What to tell your group about...

A.A.'s 35th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION IN MIAMI BEACH

Imagine three A.A. meetings of more than 10,000 recovered alcoholics and their families—from all over the world—with Bill W. and Lois among the chief speakers.

Imagine three days (8 a.m. to 2 a.m.) of big and little Alkathons, panels, and coffee sessions—a dozen or more well-known guest experts, young A.A.'s, doctors in A.A., Internationalists, Conference and ex-Conference delegates and G.S. Board members.

New Movie featuring Bill

Imagine the world premiere (multiple showings) of the new color-and-sound movie, “Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions.” It is 60 minutes filled with Bill’s wit and wisdom—many humorous and informative tales on himself—and some on other colorful early-timers!

You’ll hear about the funny goofs, the proud moments and the help from a greater Power that explain most of A.A.’s present-day customs.

The Fontainebleau Hotel, the Eden Roc (Al-Anon and Alateen headquarters), and Miami’s luxurious air-conditioned Convention Hall will be the sites of the meetings—but hotel and motel accommodations are all over the city, of course, to suit anyone’s taste and purse.

We’ve already received bushels of advance registrations ($6.00 for all A.A. sessions, $10.00 if you want the A.A. meetings plus two big fun features—the get-acquainted dance Thurs. night, July 2, and the closing big-name variety show Sun. night, July 5.

Newcomers who will turn into friends for life... oldtimers you’ve always heard of... great spiritual talk... reunions with far-away friends... all these and many other wonderful moments will happen to you during these once-every-five year A.A. world get-togethers, where the language of the heart is heard in a dozen tongues. Laughter, tears, coffee, and prayers combine to form a kaleidoscope of inspirational once-in-a-lifetime A.A. memories you’ll treasure forever.

Sharing, brotherhood, fellowship in king-size swigs describe the Convention experience.

CHARTER FLIGHTS TO MIAMI BEACH ARE MUCH CHEAPER

From many parts of Canada and U.S.A., from Helsinki, London, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Central and South America, and other places... many A.A.’s are already chartering planes, buses and trains for trips to the Miami Beach convention, at greatly reduced fares.

You can probably learn from your state or provincial G.S. committee or delegate, maybe your group’s G.S.R. or the local central office, how to get your charter tickets. Or, write to G.S.O., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Post Office, New York, N.Y., 10017, U.S.A.
Help! We Need Your Answers

1. We keep hearing about (and some of us have seen) amateur plays written and acted by members for local shindigs. We are often asked for scripts for such shows—by local A.A.'s wanting to try one for their own fun. But we don't have a single one!
   PLEASE—if you have an A.A. script you have performed, share the laughs! Send us a copy!

2. How did your group's holiday Alkathon go? When was it (Thanksgiving? Christmas? New Year's?), and what hours did it run? What was the program? Who arranged it, and the refreshments? Did one or several groups sponsor it?
   Please tell us about your Alkathon so we can share your experience with other groups, clubs, committees and central offices who want to try one.

3. Have you had any A.A. experience while in a hospital? Have you taped your story of it, or would you record it on tape?
   Our tape library needs A.A. hospital stories. Please send us some to share with other hospitalized alcoholics.

$4.50 worth of material for only $3.00.
Will you help, please?

Panel 20? or 19?
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROTATION

Getting your G.S.O. mail? Names of Panel 18 G.S. Conference delegates were put on G.S.O.'s ex-delegates' mailing list Jan. 1, and Panel 20 delegates have now joined Panel 19 on the active delegates' list. Committee officers and members also rotated Jan. 1. Be sure G.S.O. has your current active list.

1970 CONFERENCE THEME CHOSEN

"Service—the Heart of A.A." is the theme chosen for the 1970 General Service Conference.

This annual business session (our 20th) of U.S. and Canadian delegates meets April 20-25, for the first time in the Hotel New Yorker, 34th Street and 8th Avenue.

ELEANOR N. JOINS
G.S.O. STAFF

Originally from North Carolina and later from Virginia and Pennsylvania, Eleanor N.—now with seven years sobriety—is the latest addition to our G.S.O. family, as of Jan. 12, 1970.

Besides her A.A. work in her home group, as a volunteer at the N.Y. Intergroup office, and on G.S.O.'s volunteer Hospitality Committee, Eleanor brings to her G.S.O. job a wealth of work experience which will add greatly to her G.S.O. value.

She has traveled widely in Europe and the Middle East, handled government chores in Washington, D.C., and directed summer stock on Cape Cod.

She has held volunteer executive responsibilities in Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Y.W.C.A., P.T.A., mental health and in political and fine arts organizations, giving her experience in speaking, teaching, organizing, and in public relations.

Eleanor has also worked for hotel chains and shipping lines, most recently in charge of reservations and decorating duties. And, oh yes—she has done regular secretarial work, too.

Welcome aboard, Eleanor dear!

THANK YOU, FAITHFUL FRIENDS!

We mean the more than 50 of you who responded so beautifully and quickly to our call for help in a recent Box 4-5-9. We asked about meeting formats, and paying expenses for 12th Step work.

Sorry we haven't room to print all the wonderful replies (we'll send if you ask), but we want especially to thank Canadian groups and one in Bergen, Norway, for great cooperation.
GRAPHEVINE CARTOON BOOK DEBUTS IN MIAMI BEACH

A brand-new, 64-page, 6x9 hardcover book of the Grapevine's funniest cartoons from the last 25 years will bow at Miami!

Most are by anonymous but famous cartoonists, members of course.

Coming Up Next

FEB.: Globe-Circling a-la-A.A.; Second Chance; Count-the-House Charlie; 2nd Step; Tiger Tamed; Freedom in Prison; 3rd Tradition; Honesty; Loner Not Alone (in Rhodesia); Miami bulletins.

MAR.: A Selfish Program?; Lawyer's Case; Invisible Line; 3rd Step; Acceptance (Mexico); Speaking of Non-A.A.'s; The Night Her Play Closed (a drama!); Miami News!

‘Three Years Ago, Dying in My Skidrow Kitchen; Now, G.S.R.!’

"Dear G.S.O.,

My purpose in accepting this new responsibility (G.S.R.) is a bit selfish. I have a great desire not to become stagnant in my sobriety.

Three years ago I was dying in my skidrow kitchen. To be released from that hell is still a miracle to me.

Learning more of our Fellowship beyond our own little community seems to be one way I can keep principles before personalities. If I am of service, that's extra icing.

We have a few new members very much aware of their responsibilities beyond the personal one-drunk-to-another basis. We liked the filmstrip on the work at G.S.O. It gave me inspiration and courage to prod the group conscience about our financial contribution. Until this year, we never sent any money at all.

Godbless you all, from a very grateful sober wife and mother."

—H.H., British Columbia

(Ed. note: In case you have not had an opportunity to review all of the good service information in the revised “A.A. Service Manual”—especially the whole chapter on G.S.R. activities, why not put this on your “First things First” list for the new year?)

HOW IT WORKS ON THE 18th FLOOR

On a Friday not too long ago Jack M. of the Grapevine called to order the regular weekly meeting of our G.S.O. 18th Floor Group. Around the table were about 30 people, including the Staff.

After a moment of silence Bess (Montreal) told her story, encompassing many sober years in Canada and the States. Then each person around the room expressed what he was feeling at the moment. Que., Conn., Tex., N.Y., Ireland, Corning, N.Y., New Hampshire, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Puerto Rico and Colorado were all represented.

Our ages ranged from 20 to 70, our sobriety from 7 months to 22 years.

Young Charles (Texas) told of his new feeling for his 3-year-old daughter. Frances (Midland) told of 57 hospitalizations.

Again we witnessed the beautiful fact that A.A. can and does work for alcoholics of every age, nationality and background.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Active Memberships</th>
<th>How to A.A. Grows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>How fast is A.A. growing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>Is growth more rapid than it was?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>12,986</td>
<td>This chart shows the number of groups and members as reported each year to the General Service Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>96,475</td>
<td>The General Service Board’s P.I. Committee is currently using the figure 425,000 as the approximate total membership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>131,619</td>
<td>This figure was determined as a result of a special census survey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>151,604</td>
<td>HOW IT WORKS ON THE 18th FLOOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>162,037</td>
<td>On a Friday not too long ago Jack M. of the Grapevine called to order the regular weekly meeting of our G.S.O. 18th Floor Group. Around the table were about 30 people, including the Staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>176,474</td>
<td>After a moment of silence Bess (Montreal) told her story, encompassing many sober years in Canada and the States. Then each person around the room expressed what he was feeling at the moment. Que., Conn., Tex., N.Y., Ireland, Corning, N.Y., New Hampshire, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Puerto Rico and Colorado were all represented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>189,702</td>
<td>Our ages ranged from 20 to 70, our sobriety from 7 months to 22 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>209,434</td>
<td>Young Charles (Texas) told of his new feeling for his 3-year-old daughter. Frances (Midland) told of 57 hospitalizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>217,967</td>
<td>Again we witnessed the beautiful fact that A.A. can and does work for alcoholics of every age, nationality and background.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>232,105</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>251,615</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>263,026</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>285,731</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CONVENTION

Then quickly ask your group G.S.R. and (1950), St. Louis (1955), Long word, the Convention theme for MASSACHUSETTS Roundup ........... 40.00

NEW JERSEY Sask.: Saskatoon: Oklahoma ....... 182.00

NEVADA Conference .......... 25.22

NEBRASKA Ontario: Ottawa Central Comm 185.00

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Youngstown: N.E. Ohio G.S. district 2 .... 10.00

COLORADO Sterling: 3rd Legacy Comm. ....... 500.00

NEBRASKA Ontario: Dunville Go Forth

ONTARIO Youngstown: N.E. Ohio G.S. Comm. .......... 44.40

WASHINGTON Tacoma, Wa, Area Assem. ..... 75.00

WEST VIRGINIA Bluestone Retreat .......... 150.00

ALABAMA Alabama & N.W. Fl. State Conv $ 201.45

ARKANSAS State Convention ........ 237.64

CALIFORNIA 18th So. Ca. Conv. ......... 6,003.49

Long Beach: Harbor Area Ann. Traditions Banq. .... 292.61

Southern Area: G.S.O. Workshop of Dist. 5, 6 & 12 .... 10.00

COLORADO Box 459, Grand Central Post Office, New York, N.Y. 10017.

FLORIDA Brevard Co. Intergroup Grat.

Mtg. .......... 20.00

Palm Beach Co.: Grat. Dinner 1,749.18

South Fla. Dist. 11 Gratidume Dinner. ........ 71.65

Gratitude Dinner Dist. 7 ..... 1,189.61

ILLINOIS Chicago & Suburban A.A. Intergroup 15 Annu. Dinner ...... 222.07

MAINE District 2 .............. 10.00

MASSACHUSETTS Mass., Conf. ............ 200.00

MISSOURI St. Louis: 29th Annu, Banq. .... 253.02

Women's Conf. .............. 100.00

Western Mo. Fall Conf. .... 125.00

NEBRASKA A.A. State Comm. ....... 100.00

NEVADA So. Nv, Roundup ....... 200.00

NEW HAMPSHIRE State Assembly. ........ 100.00

NEW JERSEY Mt. Holly: 5th Southern N.J.

CONVENTION (from p. 1)

word, the Convention theme for '70, UNITY.

Ask anybody who witnessed such an A.A. gathering in Cleveland (1950), St. Louis (1955), Long Beach (1960), or Toronto (1965), Then quickly ask your group G.S.R. or secretary for the registration- with housing forms. Send to P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Post Office, New York, N.Y. 10017.

DETROIT TO JOHANNESBURG

It happened to Fred D., in Randburg, South Africa. Shortly after his 5th Anniversary, he was transferred—11,000 miles from the Glenwood group, Wyandotte, Mich. As No. 6 approached, Fred was feeling forlorn and forgotten. But at his new African group's meeting, there was a cake with lettering: "Happy Birthday Fred from your Glenwood Group," and a card signed by 72 A.A. friends back home.

We are told that such love does exist outside A.A. Probably so. Maybe few of us ever learned to give it, until A.A. taught us.

BOX 4-5-9 is published 6 times a year by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 305 E. 45th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10017.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Individual, $1.00 per yr.; Group, $2.50 for each unit of 50 per yr. (Check should accompany order.) Checks payable to A.A. World Services, Inc., Box 459, Grand Central Post Office, N.Y., N.Y. 10017.