



BOX 4-5-9

formerly the **A. A. EXCHANGE BULLETIN**

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

April-May 1967

Vol. 12 No. 2

• 305 East 45th Street, New York 10017 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 10017 •

SPRING IS HERE -- WORLD DIRECTORY TIME

A total of 13,279 A.A. groups (835 of them new) are listed in your 1967 A.A. *World Directory*. One goes free to each group in April.

An A.A. meeting based on A.A.'s *World Directory*?

"Don't knock it if you haven't tried it," a Calif. G.S.R. writes us.

"The maps alone make the idea of 'fellowship' much clearer," he says. "And the 'Confidential' and 'Not for commercial use' explanations tell a lot about the ways in which the Directory can serve as a useful A.A. service tool."

Compiled from Information Cards submitted by groups in December, the *Directory* also lists Loners, local Intergroups, Clubs, Area General Service Conference and Institutions Committees.

As the Fellowship has grown, communication among members and groups has come to be appreciated more and more as an aid to recovery, and the *Directory* is an elementary tool for making such communications possible.

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



Delegates at General Service Conference

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)



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GROUP MEETINGS

(Items of special interest to be read by G.S.R. or Secretary at your group's next meeting.)

Here are a few items from "Box 4-5-9" just received from G.S.O. — our General Service Office in New York...

• • •

The 1967 A.A. *World Directory* listing some 13,279 groups will be mailed to us this month from G.S.O.

• • •

"What Happened to Joe" is here. This is the first comic book style, Conference-approved, A.A. pamphlet—designed to reach those who can't—or don't—read other literature.

• • •

A new loose-leaf Group Handbook is now available from G.S.O. A copy will be sent free to all new groups. This

has been long requested by groups and may be purchased by any group.

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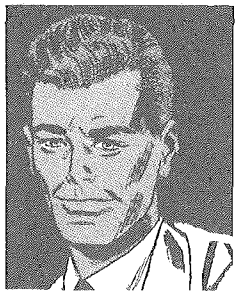
The 17th General Service Conference meets April 17th through 22nd in New York City. We'll hear all about it from our Delegate ----- (G.S.R.: please fill in name)

• • •

They tell us the next "Box 4-5-9" (mailed May 20) will tell all about Bill's new book, "The A.A. Way of Life."

• • •

Finally, in answer to many requests, a tape of Dr. Bob is available through G.S.O. In one segment, he tells of his meeting with Bill and early days in A.A.



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 vinyl-ed 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 keep-

CONFERENCE AGENDA April 17 - 22

MON. Registration, tour G.S.O., Opening Session, A.A.W.S. Reports, Agenda Review, Opening Dinner and A.A. Meeting.

TUES. Comm. Meetings, G.S.B., Policy and Finance Reports, Disc. and Reports re "Sponsorship." "Delegates Only" Dinner and Meeting.

WED. "Communications Within A.A.," Staff Reports and Discussion 3-yr. Delegate Term, "Institutional A.A.," "Newcomer to A.A.," Regional A.A. Trustee Elections."

THURS. GV Presentation, G.S.B. and Conf. Nominating Comm. report on Electoral Patterns, P.I. Presentation and Discussion, Interview Time and Conf. Workshops.

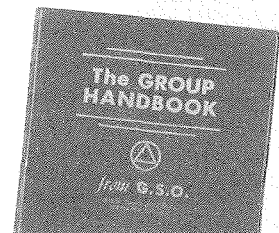
FRI. Conf. Comm. Reports and Discussion, A.A. Overseas Presentation and Report, Clubs--Rehabs, Improving Delegates Conf. Reports, G.S.B. Lit. Report. Presentation on Sponsorship.

SAT. Brunch and Closing Session.
(Area Highlights by Panel 17 Delegates and "Ask-It Basket" Sessions Daily).

TAPE OF DR. BOB

Thanks to our A.A. Tape Enthusiasts and in answer to many requests, you can now get from G.S.O. a tape of *two* A.A. talks by our co-founder, the late Dr. Bob S., Akron, O.

You'll hear him tell of his meeting with Bill W., and A.A.'s first 14 years (recorded in Detroit, 1949), and his famous "last talk" in Cleveland in 1950. Not a perfect recording — but one you will treasure, \$3.00 per copy.



ing information about meetings, group records, etc. and envelopes and cards for keeping in touch with G.S.O.

Look also for P.I., 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

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.

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!



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

Three 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!

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 know you will be with us in spirit—and we will benefit from your strength."

SPECIAL DELIVERIES

"DESIRE TO STOP DRINKING . . . TEA?"

"At our beautiful anniversary tea (veddy 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 saying, '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 something 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 drinker!"

A.A. STILL AFLOAT

Norman C. of the G.S. Board's International Committee 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!

Happy to report, too, Jan A., British Columbia, visited us here at G.S.O. recently—about to embark on a round-the-world cruise. Next day, Bob and Helen, Ont., walked in, and guess what? Yep—they were to be on the same ship!

We're glad we could get them together and we're betting that Cruise Group has more than three members when it gets home!

"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 began 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 grippers" 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

Ala. & N.W. Fla.: John R., (17), Childersburg, Ala. *Alaska:* Raleigh L.,* (16), Fairbanks. *Arizona:* Paul R., (16), Sedona. *Arkansas:* Max H., (17), Little Rock. *Calif.:* Jack O., (17), Beverly Hills; Pat S., (17), Watsonville; Ken K., (16), Loomis; Rosa B., (16), San Diego; Joe K., (16) Cathedral City. *Colo.:* Ray G., (17), Colorado Springs. *Conn.:* Ed S. (17), Hartford. *Delaware:* Grover S., (16), Newark.

D.C.: Ernest R., (17), Hyattsville, Md. *Fla.:* Harry G., (17), Jacksonville; Bud R., (17), Clearwater. *Ga.:* Virgil W., (16), Decatur. *Hawaii:* Wayne W., (17), Honolulu. *Idaho:* Wilford W., (16), Idaho Falls. *Ill.:* Harry V., (17), Chicago; Bud W., (16), Rock Island; Roy S., (17), East St. Louis. *Ind.:* Robert E., (17), Ft. Wayne; Robert W., (17), Indianapolis. *Iowa:* John G., (17), Des Moines. *Kansas:* Hank E., (16), Neodesha. *Kentucky:* Bernie S., (16), Louisville.

La.: William W., (17), Lake Charles. *Maine:* Gordon P., (16), Gardiner. *Maryland:* Ginny D., (16), Baltimore. *Mass.:* May C., (17), Watertown; Roger LaC., (16), Chicopee Falls. *Michigan:* Robert B., (17), Owosso; Andy P., (17), Detroit; Clarence K., (16), South Haven. *Minn.:* Arno A., (16), Waite Park; Jim F., (17), Mound. *Miss.:* Tyson L., (16), Corinth. *Missouri:* Verne S.,* (17), Kansas City; Al G., (17), Illmo. *Montana:* Earl P., (16), Shelby.

Nebraska: Kerry L., (16), Ord. *Nevada:* Les E., (17), Las Vegas. *New Hampshire:* George J., (16), Durham. *New Jersey:* Jamie D., (17), Little Silver; Paul H., (16), Haddonfield. *New Mexico:* Robert F., (16), Deming. *New York:* Steve P., (17), Binghamton; Joe C., (16), Amsterdam; Tom M., (17), Massapequa; Johnny H., (16), Niagara Falls. *N.C.:* Dave C., (17), Raleigh. *N.D.:* Milly I., (16), Bismarck. *Ohio:* Fulton S., (17), Zanesville; Joseph S., (17), Willoughby; Elmer L., (16), Bryan; Bill J., (16), Terrace Park.

Okla.: Woody W., (17), Oklahoma City. *Oregon:* Ed D., (16), Portland. *Penna.:* Louis R., (17), Philadelphia; Rose B., (17), Johnstown. *Rhode Island:* Hiram L., (16), Barrington. *S.C.:* Squire J., (16), Taylor. *S.D.:* Marty C., (16), Flandreau. *Tenn.:* Ray D., (16), Kingsport. *Texas:* Elizabeth M., (17), Ft. Worth; Joe C., (16), Midland; Ralph M., (17), Texas City; Phillip S., (16), Corpus Christi. *Utah:* Pete S., (17), American Fork. *Vt.:* Dick S.,* (16), Pittsford. *Va.:* Ernest F., (17), Arlington. *Wash.:* Ralph B., (17), Seattle. *West Va.:* Sam M., (17), Wheeling. *Wisc.:* Bert C., (16), Medford; Robert W., (17), West Allis. *Wyoming:* Merrill S.,* (16), Evanston. *P.R.:* Guillermo C., (16), Bayamon.

CANADA

Alberta: Ted K., (16), Calgary. *B.C.:* Al H., (17), Prince George. *Manitoba:* Jim P., (16), Boissevain. *N.B. & P.E.I.:* Russell S., (16), Sackville. *N.S.-Nfld. & Labr.:* Bill U., (17), Sydney. *N.S. Ontario:* Pete W., (17), Oakville; Robert McC., (17), North Bay; Vern C., (17), Port Arthur; Clare G., (16), Chatham. *Que.:* Belle H., (16), Co. Terrebonne; Telesphore B., (16), Montreal. *Sask.:* Ed L., (16), Yorktown.

*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

Write: Chm., R.R. #6, Box 381, Martinsville, Ind.

10-11 - 8th Nebraska Reunion, Box 1926, Lincoln, Nebr.	
15-18 - 20th S. C. State Conv., Wake Hampton Hotel, Columbia, S. C.	
17-18 - Annual Founders Day, Akron Uni- versity-Memorial Hall.	
22-25 - 11th Fla. Conv., Cherry Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Fla. 32803.	
23-25 - Alaska State Assembly, Fair- banks. Write: Box 1434, Fair- banks.	
30 - 10th Annual International Conf. of Young People, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colo.	

A.A. CALENDAR - April, May, June

APRIL

- 8-10 - Far East Roundup, Tokyo, Japan.
Write: Co-Chm., Box 452, Hq
5AF, APO San Francisco, Calif.
96525.
- 14-16 - So. Fla. Get-together, Lake Byrd
Lodge, Avon Park, Fla.
- 25-26 - Intergroup Roundup, Harvey's
Cumberland House, 8th & Cum-
berland, Saskatoon, Sask.
- 28-30 - 10th All-Ireland Conv. Mount
Eradon Hotel, Tralee, County
Kerry, Ireland. Write: Sec., 4
Monavalley, Tralee, County Kerry.
- 28-30 - 2nd Annual No. Fla. Conf. Geo.
Washington Hotel, Fla. Write:
Sec., Box 5035, Jacksonville,
32207.

MAY

- 5-7 - Scottish Conv., Hotel Dublane,
Dublane, Stirlingshire, Scotland.
Write: Sec., Scottish Intergroup,
Andpeaton, Auchterarder, Parth-
shire, Scotland.
- 6-7 - Wyoming Spring Conf., Cheyenne.
Write: State Conf. Comm., Box
1222, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.
- 6-7 - 1st West Central Region Conf.,
Sioux Falls Coliseum, Sioux
Falls. Write: Chm., 302 North
Sherman, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- 12-14 - 5th Annual Conf. Upper Ottawa
Valley Area, Pembroke, Ont.
Write: Conf. Treasurer, 569 Eliza-
beth St., Pembroke, Ont.

- 20 - Calif. State Prison at Folsom,
14th Conf. Write: P.O. Box W
Represa Calif. 95671.
- 21-22 - Greater Balt. Area Banquet and
Roundup "The Eastwind", Balt.
Md. Write: Chm., 926 Annclyffe
Road, Balt., Md.
- 26-28 - 3rd Annual Blossom Time Conf.
Sheraton Brock Hotel, Niagara
Falls, Ont.
- 27 - Spring Conf. Holy Angels School,
158 N. 8th Ave., West Bend,
Wisc. Write: Chm., Rt. #5, West
Bend, Wisc. 53095.
- 27-28 - 7th Ann. Chi. Intergroup Conf.,
Palmer House. Write: Conf. Com-
mittee, 110 No. Woodland,
Wheaton, Ill.

JUNE

- 2-4 - 26th Oklahoma State Conf., Sher-
aton-Okla. Hotel, Okla. City,
Okla. Write: Okla. State Comm.,
Box 835, Okla. City.
- 2-4 - Annual Bilingual Quebec District
Conv., Chateau Frontenac, Que-
bec City. Write: Intergroup 1401
Lelievre, Quebec City 8, Quebec,
Can.
- 9-11 - 3rd Golden Isles Family Weekend,
St. Simons Island, Geo. Write:
Chm., Box 527, Statesboro, Geo.
30458.
- 9-11 - Annual Indiana State Conv., Clay-
pool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.