyone able to start reading it, then quit halfway through without seeing how it turns out!

'BOB AND BILL' IN PERU

"I have become a father for the first time and we have tweens," writes Javier V., Lima, Peru.

"Two baby boys came to life and they will have the honor to be called Bill and Bob. They are the sons of a Peruvian lady whom I met in New York when I was attending the Convention for the 30th Anniversary in Toronto, and became my wife."

Congratulations and blessings!

"VOICE OF A.A." (from page 1)

the total of overseas groups had leaped from 82 to 273.

They shared experience about cooperating with other alcoholism agencies, and setting up local Central Offices.

Historical Moment

A.A.'s 20th Anniversary Convention occurred in St. Louis in 1955, and the 5th Conference met there.

Almost everyone in A.A. who cared, and who could, made it to St. Louis and heard the Fellowship roar its unanimous acceptance of the Third Legacy of Service, and the establishment of the G.S. Conference as the nearest thing possible to "the voice of A.A."

It's hoped this year every group's voice will be heard as never before as the Conference debates the merits and dangers in 1967-style "Sponsorship—the Hands of A.A."

It's not too late to make your voice heard. Contact your Delegate (P. 4).

Look Out, Dixie!

The next International Convention of A.A. will be held July 3-5, 1970, at the Fontainebleau and Eden Roc Hotels and Convention Hall of Miami Beach, Fla., the G.S. Board's Public Information Committee has officially announced to the public.

The first such convention in the South, it will mark the 35th anniversary year of the Fellowship, which holds such a gathering every five years.

Some 4500 newspapers and national publications received notice of the Convention from G.S.O., with information about local A.A. meetings inserted in each story by P.I.C. volunteers.

New Group Handbook

In answer to many requests, G.S.O. is happy to announce that a new Group Handbook is now available and will be sent free to each new group. It will also be available for purchase by any group for $3.00.

It is a most attractive (pardon our bragging) blue vinylied loose-leaf book with suggestions for everyone responsible for the growth and health of a group.

In the inside front cover pocket, there are copies of key pamphlets for groups and a World Directory.

You will also find information about all A.A. literature and tapes and how to get them. There are sample forms, too, which groups have found useful in keeping information about meetings, group records, etc. and envelopes and cards for keeping in touch with G.S.O.

Look also for P.I.C. Guidelines and "Box 4-5-9" suggestions. G.S.O. hopes this will prove a useful tool—we like it because it gives us an opportunity to better meet our responsibility of "sharing" information with you.
7th TRADITION OBSERVED

No A.A.'s set a better example than the A.A. Central Office in San Jose, Costa Rica, in using the Traditions which form our Second Legacy, Unity. We have just received a copy of the beautiful letter the San Jose Office used in returning a check for $600 to the Municipal Corporation, and explaining our 7th Tradition of self-support. They wrote:

"In accordance with our principles, the basis of the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous of the world, we don't ask economic help from anyone outside our movement, and we never accept it. "This is not a manifestation of pridefulness however, as our recovery is based on a spiritual program with humility at its heart."

The letter concludes with our Preamble. Congratulations, Costa Rican A.A.'s. You inspire all of us!

**HANDICAPPED A.A.'S?**

Many blind, deaf, and otherwise handicapped alcoholics have found recovery from alcoholism in A.A.

**WE NEED TO KNOW THE NAMES OF SUCH PEOPLE IN A.A., so they can be put in touch with a prospective new blind or deaf member.**

**PLEASE ASK ANY SUCH MEMBERS YOU KNOW TO CONTACT G.S.O. IF THEY ARE WILLING TO DO SOME SPONSORING—BY-MAIL.**

**GRAPEVINE HI-LIGHTS**

**APRIL**

"My Son, the Alcoholic" (Forest Hills, N.Y.), "Those Growing Pains" (Blantyre, Malawi), "Pivot for Change—11th Step" (Hankins, N.Y.), "Emotional Binge" (Brighton, Colo.), "It's What Happened to Me" (Calif.), "A.A. on the Local" (White Plains, N.Y.).

**MAY**

There are special articles on sponsors and the sponsored. Fun of the old days in a small Mich. group, "Collegiate A.A." — who first blacked out at 14, got expelled from college, but now is back at the university and in A.A. — like his father!

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**SPECIAL DELIVERIES**

**DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING... TEA?**

"At our beautiful anniversary tea (weddy fancy) two ladies from the Church showed up. In the usual A.A. fashion I breezed up and introduced myself," writes Helen F. from Alabama.

"We spent at least five minutes, 'Isn't it a lovely tea? 'A beautiful day!' "I was on the verge of asking, 'Are you here for a family member or has someone given you our literature?' But something stopped me.

"At our next meeting we learned the two ladies had come to the wrong tea—they thought they were attending a party for the departing clergyman!

"What throws me is this: when I introduced myself, the older one said she knew me. And, I thought I was a hidden drunker!"

**A.A. STILL AFOAT**

Norman C. of the G.S. Board's International Correspondence Group just sent us the A.A. announcement used in the daily ship news on a recent round-the-world cruise:

"There is an A.A. Group aboard. Those interested are asked to leave their names and cabin number in a sealed envelope addressed to A.A. and place it in the mail box at the Purser's Office. Your anonymity will be respected."

It worked beautifully, Norm says. No slips, and several pigeons!

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**From the Conference Secretary**

"You wonderful G.S.R.'s are the very foundation of the Conference Structure. It is your wisdom in selecting your Committee Members and Delegates that determines the strength of the Conference.

As G.S.R. you have your finger on the pulse of your group to inform your Delegate of their thinking on agenda subjects before the Conference. Or perhaps your group has a question to present to the Conference. Your Delegate will gladly bring it.

How does Conference action affect your group? Ask your Delegate to visit and make a report to your group when he returns — bringing all the actions, color and excitement of the 17th General Service Conference.

The most important function of a G.S.R. is to BE INFORMED, and then to BE AN INFORMER. Learn about service activities in your group, your Area and A.A. worldwide, and inform your group. Determine the thinking of your group and share their experience with A.A. world-wide through your area Committee and Delegate.

We knowyou will be with us in spirit—and we will benefit from your strength."

**WORLD HELLO" ANNIVERSARY**

WORLD HELLO, International A.A. Correspondence Group, celebrated its 10th year with the "second-international conference by mail" a colorful 8½" x 14" spiral-bound book of 132 pages, crammed with good messages, photos, and drawings, beautifully edited by Polly D.

It begain when some Utah gals and other members began writing letters to help Charlotte P., a Loner in the Catskill mountains. Now there are about 300 members in 20 countries.

No cliques, no gossip, and no "group gripers" afflict this group, they point out. For further information, write G.S.O.

**"ROUND ROBIN" ADDS LIFE**

From the "Banana Belt" of Colorado (Leadville, Buena Vista, and Salida), Slug S. writes us how three groups perk up their meetings. On the last Saturday of each month, one group is host to the other two.

We'd love to hear from other groups who use this round-robin technique, and how it works. Any problems?
Delegates to the 1967 General Service Conference


**Alternate Delegate**

SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

ALASKA: Anchorage Area Intergroup of A.A. ........................................... $ 50.00 Anchorage Fifth A Month Club .................................................. 100.00 ARIZONA: Phoenix – Arizona State Conference ........................................... 443.60 CALIFORNIA: Newport Beach – District #6 & #12 Workshop .......................... 18.50 GEORGIA: Macon – Georgia State Assembly ........................................... 300.00 MICHIGAN: Detroit – New Year’s Eve Dance ........................................... 40.00 Jackson – Fourteenth Michigan State Conference ............................... 1,251.99 OHIO: Toledo – Ohio General Service Conference ..................................... 1,160.38 TENNESSEE: Nashville – 1966 Tennessee State A.A. Convention ............... 133.06 WASHINGTON: Yakima – Washington Assembly of A.A. ......................... 50.00 CANADA: Sask. – Saskatoon A.A. Birthday Party ..................................... 75.00 Winnipeg – 22nd Annual Manitoba Round-Up .................................. 200.00

APA CALENDAR – April, May, June

APRIL

8-10 – Far East Roundup, Tokyo, Japan. Write: Co-Chmn., Box 452, Hq 5AF, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96652.
25-26 – Intergroup Roundup, Harvey’s Cumberland House, 8th & Cumberland, Saskatoon, Sask.
28-30 – 10th All-Ireland Conv. Mount Erskin Hotel, Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland. Write: Sec., 4 Monavally, Tralee, County Kerry.

MAY

5-7 – Scottish Conv., Hotel Dublane, Dublane, Stirlingshire, Scotland. Write: Sec., Scottish Intergroup, Andeaton, Auchterarder, Parthshire, Scotland.
6-7 – Wyoming Spring Conv., Cheyenne. Write: State Conv. Comm., Box 1222, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82003.
6-7 – 1st West Central Region Conv., Sioux Falls Coliseum, Sioux Falls. Write: Chm., 302 North Sherman, Sioux Falls, S.D.
12-14 – 5th Annual Conv. Upper Ottawa Valley Area, Pembroke, Ont. Write: Conv. Treasurer, 569 Elizabeth St., Pembroke, Ont.

JUNE

2-4 – Annual Bilingual Quebec District Conv., Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City. Write: Intergroup 1401, Lelievre, Quebec City 8, Quebec, Can.
9-11 – Annual Indiana State Conv., Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.

CANADA


Write: Chm., R.R. #6, Box 381, Martinsville, Ind.
10-11 – 8th Nebraska Reunion, Box 1926, Lincoln, Nebr.
17-18 – Annual Founders Day, Akron University-Memorial Hall.
22-25 – 11th Fla. Conv. Cherry Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Fla. 32803.
30 – 10th Annual International Conv. of Young People, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colo.