Five Regions To Nominate Board Members

Groups in five North American regions can begin now choosing A.A. members to be elected Regional Trustees of the General Service Board in 1967.

Nominations — roughly one from each state or province in the electing areas — should be received at G.S.O. no later than Jan. 15, 1967. Final selections will be made at the April G.S. Conference meeting in New York.

Regions involved are:

1. Canada East (Ont., Que., Nova Scotia/Nfld. and N.B./P.E.I.) — created to conform with the Board re-structure plan adopted by the 16th Conference. (Canada West is currently filled by Tom B., of Winnipeg.)

2. East Central U.S.A. (Ill., Ind., Mich., Ohio) — to replace Bruce M., Ohio, completing his 4-yr. term in ’67.


(All Conference Delegates and Area Committee Members in the electing regions have received notification of the election (if G.S.O. has your correct mailing address) with letters explaining the procedures set up by the Conference in 1962-63 Regional Trustee elections.)

A.A. trustees normally serve 4-year terms, and in the past regions have rotated their turns to name a Regional Trustee.

Under the new Board structure, however, none of the six U.S. and two Canadian regions will be without such a trustee in the future.

It is by now a well-established fact that Regional Trustees when elected do not ‘represent’ sectional A.A. interests.

Would Your Group Help Another?

“I’m sure if two sick alcoholics in Ireland wanted A.A. help and wrote my Group, we’d write them regularly and do all we could to help,” said one Delegate to the 1966 General Service Conference.

Another member, who works a lot with A.A.’s in a state prison, said he was sure many prison members would love to write alcoholics overseas to 12-Step them by mail.

As A.A. grows more and more in many corners of the world, more and more newcomers need help in staying sober and getting a Group going. Would your Group be willing to help them?

Here’s the idea. Get your Group’s G.S.R. to write G.S.O. and tell us that your Group wants to help a lonely, far-away new Group. G.S.O. will then put you in touch with a Group that wants to make friends by mail, and from then on it is up to your imagination.

Maybe you will exchange tapes with each other. Maybe you’ll hold round-robin discussions of the Steps and discussions by letter.

It can be some of the most thrilling 12th-Step work you’ll ever do — to know you are helping and being helped by brother and sister alcoholics in a remote comer of the world. This round-the-world sharing of experience, strength and hope is one way to make sure no alcoholic anywhere, ever feels alone again — if we really mean it when we say, “I am responsible.”

Here are some samples of the kind of correspondence you may have:

FROM IRELAND... OR PHILADELPHIA?

“In 1946 Conor F., A.A. member from Philadelphia, was visiting the land of his birth, Ireland. He read in a Dublin paper an interview with Father Tom G., an Australian priest who said he thought Dublin could use some A.A.

“Conor went to the hospital for the deranged’ that Dean Jonathan Swift of England had founded in extile 201 years earlier, and talked to alcoholics there... in six months, there were 8 or 10 sober, and A.A. was started in Europe.

“It’s not really Irish, of course, William (Turn to page 4)
Dear G.S.R.,

Please let us know if you like the idea of having a special section of the Exchange Bulletin addressed especially to you in each issue. This was suggested at the recent General Service Conference, and if enough of you want it, we'll try it. Here's a starter:

1. Be sure to notice the "QUESTION" article on first page. After you've read it, will you please discuss it with members of your Group and let us know how your Group feels about helping far-away, beginning members.

2. Did you get your "Conference Digest," mailed with the June-July Exchange Bulletin? A few copies are still available, at 10¢ each, if you'd like to get a rip-roaring discussion going on the Conference actions this year.

3. Has your Group heard your Delegate give his oral, first-hand report on the Conference yet? Delegates welcome invitations to report to any Group about what happens at G.S.O. in New York. Since Groups in Canada and the U.S.A. discussed Conference agenda topics before the Conference, no doubt Groups would like to learn what was the "consensus" of the Fellowship's feelings on such matters as the Preamble wording, the nonalcoholic trustees, institutions etc.

FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT was mailed out July 18; you can get the complete volume for $1.50 (much bigger and different from previous ones). Each Group should have one, to keep well-informed about A.A.-as-a-whole.

4. Would your Group like to see a different "Discussion Topic" suggested in each issue of the Exchange Bulletin? Some Delegates said Groups would like subjects suggested for meetings. Let us know what you think of this.

5. NEWS BULLETIN: have you noticed that the Conference this year decided for the first time that G.S.O. can accept a bequest of not more than $100 from an A.A. member?

6. NOTICE: World Directory is exclusively for A.A. use, Conference said again this year. If any other agency or organization, or a non-member, wants a copy, get in touch with your Delegate.

IDEA FOR GROUPS

Groups—especially those in small towns—that wonder how to let alcoholics know there is a local A.A. Group, and how to find it, might try this:

Take a small card or sheet of paper, print on it the name of the Group and its meeting place and time, and a telephone contact. Then be sure to deliver one of the notices to (1) every police station, jail, etc.; (2) every hospital or clinic, (3) every doctor, (4) every clergyman, (5) every church, (6) every social, health, or welfare agency, and (7) every large firm. In larger urban areas, the whole meeting list could be distributed along with the Central Office address and telephone number. Probably you'll also want to take along an appropriate A.A. pamphlet ("A.A. in your Community"), or the Grapevine.

(This idea comes from our International Committee, which is suggesting it to overseas Groups.)

NEW P.I. BULLETINS

Four new bulletins, based on facts submitted by Public Information Committees from all over the U.S. and Canada, have now been sent to local P.I.C.'s. No. 1 shows how local P.I. Committees are organized; No. 2 is about putting the A.A. message on the air and into the public prints; No. 3 is about public meetings and talks to non-A.A. Groups; and No. 4 covers miscellaneous topics.

They have also been mailed from G.S.O. to Central Offices.

Attention A.A.'s Overseas
If you see any newspaper or magazine clippings about A.A., PLEASE clip them and send to G.S.O.'s International Committee. Note the publication and date, carefully. Thanks for this help.

WHAT IS G.S.O.

Dear G.S.O.

Each time our Group receives a request from G.S.O. for a donation, we usually donate. But also each time the same questions arise: What is G.S.O.? What does it do? What does our Group derive from G.S.O.? What connection does G.S.O. have with A.A.?

Since 22% of the budget goes to 9,000 Groups in the U.S. and Canada for services rendered by G.S.O., our Group would like to know if we are missing out on any services, literature, etc., for we have not been receiving any services or just don't know the difference if we are.

Sincerely,
East Tawas Group, Mich.

(In replying to this letter, we referred the questioner to his Group's G.S.R., and to his Conference Delegate; and we also referred him to the World Directory, Exchange Bulletin, a Conference Digest, the pamphlet "The A.A. Group," the THIRD LEGACY MANUAL and a list of the kinds of service G.S.O. is responsible for. Does your Group have all this material? How would you answer that letter?)
A.A. Now "Fermenting" Behind Iron Curtain, G.S. Board Reports

News services throughout the U.S.A. and Canada—as well as community newspapers contacted by local A.A. Public Information Committees—carried the message of A.A. to millions of readers on Thursday, June 30.

On that day the General Service Board, through its Public Information Committee, issued its annual "Report to the Public," revealing that 692 new A.A. Groups had been started in the past year—including one in a Communist country, believed to be the first behind the Iron Curtain.

This year the Board's P.I.C. tried a new way of getting the A.A. message to the public. Copies of the report were sent to all local P.I.C.'s so they could insert facts about local A.A. growth and give the story to local news media.

It quoted Dr. John L. Norris, nonalcoholic chairman of the Board, and noted that more than 600 isolated alcoholics who live in regions of the world where no A.A. Group exists are also members, kept "in touch" with the Fellowship by G.S.O.

Australia) have elected me G.S.R. Letter-writing is not my specialty, but I can press my buddy, Andrew, into service to type my efforts.... You will, of course, have to overlook any typing errors!!

"Well, I like that! Still, what else could you expect from a Scot who migrated to our fair land with an alcoholic problem?"—Andrew"

"The Group is alive with fellowship and a desire to share with others. Although ours is a day-at-a-time programme, we do plan ahead with certain activities—magazine, meetings, letter contacts, etc.

"If there is anything we can do for G.S.O., please let me know and we will have a 'matter-session' about it at our meetings. May God, as you understand Him, smile on each one of our 'fellow-travellers' in the U.S.A..."

In A.A. fellowship, —Jim M.

(See why we enjoy so much the privilege of serving A.A. here at G.S.O.? Letters like that are a joy to us each day.)

'SELFISH IN MY EVERY DAY LIFE'

"Sunday afternoon I heard a speaker. I know nothing about her; I don't know how she got here, but she gave one of the best talks I have ever heard.

"Her home is on some little island off the coast of England, but if it wasn't for the fact that General Service sent the pamphlets and everything else four thousand miles to this little island, she wouldn't be sober today.

"I take too much for granted, and am selfish in my every day life. Here is a check to help with the printing costs for some of these Loners around the world."

W.G., Cincinnati, Ohio
LONERS’ FRIENDS

In our Holiday issue we suggested that some of you might want to correspond with Lone members. We printed some letters of isolated, lonely A.A.’s. The response has certainly been heart-warming, There isn’t space to thank all, but to those first few who immediately responded to this need for friends, go our special thanks. They are:


Conference For Women Only

We have four letters about the second annual “A.A. Conference for Women Only” held in Kansas City, Mo., this year, and they make all the gals at G.S.O. wish we could have been there.

As Genevieve M. wrote, “This is not anything against the kind and loyal men in our Group; it is just that my needs are different. . . . After months of self-pity and trudging rather grudgingly to local meetings, the Conference was precisely what I needed. . . . Now I will take a new, or renewed self, to meetings. . . . Must close and rescue the burning chops and get on with the iron and adding machine, secure in the knowledge that love, understanding, and fellowship are closer than I thought.”

Nell of Jefferson City said the agenda was wonderful, and it looked it. On the program were sessions put on by Groups about responsibility, sedatives and medications, mothers and children, anatomy of relapses, etc.

Marie B. of Ohio said the “Missouri-A.A.’s really showed me. It was a refresher course. I learned many things and it renewed my faith and made me glad and proud to be a woman, and a sober one.”

Maybe women A.A.’s in some other area

CALLING RADIO HAMS

Again we’re hearing from a number of A.A.’s who are amateur radio hams who want to talk to other A.A.’s via the airwaves.

If you know any, please send us the names, addresses, and call letters so these fellows can get in touch with each other.

A.A. MEETS N.A.A.A.P.

When the executive officers of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs (government-supported agencies and programs) held their annual meeting in New York this April, one afternoon was devoted to a joint session with A.A. members from G.S.O.’s Public Information Committee.

A.A.’s there included Murray W., P.I.C. Chairman; Herb M., General Services Chairman; Beth K., P.I. Secretary; Cora Louise B., Staff member; Lee B., Grapevine Staff, Bayard P., Janet G., Rex M., P.I.C. members and Barry L., P.I. consultant.

Pill problems, A.A. Traditions, new action by the U.S. government on alcoholism, and the 1966 annual N.A.A.A.P. meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Oct. 9-13, were discussed.

A.A. has been asked to cooperate in program planning for the International Congress on Alcoholism to be held in Washington, D.C., in 1968. It will be the first ever held in this country (they’ve been meeting more than 100 years in Europe), supported jointly by the N.A.A. P., the National Council on Alcoholism, the Smithereen Foundation, the International Council on Alcoholism, and the National Institute of Mental Health (a federal institution).


SEPT. — “New York is a ghostly place” by an Englishman; “Tapevines for the Blind”; vintage piece “Sober Kick” all about Jazz musicians; “Escape” reprint by Vernelle Fox, M.D.; “Alex was a Hungarian” by Evelyn.

Would Your Group Help Another?

(from page 1)

James, the great philosopher whose book VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE so influenced Bill W. and led to the 12 Steps, was American—and delivered his lectures in Edinburgh, Scotland. And if it hadn’t been for the Aussie padre . . . Well, you see A.A. has no boundaries.”

FROM AUSTRALIA . . . OR HUNGARY?

“Alex died at 48 in October, 1965, just before his third sober Christmas. He had joined A.A. in Sydney, and devoted his life to it after we moved to Victoria. He was a lawyer.

“When he heard his mother was ill in Hungary he went to see her. He told his best childhood friend, now a famous radiologist, about his alcoholism and his recovery in A.A. As a result, the Hungarian government’s ‘Commission Against Alcoholism’ had him speak.

“The Commission printed an article about A.A. in its magazine, and gave the Sydney, Australia, Central Office address. “Now a fellow named Tibor J., presently in a sanitarium in Hungary, wants help in starting a Group. Who will help?”

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

That’s the kind of letter we get all the time at G.S.O., and our International Committee advises us on helping “anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help—to the hand of A.A. can always be there.”

We have a translation committee now—looking into new translations of A.A. material into Japanese and Dutch. A Texas Group recently pointed out that one of our Spanish translations incorrectly uses the word cure.) A New French book on alcoholism talks a lot about
A.A., but doesn’t mention there are 17 Groups in France, We’re trying to remedy that.

FROM YUGOSLAVIA

A request for help from Belgrade arrived here just about the time one of our Internationalists is arriving there. We've sent him literature in Polish and Hungarian, and will have the Steps translated into Slovene.

In Colombia, the Literature Distribution Center is functioning fine, according to reports we get. Twelve sober members in Vitoria, Spain, have held several public meetings and find there is much interest. . . . We now put out a regular 'Boletin' in Spanish, and hope soon to have A.A. talks taped in Spanish. . . . Australia is setting up its own A.A. service council and publishing office. Over 200 attended a big German-speaking A.A. conference in Frankfurt-Main in April. Ken W. and Eve M. of the U.S. were there. (All delegates were called "Trustee Persons."). Don R., just returned from Central America. He visited Groups in Guatemala (450 people per meeting!), where everyone sober is allowed to speak if he wishes! . . . He was also enthusiastic about meetings he went to in El Salvador, Honduras, and a prison in Costa Rica. He visited a Loner in Nicaragua, and tells us there are now about six regular members who have been attending Spanish-speaking meetings in Panama the last six months.

Does any A.A. really not want to be sharing all these exciting new A.A. developments? Please let us know how your Group feels.

"WE ALSO NEED NEVER DRINK"

The above is printed on the letterhead of the Koala Group. Here’s why:

"We get quite a few people asking how we came to pick the koala bear for our Group mascot. The koala NEVER drinks. He gets all his liquid needs from the juice of the gum leaves he nibbles. Not that we tear around chewing gum leaves, we just cut out the booze part of our drinking habits.

"If you have any A.A. members who would be interested in dropping us a line, please inform them we have another motto: 'We want to hear from ANYBODY, ANYTIME.' Mail and guests are the life-blood to this type of Group—a prison one.

"We would like to thank you all for the literature you have sent us. You have been bonzer to us, and we will never forget the way you have stuck with us, even though we can send nought in return."—J.H., Koala Group, Adelaide, South Australia

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FIVE REGIONS TO NOMINATE BOARD MEMBERS

(from page 1)

any more than Conference Delegates do; instead, their focus is on serving the entire A.A. worldwide Fellowship as a whole.

Suggested Procedures

In the letter calling for trustee nominations, Gene K., chairman of Trustees’ Nominating Committee, emphasized the following suggested procedures recommended by the Conference:

(a) Delegates and G.S. Committee Members should decide how the state or province will select its candidate, whether the Area Committee wishes to choose him, or to take the matter to G.S.R.’s through Area Assemblies—and if so, where and when.

(b) Third Legacy procedures, particularly written ballots, 2/3 vote or the drawing by lot if voting fails, should be used whether selection is by G.S. Committees or by Assemblies.

(c) Delegates or Chairmen of Area Committees should send to G.S.O. complete reports of all procedures decided upon.

(d) They should also send a biography of each candidate, covering professional and A.A. service experience, plus name and address of the candidate, to G.S.O. before Jan. 15, 1967.

(e) Final selection from among state and provincial candidates will be made at a joint meeting of the G.S. Conference Delegate Committee, the Nominating Committee of the Board, and Delegates from the regions affected, held during the April 1967 Conference.

THIRD LEGACY MANUAL procedure of election will be followed in making the final choice.

(f) Chosen candidate will then be offered to the Conference for approval, and election to the Board will follow.

(g) Qualifications: A sound A.A. background is a basic requirement. Ten years of sobriety is recommended but is not mandatory. The candidate should have been active in A.A. affairs, locally and regionally. He should have the background and willingness to make decisions on matters of movement-wide policy, both internally and externally.

(h) Business or professional experience: It has proved desirable to have some of the trustees of very high competence in business and professional matters—because the primary business of the Board calls for important budgetary and administrative decisions. For example, a banking executive, an executive of the press or broadcast media, a lawyer with experience, an industrial executive—such qualifications are regarded as welcome additions to sound A.A. experience.

(i) Time required: Quarterly meetings of the Board in January, July, and October take at least three days each. The April meeting and the Conference add up to a week. Trustees are reimbursed for travel and hotel expenses.

ABOUT REGISTERING A GROUP

"The Group has asked me to write for all details, forms, and other information necessary for having our Group, or rather the Clubhouse, incorporated, also in getting a charter."—Premon, Texas.

All you have to do is write to G.S.O. to get a Group registered.

There is no charge—instead, we send each new Group a complimentary package of literature, its World Directory, etc. G.S.O. does not issue any charters.

As for getting a clubhouse incorporated, that is a separate legal matter which should be handled locally outside the Group, A.A. experience indicates. Write for more information.

MY ETERNAL TODAYS

"It seems I actually know all those who belong to A.A., as well as all those who need to find this way of life. The unity of this body of souls is like the pull of gravity, strong and ever present. We may at times get away from it, but if we let go and let God, then we are pulled right back."

"I plan to go to Lamesa for a Round Robin. I so enjoy these and return home with the inspiration, desire and knowledge of how to improve my eternal todays."—J.A., Sonora, Texas

ABOUT A RADIO PROGRAM

This letter is typical, too: "Please forward a copy of the radio program outline called 'Ask An Alcoholic.' We did a radio program and were asked to replay it and follow it up. Also, what about meeting tapes?"—P.I.C., Monroe, N.B.

We have a sample script and instructions for the radio show "Ask An Alcoholic" which ran for 22 weeks on WNBC in New York and has been widely copied. It brought in 33 per cent more new members to the N.Y. Intergroup Office. We'll gladly send you one, and a list of meeting tapes, too. No professional radio experience is necessary.
A.A. CALENDAR
August—September—October

AUGUST
12-14 — Internat'l Doctors in A.A., Speedway Motel, Ind., Ind. Write: Conv-Comm., 5842 N. La Salle Ave., Ind., Ind.
12-14 — 9th Internat'l Conf., Young People in A.A., Chase-Park Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, Mo. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 247, St. Louis, Mo.
27-28 — 18th Anniversary So. Minn. Conf., Mankato, Minn. Write: Chm., 2027 3rd Ave, Mankato, Minn.

SEPTEMBER
2-4 — Okanagan Valley Roundup, Peach Bowl Conv. Centre, Penticton, B.C., Can. Write: Secy, Box 524, Penticton, B.C., Can.
2-4 — S.W. Texas Area Conf., Holiday Inn Motel, Victoria, Tex. Write: Registration Comm, P.O. Box 2204, Victoria, Tex.
4-5 — Wiesbaden Roundup, Wiesbaden, Germany.
11 — 3rd Ann. Ogdensburg State Hospital, Ogdensburg, N.Y.
16-18 — Northern Area Downstate Illinois A.A. Fall Conf., Faust Hotel, Rockford, Ill. Write: Chm., 2238 Broadway, Rockford, Ill.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

CALIFORNIA:
Long Beach, Carmelitos Group $ 25.00
Paramount Group .................. 39.05

CONNECTICUT:
Westport, Green Farms Mens Group ........ 95.00
Saturday Night Closed Group ........... 200.00

FLORIDA:
Jupiter, Riverbottom Closed Group .......... 146.50
Thursday Night Open Group ............. 146.50
Sarasota, Tamiami Closed Discussion Group .......... 10.00
Tamiami Group .................... 60.00

INDIANA:
Richmond, 101 North Tenth Street Group .......... 25.00
Tuesday Night Group .................. 6.00

MARYLAND:
Severna Park, Anne Arundel Group .............. 70.00

OCTOBER
7-9 — Alberta Provincial Conference Write: Secy, 11243 – 58th Street, Edmonton, Alta.
14-16 — Provincial Conf., Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Dorchester St., Montreal, Que., Can. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 1777, Station B, Montreal, Que., Can.
15-16 — State A.A. Roundup, Jamestown, N.D. Write: Program Comm., Box 476, Jamestown, N.D.
16 — 20th Ann. Banquet, Mosque Terrace Ballroom, 1020 Broadway, Newark, N. J. Write: Banquet Chm., P.O. Box 575, Newark, N.J.
21-23 — So. Area Fall Conf., Downstate III. A.A., Augustine's Belleville, Ill.
21-23 — N. E. Texas Fall Conf. Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Tex. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 20563, Dallas, Tex.
29 — Annual A.A. Dinner Meeting & Dance, Hotel Americana, N. Y. Write: Dinner Comm, Intergroup Assoc., 337 E. 33 St., N. Y.

TRACY'S LANDING, Southern Anne Arundel Group ........ 90.00

NEBRASKA:
Ansley, Crossroads Group ......... 25.00
Omaha, Crossroads Group ........ 34.00

NORTH CAROLINA:
Burlington, Fur-Gra Group .......... 15.00
Burlington Group ............. 120.00

NORTH DAKOTA:
Jamestown, 24 Hour Group ..... 25.00
Watford City, 24 Hour Group .. 30.00

RHODE ISLAND:
Pawtucket, Wasterly Pawtucket Group ........ 15.00
Pawtucket, Pawtucket Group .... 10.00

WEST VIRGINIA:
Charleston, Jefferson County Group ........ 34.00
Clarksburg, Central West Virginia Group ........ 50.00