ANNOUNCEMENTS
FOR GROUP MEETINGS
(Items of Special interest to be read by G.S.R. or Secretary at your group's next meeting.)

Bill W. has finished the manuscript for his newest A.A. book (to be published in 1967). Tentative title: "AS BILL SAYS" (Suggestions welcome). It is a collection of Bill's writings— from his books and correspondence, much of it appearing in print for the first time.

Joyful tidings for many sick alcoholics: 970 new A.A. groups started in the first nine months of 1966, G.S.O., Records Dept. reports.

In addition, A.A.'s "hand was there" when 6200 inquiries about A.A. from all over the world were answered in the same period.

Over 200 Intergroup (or Central) Offices were being operated by local A.A. groups as of Oct. 1, 1966. The U.S.A. has 122; Canada, 21; Latin America, 17, and other countries, 47, where A.A. volunteers handle local calls for help or information about A.A.

A.A.'s coming from, or going to Vietnam now have a telephone contact at Travis Air Force Base in California. A good chance to talk or get to a meeting.

Much To Be Thankful For!
Unity—Harmony—Open Door

As a movement, A.A. has much to be thankful for. It has come through its early, critical times, is now entering what historians may call its "mature years." A.A. is stronger today than at any point in its growth. Its Twelve Steps are time-tested, unchanged, ever richer in meaning. Its Traditions, too, have stood the test of assault, of changing times, of rapid expansion within the Fellowship.

A.A. has grown strong as a movement because from the very beginning, whether by divine guidance or by instinct, we have recognized three essentials of growth:
The first — UNITY WITHIN. There has been endless debate within A.A. but always, when the chips were down, the group conscience has spoken and there has been unity. Unity between members, between groups, and Central Offices, and General Services, and Delegates and trustees. Unity has furnished the bricks and mortar of our structure.
The second — HARMONY WITHOUT. Aware that we cannot do the job alone, A.A. has tried — usually with success — to work in harmony with those around us. We have tried, as Bill W. put it, "to be friendly with our friends." For the most part, we have worked well and with clear understanding of our respective roles — with medicine, with the clergy, with the press — and, of course, with Al-Anon and with other organizations in the field of alcoholism.
The third — AN OPEN DOOR FOR EVERYBODY. From the beginning, A.A. has been for everybody — for all creeds and colors, for high bottom and low bottom drunks, for lady alcoholics, for young people, for prison and hospital inmates, for alcoholics in other lands. Our A.A.
'The Hands of A.A.'

These are some of the 53 new photographs you'll find on the 66 pages of The Final Report of the 16th General Service Conference of A.A., which made so much exciting A.A. history this year.

The change in ratio of alcoholics to nonalcoholics on the Board — new publications — new guidance on anonymity, clubhouses, the Preamble and Directory — are just a few of the subjects covered in the red-and-white, 8½ x 11 book.

Did you know that the most widely read periodical in the field of alcoholism is our own A.A. Grapevine? This summer its circulation reached an all-time high of 46,000-plus.

With pass-along readership, the Grapevine carries the message to many, many thousands of people.

This readership will enjoy articles like these from the December issue: "Escape" by Dr. Verneille Fox, chief psychiatrist at the famed Georgian clinic; "In Praise of Christmas!"; "I Hated the Thought of Surrender"; and "Humility Makes Sense." (Did you see Dr. Daney's "Do A.A.'s Need Psychiatry?" in November?) Special gift offer in holiday issues, too.

Rosters of Delegates and all trustees add to the value of the book as a treasure for your A.A. reference shelf.

Written in crisp, simple language, the Report is the most complete ever published (50% longer than last year's).

No member needs to wait for his G.S.R. to get one for the group. Any A.A. can buy this confidential record from G.S.O. at cost — $1.50.

Almost every local area in North America is named and its A.A. activities described. Detailed reports on institutions work, A.A. overseas, Central Offices, and the finances of G.S.O. and the Grapevine are included.

The candid photos made at the Conference (no A.A. faces are shown, so anonymity is preserved) are an innovation this year. So is "Coffee Break" — a behind-the-scenes, off-the-record account of what Delegates did when not in formal session.

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Grapevine Milestone

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INSTITUTIONAL DIRECTORIES
Updated Institutional Directories—one listing A.A. groups in correctional facilities and the other A.A. groups in hospitals and rehab centers are now available.

Oldtimer Expresses Gratitude

"Dear Bill,

"Twenty-six years ago I had my last drink and met those wonderful people in Ohio... Dr. Bob and Annie, Henrietta, Wally G., Ed B., Paul and Dick S., and Bill D., and so many more. . . .

"At this anniversary season I want to thank you personally for the inspiration you have been to me and to tell you how much I appreciate our friendship..."

-Duke P., Arcadia, Calif.

Duke P.

A.A. CALENDAR
December — January

DECEMBER
6 — Westchester Silver Jubilee, Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave., White Plains, N.Y.

JANUARY

WILL BAR OWNERS SUE A.A. . . . .
...for Nonstop 12th-Stepping?
That’s the phrase used in two letters from John R., Nairobi, Kenya, South Africa.

It all began when John and an African member, Dennis, put notices in four local papers, two English and two Swahili.

"The result has been inundation.

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"The result has been inundation,"

writes John. "Even handling 30 a week, they can’t keep up!

As a result, Nairobi now has two meetings a week, one in English, one in Swahili. John and Dennis now get out a Swahili newsletter, and he says "one bloke from Arusha sent us a list of 8 of his chums demanding copies! I reckon the local bar owner will sue!"

More newspaper articles are appearing; a radio station did a program on A.A.; and a local magistrate wants help in handling police-case drunks.

John says that "because of laws left over from the Emergency, one of these days we’re going to get nicked by the Special Branch as an illicit organization. If the Registrar of Societies says we must register, they’re sure going to have fun making sense out of a group with no constitution, no membership list, no officers, no funds!

"My lawyer crony says as far as he can see A. A. can have no legal identity, and as such we don’t exist."

"Gotta go. Just got a call from a man who wants help."

UNITY (from page 1)

program speaks the language of recovery and it speaks from the heart. Thus it has been easily translated to fit many different situations and to reach alcoholics in many tongues.

Our own history teaches us the three essentials of A.A.’s growth. Our Traditions set them up as guidelines to the future. A loving God will make sure they continue to be part of our destiny.

Holiday Greetings
...From the Staff

The 12th Concept reads in part: "We — will always try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member for another."

Our Third Legacy Manual says, "The primary purpose of the G.S.R. is to provide a harmonious connection between the group and the rest of A.A."

According to Webster, HARMONIOUS is "marked by accord in sentiment and action."

Sentiment — respect — love — harmony; how wonderful that these words are now not only in our language but in our hearts.

And we here at G.S.O. want to extend to all of you who are sharing in this spirit of mutual respect and love and providing a harmonious connection between your group and the rest of A.A. our heartfelt thanks for this "sharing of experience" through service.

We are grateful that the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas — gratitude, rejoicing, giving and receiving — is with us each 24 hours and only magnified at this holiday season, as together we carry the A.A. message of service and love.

Archie Turns Over Treasurership to Bob Morse

At its October meeting, the Board surprised Mr. Roosevelt with a ‘silver’ bowl, on which is inscribed: To Archie with Gratitude and love from all of A.A.

Archibald B. Roosevelt, Oyster Bay, N.Y., has resigned his position as Treasurer of the General Service Board, but will remain a nonalcoholic trustee member.

Robert W.P. Morse, nonalcoholic trustee (executive vice president of the Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn), has been elected Treasurer.

The distinguished son of the distinguished "Rough Rider," President Theodore Roosevelt, joined our Board in 1953. He organized its Investment Advisory Committee and is largely responsible for guiding G.S.O.’s financial matters so that it has remained solvent and has even managed to build up a "prudent financial reserve," providing financial security in case of a great national emergency, with no breakdown in its services.

Groups all over the world have come to look forward to Archie’s letters reminding us "we are responsible" for worldwide 12th-Step work. And Conference Delegates quickly learned to appreciate the wit and brevity of Archie’s "reports."

Many at the Toronto Convention in 1965 recall the way he fractured one session—by speaking in impeccable Latin!

Thousands of us have abiding gratitude and deep affection for one of A.A.’s greatest nonalcoholic "trusted servants."

His example will continue to honor and inspire thousands of now sober alcoholics and in years to come millions of future A.A.’s.
P.I.C. Keeps Carrying Message

Four nation-wide organizations of professionals who work with alcoholics have recently seen our new Professional Exhibit, pictured here.

It was displayed at the national meetings of the American Orthopsychiatric Assoc., San Francisco; National Conference on Social Welfare, Chicago; National Education Assoc., Miami Beach; and the biennial convention of the American Nurses’ Assoc., San Francisco.

Local A.A. members manned the booth each time, distributing the new pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community!” and accepting more than 800 requests for additional information about A.A. G.S.O. answered each request directly.

The newly designed booth—available only to national, professional gatherings—was built under the direction of the G.S. Board’s Public Information Committee, and features photos from the new filmed public service announcement about A.A., also produced by the P.I.C.

SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

CALIFORNIA: Orange - District #5-6-12 Workshop ............... $ 4.50

MAINE: Gardiner - Annual State Picnic ..................... $ 35.00

MISSOURI: St. Joseph - Pot Luck Picnic ..................... $ 60.23

NEW YORK: Buffalo - 3rd Annual N.Y. State Convention .......... $427.09

TEXAS: Brenham - Lakeside Conference ..................... $100.00

Hints for Happy Holidays

(a letter appropriate now)

Dear G.S.O.

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.'s.

But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking.

Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.

1. Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or Central Office, speak, or help with dishes or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.

2. Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don’t have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one guy to a diner and “spring” for his coffee.

3. Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge, or panic, comes—postpone everything else until you’ve called an A.A.

4. Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you’re timid, take someone newer than you are.

5. Skip any drinking occasion you’re nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.

6. If you have to go, and can’t take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.

7. Don’t think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an “important date” you have to keep.


9. Don’t get tired, hungry, or lonely. Catch up on those books, museums, walks and letters.

10. Don’t start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember — “A Day At A Time.”

11. Enjoy the true beauty of holiday lights, tinsel and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.

12. “Having had a . . .” No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

(signed) Happy Holidays