44th General Service Conference
“Spirit of Sacrifice”

As it has for the past 43 years, the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous met for A.A.’s annual “business meeting” to express the group conscience of A.A. in the United States and Canada. This year’s Conference was held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, New York City, April 17–23.

Why does Alcoholics Anonymous have an annual Conference? In his opening remarks on Sunday, Jim Estelle, (nonalcoholic) chairman of the General Service Board, quoted the late Bernard Smith, nonalcoholic chairman of the board, 1951–1956: “The General Service Conference of A.A. is, of course, the practical instrument for preserving, enhancing, and administering this great Third Legacy of Service. The concept of the Conference from the beginning has been simple and compelling. It is grounded in the belief that all of us who have been associated with A.A. during its early growth and development owe an obligation to society. That obligation is to insure that this fellowship survives, that this flame of faith, this beacon light of hope for the world, must never be extinguished.” (A.A. Comes of Age, p. 280)

Who makes up these 133 voting Conference members? Trustees of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors and staff members. And, of course, the 91 delegates who come to represent their service areas throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Who are these delegates? They come from every state in the Union and each Canadian province. The average age of a delegate is 52.6, the oldest being 72 and the youngest, 32. Average length of sobriety, 13.8 years, spanning a range of 36 to 6 years; average length of A.A. service, 11.5 years, with the longest service 23 and the shortest 5 years.

Vice chairpersons of this year’s Conference were: Jim Estelle, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairman of the board; George D., G.S.O.’s general manager; John Hartley Smith, M.D., Class A trustee; and Diane W., delegate from California Northern Coastal Area, who also served as the delegate chairperson. Conference coordinator was G.S.O. staff member Valerie O’N.

The Conference began Sunday morning with roll call. The keynote address was given by Greg M., Pacific...
at 7:30, chaired by Pat D., with Denise B., Southeast New York, serving as secretary/treasurer.

Presentations throughout the week addressed the Conference theme, "Spirit of Sacrifice," as reflected through A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob's last messages. There were also reports on Finance; the upcoming 1995 International Convention; Records; and the Ad Hoc Committee on Copyright and Trademark Protection.

Throughout the week Area Service Highlights were given by Panel 44 delegates. There were also several What's On Your Mind? sharing sessions and a Workshop based on the Conference theme. On Wednesday afternoon regional trustee elections were held. Julian R., of Boulder City, Nevada, will become the new Pacific regional trustee, replacing Greg M.; William B., of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, will replace Marc P. as Eastern Canada regional trustee. Peter B., of Arlington, Virginia, will become the new A.A.W.S. general service trustee, replacing Pat S. The board also approved Peter Roach, of Peterborough, Ontario, to serve as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee.

At the Delegates Only Dinner, Dorothy N., North Dakota, was elected delegate chair for the 1995 Conference; Roger S., NW Ohio/SE Michigan, will be the alternate chairperson.

The 44th Conference expressed their warmest congratulations and deep gratitude to the four Quebec delegates, Eastern Canada regional trustee and all A.A. members in Quebec on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of A.A. in Quebec, Canada.

Friday afternoon the work was completed, with Advisory Actions in place (highlights appear on p. 3). The only event remaining was the closing brunch Saturday morning, with farewell talks by rotating trustees.

Why do we need a Conference? Why do we do this every Spring? Again, the words of Bernard Smith are appropriate: "We need a Conference to insure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of the halls of A.A. shall never have locks on them, so that all people with an alcoholic problem for all time to come may enter these halls unmasked and feel welcome." (A.A. Comes of Age, p. 261)
1994 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some significant Advisory Actions appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the Final Conference Report.

Agenda—that the theme for the 1995 General Service Conference be “Pass It On—Our Three Legacies.”

Cooperation With the Professional Community—that suggested changes be made in the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Other Community Efforts to Help Alcoholics,” and that the title be changed to “How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals”; that the format of the C.P.C. Workbook be changed to a soft-cover booklet.

Correctional Facilities—that the suggested changes be made in the pamphlets “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” and “A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators”; that guidelines for A.A. presentations to corrections professionals and to inmates by correctional committees be added to the Correctional Facilities Workbook.

Finance—that the trustees’ Finance Committee work with the Publications Department to develop several layouts for a new Self-Support pamphlet, including the long form of the Seventh Tradition and definition of Prudential Reserve, keeping in mind that all service entities are equally important.

Grapevine—that all A.A. members be strongly urged to work toward the goal that the Grapevine magazine be self-supporting through the sale of magazine subscriptions.

International Convention—that an anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 1995 International Convention.

Literature—that suggested changes be made to the pamphlets “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated,” “G.S.R.,” “Is There An Alcoholic In Your Life?” and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”; that the circle and triangle logo be discontinued on all Conference-approved literature and that the words “This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved Literature” be on all A.A. literature.

Policy/Admissions—that no moratorium be placed on topics to be considered by the General Service Conference; that requests for new Conference areas, from Washington State (72) and Southern California (05), be denied.

Public Information—that the revised Public Information Workbook be produced in a soft-cover format.

Report and Charter—that various suggested changes and additions be made in the A.A. Service Manual; that no monetary contributions be reflected in any A.A. Directory, as the purpose of the Directories is to help traveling A.A.s find meetings and for Twelfth Step purposes.

Treatment Facilities—that proposed changes be made to the pamphlets “A.A. in Treatment Facilities” and “Bridging the Gap.”

Trustees—that the proposed by-law amendment pertaining to limiting the terms of Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees to two consecutive three-year terms, be reworded to clarify that this action does not apply to trustees who were serving during the 1993 General Service Conference.

Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 1994

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>50,541</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Internationalists</td>
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<td>778,559</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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1. U.S. and Canada only.
2. G.S.O. has records for 40 foreign G.S.O.s, as well as individual groups in 104 countries that do not have a general service office. We attempt to contact all general service offices outside the U.S. and Canada annually. Groups are contacted in countries where there is no G.S.O. Last year, of the 40 foreign G.S.O.s, 22 responded with updated figures. Of the 18 remaining foreign G.S.O.s, figures used for 15 of them are from their last previous response, while 3 have not forwarded any membership figures. Since we cannot substantiate the international figures, no attempt is made to estimate membership figures for the countries not responding.

The estimated group counts in the U.S. and Canada include only those that ask to be listed at G.S.O.; thousands do not.

Among listed groups in the U.S. and Canada, many do not report membership figures. For each nonreporting group, an estimate of membership is arrived at by taking an average among reporting groups within the Conference area concerned. Even among reporting groups, membership figures include only those now active and attending meetings; there is no way to count sober members who no longer have a home group.
Reports From G.S.O., the General Service Board, and Trustees’ Committees

General Service Board

Trustees’ report: This is my second tour as a trustee, and as a preface to a brief description of the board’s activities for the past year, I would like to share some thoughts with you. I want you to know that I owe the Fellowship. You are in the business of saving lives. You have saved some lives that are near and dear to me, including your own, and this life saving process you all are involved in has had an impact on my life. You have braced my patience and tolerance and shown me, by example, a way of life which includes a form of discipline that leads to freedom. Your joy and happiness is contagious and has made my association with you so fulfilling. For these reasons, and many others, you have enriched my life, and I need to be with you.

As has been the practice for several years, the chairpersons of the Conference Committees were invited to the board weekend in January. They attended sessions of the corresponding trustees’ committees and were also invited to attend other meetings of the trustees, including the board meeting. Their presence at the meetings of the trustees is part of the sharing process that offers another opportunity for the Conference process to continue.

The sharing that goes on among A.A. members, delegates and trustees at Regional Forums reminds us that the Conference is in session throughout the year. There was an incredible aura of gratitude present at the Forums which took place in the U.S. and Canada this past year.

One of the first items of new business on the board’s agenda was a report made by the chairperson of A.A.W.S. that an immediate decision was required regarding withdrawal from a lawsuit in California, and, as a result, we contact all who have agreed to refrain from infringement of the circle and triangle logo to let them know of this decision. It was also agreed that we analyze the necessary steps involving modifying our position, including how to handle the use of the circle and triangle on Conference-approved literature, and prepare a statement to be reviewed by A.A.W.S. and distributed to those who may need to address this issue.

In an effort to review and report on board policy concerning the protection of our trademarks, service marks and copyrights, an ad hoc committee was created. The committee met several times and also in joint meetings with the A.A.W.S. Board’s Services Committee, which had been working on the same topic. It is evident, once again, that given the opportunity, our process works.

The board received a letter from a group stating an intent to reprint Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The letter was referred to the copyright owners, A.A.W.S. Inc. The group was notified of our opposition and, in the interest of unity, we urged not to proceed with such unauthorized action. As a postscript to that, the group has written notifying us that they will not pursue printing the book.

Issues of controversy seem to have been overriding concerns this year. We hope this Conference will mark a turning toward the life-giving unity and spirituality which first brought us together. I pledge a renewed emphasis and attention to communication, leading to a trust which will allow us all to more effectively and constantly engage in that which Alcohohics Anonymous does best — helping to save lives.

W.J. (Jim) Estelle, Jr. (nonalcoholic) chairperson

A.A. World Services, Inc.

Directors’ report: A.A. World Services, Inc., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the General Service Board with the delegated responsibility to maintain oversight of group services, including printing and distribution of Conference-approved and service literature, effected by G.S.O. The board met ten times in 1993 to: hear G.S.O. management and staff reports; review group service activity and progress on compliance with Conference and Board recommendations; review budgets, expenditures, and salary policy; establish prices for literature and other materials; discuss publishing operations and matters of G.S.O. administration; consider requests for permission to reprint A.A. copyrighted literature, and address other matters.

The committees of the A.A.W.S. Board are: Publishing; Finance and Administration; Services, and Nominating. Long-range planning is done within each committee and by the board as a whole. The following items of significance are noted:

Finance and Administration: Reviewed the results of operations at all meetings; authorized a transfer of funds not needed for working capital to the Reserve Fund; discussed and recommended to the trustees’ Finance Committee changes in the reporting format of the annual financial statements; prepared, reviewed and recommended the 1993 G.S.O. budget to the trustees’ Finance Committee.

At the recommendation of the A.A.W.S. Finance and Administration Committee, the board approved a resolution that a portion of the 1994 interest earned by the General Service Board Reserve Fund ($165,900) be used in the 1994 budget.

Services Committee: The Services Committee is exploring ways to improve communications among groups, areas, G.S.O. and staff, corporate boards, and the General Service Board. They prepared a statement regarding the protection of our remaining trademarks and copyrights, and are attempting to make various services we perform more viable.

Book Distribution: During 1993, we sold a total of 1,740,804 books, a decline of (4.7%) or 75,360 units compared with 1992. A.A. purchases were nearly level with last year due in part to strong sales of the pocket edition of the Big Book. Sales to non-A.A.s were (17%) under 1992. They bought 496,905 books, 103,435 copies less than 1993.

Literature Assistance: A report will be prepared on handling requests for Native American translations. New translations of Turkish and Czech items are reflected in the 1994 budget. Poland, which had requested financial assistance to publish Daily Reflections, promptly informed us they did not require the financial help.

Literature Pricing: Sixteen items were priced, including seven foreign language translations of the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve. New approaches to pricing Spanish literature were discussed, but no final decision has been reached.

Reprint Requests: We granted permission to reprint 84 requests to reprint A.A. literature. Five were denied.

International: George D. and Danny M. attended a Regional Service Meeting in Obregon, Mexico. Over 3,000 attended. Lois F. attended Uruguay’s Second International Conference for Women in A.A. There were more than 70 women in attendance. George D. attended the European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

Regional Forums: A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. staff members coordinated and attended five Regional Forums in 1993: East Central, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Northeast, in Burlington, Vermont; West Central in St. Cloud, Minnesota; Southwest, in St. Louis, Missouri; and Special Forums in Charlottetown, P.E.I., Canada and in Hawaii.

ICYPAA: The International Conference of Young People in A.A. was held in New York in May, and 225 participants visited G.S.O. Service workshops were held at ICYPAA with board and staff participation.

Intergroup Seminar: The Seminar was held in Baltimore, Maryland, in September, with G.S.O. staff and trustee/director participation. An increasing number of intergroups seem to be opening up communications with their area service structures.
Archives

Trustees' committee: In the second phase of the Gathering of Experience project, we invited the 132 surviving Conference members of Panels 11 through 20 to share their memories. Two dozen responded and we have a wonderful collection of anecdotes and human interest material to flesh out individual Conference Actions. A suggested guide has been developed to clarify the disposition of the ownership of area archival property. The Ownership statement will be included in the Archival Handbook.

Considerable energy was applied to improving physical security and facilitation of access to the Archives through the use of a scanner and specialized computer software. This undertaking will require time and care since much of our collection is in fragile condition.

John King
(nonalcoholic) chairperson

Archivist's report: Many contributions have arrived at G.S.O. Archives, among these a vast amount of material from the Virginia Area Archives; material from the sole surviving member of Panel 1 of the Conference, who provided a detailed report on the Samaritan Treatment as experienced in the 1930s; eight printings of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which were needed to complete a full second set. As we complete our second year in our new location our collection is beginning to feel a trifle "tight" as group and area historical files fill our shelving capacity. The number of visitors to G.S.O. seems to have increased. Often these messengers can leave a poignant thought that echoes long after they have departed. One visitor from Canada left the following note from Bill W. (in the hope that we could hunt down the specific origin): "A.A. is not a success story: rather it is a chronicle of our colossal human failure turned to usefulness by the divine alchemy of a loving God."

Frank M., archivist

Conference

Trustees' committee: The committee reviewed the 1993 Advisory Actions and approved the theme for the 44th General Service Conference, "Spirit of Sacrifice." We recommended that there be a half-day sharing session on Wednesday, with three suggested topics and sharing on concerns other than the business of the Conference. The committee reviewed proposed agenda items submitted for the 1994 Conference and referred them, when appropriate, to the standing Conference Committee, A.A.W.S. Board or the General Service Board Ad Hoc Committee on Trademarks. All proposed agenda items were addressed and responded to, including those not placed on the agenda because of recent Conference discussion. The committee reviewed and finalized the Conference agenda, assigning participants for the various presentations.

Marc P., chairperson

Staff report: The Conference coordinator is the contact for all Conference members and all area committees of the 91 areas throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Conference coordinator assumes responsibility for: Assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; serving as secretary of the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference; corresponding with delegates, alternate delegates and all area and district committee members throughout the year; working with the general manager and G.S.O. staff in planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and all material for the Conference Manual, Early Bird Edition of Box 4-5-9 and the Conference Final Report.

Valerie O'N.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

Trustees' committee: The committee forwarded to the Conference C.P.C. committee suggested changes for "How A.A. Members Cooperate With Other Community Efforts to Help Alcoholics"; a request to review procedures for C.P.C. traveling exhibits and need for guidelines on exhibits; review of policy for distributing A.A. Directories to outside organizations. The Conference committee was invited to offer ideas and suggestions on new design panels for exhibits, which will be implemented this year. The 1993 schedule of 74 exhibits was completed successfully; the 1994 schedule is moving forward.

John Hartley Smith, M.D.
(nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff report: The purpose of the C.P.C. assignment is to provide A.A. information to individuals and groups who may be in contact with the still-suffering alcoholic in their professional capacities. The staff member communicates with area, district and intergroup/central office C.P.C. committees; currently there are over 420.

During the past year the C.P.C. Discount Packages were revised to increase the number of pieces in each category. The newsletter, About A.A., is published and mailed two or three times a year to professionals who ask to be on this mailing list, now numbering over 17,000.

Joanie M.

Correctional Facilities

Trustees' committee: The committee forwarded to the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee for their consideration: proposed changes in the pamphlets "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" and "A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators"; suggested guidelines for making presentations to inmates and correctional professionals, to be added to the C.F. Workbook. We discussed long-range goals for having an A.A. meeting in every correctional facility, including juvenile detention centers, in the U.S. and Canada; finding more A.A.s to go into prisons; providing more information to prison staff and administrators; seeking outside, male A.A.s to correspond with inmates for the Corrections Correspondence Service.

John N. Chappell, M.D.
(nonalcoholic) chairperson

Staff report: This assignment receives an average of 25 letters a month from inmates, some asking for Free literature, some for names of outside A.A. correspondents, or for a contact upon release. We try to facilitate many of these requests, primarily through our network of area, district and local Correctional Facilities committees. The Corrections Correspondence Service is coordinated by this desk, and there is a continuing need for outside A.A. members to correspond with inmates. We currently have a waiting list of more than 150 inmates. However, area Correctional Facilities chairpersons have become more involved in helping us to find volunteers.

Richard B.

Finance

Trustees' committee: G.S.O. contributions and sales, as well as circulation at the A.A. Grapevine, were weak in 1993, continuing the trend of the past three years. Contributions in 1993 were $3,808,700, down 7.8% compared with 1992. Book unit sales to A.A. entities were flat, while sales outside of A.A. fell 17 percent. Overall literature sales were down 5.2% to $9,314,770. Total gross margin from literature fell 4.7% to $5,359,260. Total G.S.O. revenues, that is gross profit from literature sales plus contributions, fell 6.3% to $8,341,300, a decline of $563,300 from 1992 (utilizing the revised report presentation). Total operating
expenses were under excellent control and declined by $469,900 from 1992, offsetting 83% of the decline in revenues. Net income for the year was $710,520.

Net sales were 7.0% and contributions were 4.75% below the 1993 budget. Because costs were considerably better than budgeted, net income exceeded the 1993 budget of $231,700 by $478,000.

The costs of providing services was $5,258,900 in 1993. This amount exceeded contributions by $1,447,500, a difference that was made up by literature sales. New accounting procedures and reporting formats were implemented in 1993. Under the then accounting method, services would have been shown as costing $8,141,770. The difference between these two numbers, $387,000, would have been charged to publishing under the old method. The new method presents a better picture of how much services and publishing actually cost because costs are allocated more accurately.

The G.S.O. budget for 1994 assumes that literature sales will decline by 0.5 percent. Gross margin from literature sales has been budgeted to decline by 11.3 percent. Contributions are expected to rise 0.4% (essentially flat). Total revenue will likely decline by 6.9% to $7,768,900, while operating costs are budgeted to rise by 4 percent. The budget shows an operating deficit of $168,900, which will be offset by downstreaming $168,900 of interest income from the Reserve Fund to G.S.O. to balance the budget. The 1994 budget will allow G.S.O. to maintain the current level of services without raising literature prices.

Reserve Fund assets equalled $27,138,930 at the end of 1993, $1,147,025 of which was held for the account of the Grapevine for subscription liabilities, leaving $7,942,970 as the principal amount. After transfers to the Reserve Fund of 1993's net income of $700,000 from A.A.W.S. and $80,500 from the Grapevine, the Reserve Fund amounts to 11.8 months of combined operating expenses.

Weak magazine sales at the Grapevine were offset by strong income from magazine-related items. Paid circulation dropped from 123,100 at the start of the year to 121,400 at the end of the year, a decline of 1.4 percent. Gross profit on the magazine dropped by 4.6% to $44,815. Other publishing income rose 14.4% to $339,815. Total gross profit was down 0.2% to $339,815. Total costs and expenses rose 3.2% to $1,285,970. The Grapevine lost $14,650 from operations, which was more than offset by interest income of $92,600. Net income was $710,520.

Compared with its 1993 budget, the A.A. Grapevine's magazine income was $26,650 below budget because of lower circulation. Other publishing income was $16,340 below budget; costs and expenses were $44,270 below budget. Since costs were more under budget than magazine

and other publishing income, net income was $33,100 higher than budgeted.

For 1994, the Grapevine budget assumes average circulation rises by 0.9% to 123,000. Magazine gross profit is expected to drop by 3% due to higher production costs largely due to the double issue in June, which will celebrate the Grapevine's 50th anniversary. Other publishing income is expected to drop 3.2 percent. Total magazine and other publishing gross profit will drop 3% to $1,234,100; total costs and expenses will rise by 1.8% to $1,309,600. The Grapevine's loss from operations will increase to $75,500 from $14,650 in 1993. After projected interest income of $82,600, 1994 net income will be $7,100.

Gary Glyn
(non-alcoholic) chairperson

General Sharing Session

Trustees' report: The first of three sharing sessions during the year was on "A.A. Unity." The discussion that followed focused on how best to foster and attain unity. In October, presentations and discussion centered on Corporate Board Relationships, exploring such questions as: Are there problems with our present structure? Is it for structural change?; and would a change work for the good of A.A. as a whole? At the final session, in January, the topic was "The Committee System." Presentations by a regional trustee, a G.S.O. staff member, a Panel 43 delegate and a general service trustee generated an excellent sharing session.

Jean C, chairperson

Group Services

Staff report: To better serve the groups, G.S.O. provides service material to the Fellowship, providing information and shared experience not found in Conference-approved literature. Current ongoing projects involving Group Services are: Group Records System Restructuring Project; coordination and production of four A.A. Directories; supervising G.S.O. service files; supervision/production of service material such as A.A. Guidelines, Group Handbooks, and G.S.R. kits. The staff member on Group Services is the liaison with intergroups/central offices and serves as secretary for the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees.

Lois F.

International/World Service Meeting

Trustees' committee: The committee serves as a link between the General Service Board and the World Service Meeting. It

has the responsibility of developing policies to enable the A.A. message to be carried to alcoholics overseas, especially in countries where there is no service structure. The Thirteenth World Service Meeting will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, October 9-13, 1994. We anticipate 39 delegates from 24 countries, and the theme will be "Back to Basics." Numerous translations of pamphlets and other A.A. literature are anticipated in 1994, and some of the translation expenses will be paid by the International Literature Fund, which was established at the W.S.M. in 1990. The committee requested that the staff prepare a report on the status of A.A. in Asia and Africa; the report was reviewed and a subcommittee was established to address the criteria for translation of A.A. literature.

David O.L., chairperson

Staff report: Correspondence from groups, individual A.A.s and professionals interested in obtaining information about A.A. in countries without a service center or office is answered by the staff member on this assignment. Additionally, the staff member corresponds with 39 general service offices and literature distribution centers outside the U.S. and Canada.

David A., chairperson

International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums

Trustees' committee: International Convention—The committee recommended a sunburst design for the 1994 International Convention logo. We discussed setting a registration fee, based on a conservative budget that takes into account the possibilities of gain or loss, and recommended that the preregistration fee be $65.00, and that the on-site registration be $70.00 (U.S.). We reviewed and approved program titles for the 1995 International Convention, with the understanding that some titles may be added or deleted, depending on final needs.

Regional Forums—A subcommittee reviewed the purpose and procedures of Regional Forums; in addition, the commit-
Literature

Trustees’ committee: A summary of projects since the 1993 Conference:

Projects Completed: The Anonymity Display Card printed; pocket-sized, a bridged version of the Big Book printed.

Projects in Progress: Continued to emphasize our commonality and discouraged usage of the term “minorities” whenever possible; a subcommittee will continue to review “The A.A. Group” pamphlet and rewrite three sections.

Projects forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee: The Literature Review Subcommittee report; proposed changes to “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet; proposed changes to “G.S.R.” pamphlet; review draft of A.A. Guidelines for Literature Committees; consider minor change in “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated” pamphlet.

Additional trustees’ Literature Committee considerations: Area request for minor changes in “Is There An Alcoholic in Your Life?” and “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs”; request to add material on “Service Sponsorship” to “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”; various issues regarding Big Book.

Staff report: The literature coordinator serves as secretary to the trustees’ and Conference Literature Committees and works closely with the Publications Department on preparing all new recovery pamphlets, books, displays and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the Conference. The coordinator also follows the updating and revising of all recovery pamphlets. The literature desk receives and responds to correspondence from A.A. members and groups about literature. We maintain contact with current area, district, intergroup and A.A. group literature chair. Under the present structure, the literature coordinator serves as editor of Box 4-5-9, and is the liaison with the French Literature Service in Montreal, Canada. Susan U.

Loners, Internationals, Homers

Staff report: Loners are A.A.s who are unable to attend meetings because there are no groups nearby. There are about 332 Loners in 142 countries. Seagoing A.A.s are known as Internationalists. There are now about 155 Internationalists and 36 Port Contacts. Sixty Internationalist Groups meet aboard ships or in ports. There are 122 Homers, A.A.s who are housebound due to long-term illness or disability. Loners, Homers and Internationalists stay sober reading A.A. literature and sharing A.A. experience, strength and hope with other A.A.s around the world through letters and tapes. Each new Loner, Homer or Internationalist receives a directory of members, a subscription to Box 4-5-9 and Loners-Internationalists meeting (LIM), a bimonthly meeting-in-print, sharing excerpts of letters received at G.S.O. from LIM members. About 1,067 A.A.s serve as Loner Sponsors, sharing group activities and personal experience.

Spanish Services

Staff report: There are more than 30,000 Spanish-speaking A.A. members meeting in 1,200 Hispanic groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. The Spanish Services coordinator coordinates and revises Spanish translations and assists other staff members in providing services to the Hispanic community. Many Spanish-speaking districts have been added to the areas in our service structure. Service material is translated into Spanish and kept up-to-date; more and more Conference-approved literature is published in Spanish. Spanish Services helps answer the correspondence received in Spanish by other assignments, especially the International assignment. The staff member represents G.S.O. at the Ibero-American Commission for Translation and Adaptation of A.A. Literature; attends conventions, Hispanic intergroup meetings, Regional Forums, the World Service Meeting and the International Convention, and greets Spanish-speaking visitors to G.S.O. Danny M.
Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

Directors' report: As the A.A. Grapevine approaches its 50th anniversary of continuous publication, the corporation looks back at many years of growth, and forward to new challenges and opportunities.

Finances: Year-end results for 1993 were positive, in spite of the fact that both magazine and other publishing income were below budget. That expenses were well controlled and ended the year well below budget accounts for the favorable results. In January, directors voted to forward $80,500 to the Reserve Fund.

Desktop Publishing: In July, the board requested a budget adjustment from the trustees' Finance Committee to cover, among other things, the purchase of desktop publishing equipment.

1994 Budget: At the January meeting, the board approved a 1994 budget calling for net income (after interest) of $7,050.

Circulation: Circulation ended the year below the budgeted 123,000. In an optimistic spirit, the board has again budgeted an average of 123,000 for 1994. One effort toward increasing awareness of the Grapevine is a poster with the theme "Carry the Grapevine—Carry the Message." The revised A.A. Grapevine Workbook includes a wealth of ideas and projects.


Communication with the Service Structure: One of the board's primary concerns has been ways to achieve more effective communication with the service structure, and a decision was made to institute conference calls between directors and delegate members of the Conference Grapevine Committee three times a year.

Magazine Redesign: The editors and Editorial Advisory Board have been working on the magazine redesign project. The June 1994 double issue celebrates the magazine's 50th Anniversary and introduces the new overall design.

Writing in the June 1945 Grapevine, when the magazine was just one year old, Bill W. said: "Though the Grapevine is young, it is commencing to have its own tradition. All of us are very sensitive to the thought that it ought never to be sectional in its appeal nor should it take sides on any controversial question. While it must constantly talk of people in its news and views, it ought never to glorify or belittle anyone, nor lend itself to a commercial undertaking, nor become a mouthpiece for any of us, even the central offices or the Alcoholic Foundation. Of course, everybody will see pieces in the Grapevine now and then with which he or she will not agree. So it must always be understood that these pieces reflect the thoughts and feelings of their authors but not necessarily those of the Grapevine."

As we enter our second fifty years, our hope is that the Grapevine will continue to carry the message in the words and experiences and thoughts of the members who today are the living embodiment of the A.A. program and principles.

Jake H., chairperson

Staff report: The Grapevine office staff consists of 19 people: two A.A. staff members, along with a freelance copyeditor and a designer, who are responsible for content and appearance of the magazine, and 15 nonalcoholics who make sure the financial side of the Grapevine is in order, that subscriptions are entered, and that orders go out on time.

The executive editor has oversight responsibility and reports directly to the Grapevine Board. The managing editor is responsible for all aspects of magazine editorial and production and oversees the Grapevine representative program. Together, the two editors evaluate all material for publication, and select the content of each issue. The Editorial Advisory Board meets nine times a year to discuss format, content and direction of the magazine, and to consider the development of future special items or determine a particular emphasis for the magazine. Both editors serve on the Corporate Board and are voting members of the General Service Conference.

The controller/business administrator manages all business aspects and heads up the bookkeeping-accounting department, assisted by a bookkeeper who supervises four accounting clerks and the shipping operation. The office manager and corporate secretary's multifaceted job includes ensuring the general efficiency of the office, administering the health insurance program, and handling all copyrights and permission requests. The circulation supervisor and a customer service clerk handle special requests and any problems that may occur.

Like any other professional operation, we have our ups and downs - our good days and our bad days. Some days are filled with nothing but complaints and gripes. Yet, overall, if the early "ink-stained wretches" who founded the Grapevine with Bill W.'s blessings were to return to our modern-day office, they would certainly recognize the spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous which flows throughout the entire operation.

Arnes S., managing editor

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Arnes S., managing editor

References
Budget Highlights

1994 G.S.O. Budget

**Income:** The 1994 sales budget of $8,822,000 is approximately $898,000 less than 1993 sales and $985,000 less than budgeted for 1993. The 1994 budget reflects continued lower volume expectations. Projected gross margin from literature sales is $4,757,400, approximately $600,000 less than 1993 actual gross margin.

**Contributions** for 1994 have been anticipated at $3,825,000. This compares with actual contributions received for 1993 of $3,810,000 and a 1993 budget of $4,000,000.

**Total Revenue** (literature sales less manufacturing, royalties, and shipping, as well as contributions) is budgeted at $7,768,900. This is approximately $578,000 less than the 1993 results.

**Total Operating Expenses** for 1994 have been budgeted at $7,937,800. This is an increase of $306,000 (4%) over 1993 results, but only $25,300 greater than the 1993 budgeted expense.

A preliminary operating loss of $168,900 has been projected for 1994. This loss (if realized) will be covered by a drawdown of current earnings of the Reserve Fund, leaving a net for the period of zero. This drawdown of current earnings of the Reserve Fund allows for an orderly, prudent use of Reserve Fund earnings, at a time when the Reserve Fund is approaching its upper limit. Were it not for this resource, a reduction of services or an increase in revenue would have been required. Either of these actions could have sent a message of fiscal crisis that does not exist.

1994 Grapevine Budget

**Net income** of $7,100 is about $60,900 less than 1993 actual, a decrease of 89.6%.

**Gross profit on the magazine,** $905,300, is 60.1%, compared to $931,500, or 62.8%, in 1993.

**Gross profit on other publishing income,** $328,800, is 65.5%, compared to $339,815, or 65.6%, in 1993.

**Total gross profit** of $1,234,100 is down $37,200 from $1,271,315 in 1993. Higher costs of product, the extra cost for the double issue in June, and the normal decline in volume of magazine-related items combine to account for the decrease.

**Total costs and expenses** of $1,309,600 is an increase of $23,600, or 1.8%, over the 1993 actual.

We feel this is a conservative budget with realistic volumes and costs of products, and other expenses kept to a minimum.
### 1993 Contribution From Groups — by Delegate Area (in U.S. dollars)

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<tr>
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### Notes
- Reflects not only those groups that contributed directly to G.S.O., but also those groups that contributed to G.S.O. through their Conference areas (per lists of percentages submitted by areas).
- Group contributions reported on this schedule do not include contributions received as special, individual, in-memoriam, and special meetings.
Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

June

2-5 - Houston, Texas. 49th State Conv. Write: Ch., 201 Dixie Dr. #1811, Suite 7, Texas 77531
3-5 - Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada. Rocky Mountain Recovery Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 476, Rocky Mountain House, AB TOM 1T0
3-5 - Bullhead City, Arizona. Spin Dry Stampede Campfire. Write: Ch., Box 2520, Bullhead City, AZ 86442
3-5 - Grimshaw, Alberta, Canada. Seventh North Peace Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5039, Peace River, AB T8S 1R7
3-5 - Creston, British Columbia, Canada. Campout. Write: Ch., Site 7C, Box 7, Creston, BC V0J 1G0
3-5 - Chicago, Illinois. Ninth Annual Chicago Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 160, 3023 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60617
3-5 - Kearney, Nebraska. State Reunion. Write: Ch., Box 1167, Bellevue, NE 68005
3-5 - Rome, New York. 26th East-West Conv. Write: Ch., Box 53, Rome, NY 13440
3-5 - Winchester, Virginia. 38th Spring Four State DG Get-Together. Write: Ch., Box 2033, Winchester, VA 22604
3-5 - Camp Maria, Maryland. 19th Roundup. Write: Ch., 5 Oak St., Indian Head, MD 20640
3-5 - Slayton, Minnesota. Volhlal Island Campout. Write: Ch., R.R. 2, Box 2455, Slayton, MN 56172
3-5 - Farmington, New Mexico. New Mexico State Conv. Write: Ch., 3516 N. Monterey Ave., Farmington, NM 87401
10-12 - Russellville, Arkansas. Seventh Summertime Sobriety Conv. Write: Ch., Meadow Rd., Russellville, AR 72801-4878
10-12 - Presque Isle, Maine. District 7 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 106 State Rd., Presque Isle, ME 04769
10-12 - Mobile, Alabama. Azalea City Jam Boree. Write: Ch., Box 161166, Mobile, AL 36646
10-12 - Oakland, California. Second Santa Paula Pig Roast. Write: Ch., 209 E. Surfside Dr., Pt. Humene, CA 93041
10-12 - Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. 22nd Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., #8-1809 40th Ave., Vernon, BC V1T 7X4
10-12 - Springfield, Missouri. Fourth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
10-12 - Merrimack, New Hampshire. 29th Area Conv. Write: Function Comm., 321 Lincoln St., Rm 204, Manchester, NH 03103
10-12 - Bronx, New York. Ninth BOTWCP AA. Write: Ch., Box 243, Bronx, NY 10461-0243
10-12 - Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada. 29th Provincial Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2, Paradise, NS B0S 1B0
10-12 - Akron, Ohio. 59th Founders Day Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44306
10-12 - Nacogdoches, Texas. 15th TSKCPAA. Write: Ch., Box 152551, Lufkin, TX 75915
11-12 - Olympia, Washington. Third Annual Capital JamBoree. Write: Ch., Box 2414, Olympia, WA 98507
11-12 - Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Sobriety Under the Stars. Write: Ch., 309 W. Warden Ave., Ladysmith, WI 54846
11-13 - Cali, Colombia. Sixth Conv. Write: Ch., Calle 50, #46-36 Of. 1311, Medellin, Colombia
11-13 - Yllnais, Lithuania. Sixth Multigroup Visit and Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2304, 2050 Yllnais, Lithuania.
17-19 - Anchorage, Alaska. The Big Book Comes Alive. Write: Ch., Box 221555, Anchorage, AK 99522
17-19 - Lancaster, California. 21st Antelope Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3174 Quartz Hill, CA 93536
17-19 - Manchester, England. 10th Manchester Conv. Write: Ch., 17 Orchard St., West Didsbury, Manchester, England M20 8LP
17-19 - Mason City, Iowa. Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Box 466, ClearLake IA 50428
17-19 - Medford, New Jersey. SCKPAA. Write: Ch., Box 84, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
17-19 - Akron, Ohio. 12th Logers Internationalists Conf. Write: Ch., Box 360446, Columbus, OH 43236
17-19 - Chatham, Ontario, Canada. 16th Mid-Season Campout. Write: Ch., Box 5, Chatham, ON N7M 3K1
17-19 - Bristol, Rhode Island. Ocean State Young People's Conv. Write: Ch., Box 41091, Providence, RI 02940
17-19 - Cooper, Wyoming. 19th Annual Jam. Write: Sec., Box 4533, Cooper, WY 82604
17-19 - Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada. 19th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC V0K 1W0
18-19 - High River, Alberta, Canada. 18th Roundup. Write: Ch., 24 Cataract Rd., High River, AB T1V 1C4

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

June (page 28): A.A. History.


Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on August, September or October events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by June 10, the calendar deadline for the August-September issue of Box 4-5-9.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from ________ to ________ 19__

Name of event:

Place (city, state or prov.):

For information, write: (exact mailing address)

Contact phone # (for office use only):

Flip up this end of page — for events on reverse side
June (cont.)

23-26 — Birmingham, Alabama. Sercypaa.
Write: Ch., Box 130007, Birmingham, AL 35213-0087
24-26 — Alpine, Arizona. Sixth Annual Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 96, Springville, AZ 85536
24-26 — Coombs, British Columbia, Canada.
34th Annual Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Parksville, BC V0R 2E9
24-26 — Monterey, California. 47th Summer Campout. Write: Ch., 1540 Market St., Em. 150, San Francisco, CA 94102
Write: Ch., Box 415, Moodus, CT 06452-0415
24-26 — Key West, Florida. Seventh Sunset Campout.
Write: Ch., Box 4165, Key West, FL 33041
24-26 — Sept. Res, Quebec, Canada. 15th District Congress.
Write: Ch., C.P. 1209, Sept. Res., QC G4R 4X7
24-26 — Wichita Falls, Texas. Trauma Freedom Rally.
Write: Ch., Box 3633, Wichita Falls, TX 76307
24-26 — Alamosa, Colorado. Serenity in the San Juan.
Write: Ch., 4790 Sierra Vista Rd., Alamosa, CO 81110
24-26 — Colborne, Ontario, Canada.
Melrose Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 2506, Colborne, ON L0K 1H0
24-26 — Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.
33rd Kawartha Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., 625 Cameron St., Peterborough, ON K9J 3B9
July

1-3 — Riviere-du-Loup, Quebec, Canada.
19th Conv. Write: Ch., C.P. 951, Riviere-du-Loup, QC G5R 3Z5
1-3 — Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1994 OSKYPA Conference.
Write: Ch., Box 94644, Oklahoma City, OK 73154
1-3 — Krakow, Poland. Fifth Congress.
Write: Ch., ul. Warszawska 17, 31-155 Krakow, Poland
6-10 — Naples, Florida. 38th State Conv.
Write: Ch., Box 20001, Naples, FL 33010
8-10 — Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
10th Anniversary.
Write: Ch., 360 East 16th St., North Vancouver, BC V7L 2T2
8-10 — Vale Do, Quebec, Canada. 16th Conv.
Write: Ch., Blvd Pasteur 1633, Vale Do, QC J9P 5N0
8-10 — St. Louis, Missouri. State Conv.
Write: Ch., 5067 Webbs Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050
15-17 — Eugene, Oregon. Summer Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 1172, Eugene, OR 97440
15-17 — Carrollton Valley, Maine. 17th Area Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 468, Brunswick, ME 04011
15-17 — Medford, Oregon. Soberity Extravaganza Campout.
Write: Ch., 1350 Canina Rd., Medford, OR 97504
15-17 — King Field (Sugarloaf), Maine. 17th Area Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 406, Brunswick, ME 04011-0483

August

5-7 — Redwood Creek, California. 16th HCC Campout.
Write: Ch., Box 6872, Eureka, CA 95502
5-7 — Cromwell, Connecticut. 11th Annual Walk Roundup (sponsored by gay & lesbian members).
Write: Ch., Box 1389, New Haven, CT 06509
5-7 — Montco, New Brunswick, Canada.
MCCYPA. Write: Ch., 57 McDougall Ave., Moncton, NB E1C 6H1
5-7 — Springfield, Illinois. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 181, Petersburg, IL 62675
5-7 — New Orleans, Louisiana. Big Easy Does It Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 51565, New Orleans, LA 70115-2566
5-7 — Tulameen, British Columbia, Canada.
13th Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3C, Comp 3, Tulameen, BC V0X 2L0
Write: Ch., Box 70606, Washington, DC 20033-0785
14-22 — Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Ninth Annual Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1334, Reading, PA 19603-1334
22-26 — Arlington, Virginia. Virginia Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2281, Merrifield, VA 22116
13-14 — Nacogdoches, Texas. 46th Anniversary.
Write: Ch., 1221 Murry St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961
15-20 — Atlanta, Georgia. 50th Southeast Conf. Write: Ch., Box 80671, Atlanta, GA 30346
18-21 — Omaha, Nebraska. Cornhusker Roundup XVII.
Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68105
21-24 — College Station, Texas. 11th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 9409, College Station, TX 77842-9409
Write: Ch., Box 1036, Meeker, CO 81641
Write: Ch., Box 90063, Staten Island, New York 10309
Write: Ch., Box 2165, Soldotna, AK 99669
Write: Ch., 527 Winfield, Joplin, MO 64801
Write: Ch., Box 2105, Chattanooga, TN 37409

September

2-4 — Phoenix, Arizona. XLI Conv. Espana.
Write: Ch., Box 61512, Phoenix, AZ 85062-1512
2-4 — Penticton, British Columbia, Canada.
26th South Okanagan Labour Day Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 200236, Penticton, BC V2A 0K3
2-5 — Chapleau, Ontario, Canada.
27th Annual Conv. Write: Sec., Box 634, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
2-5 — Tampa, Florida. Eighth Annual Fall Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 252254, Tampa, FL 33685
9-13 — Cromwell, Connecticut. 36th Annual Area Conv.
Write: Ch., 156 Candy Lane, Berlin, CT 06037
16-18 — Muskogee, Oklahoma. Moka City Roundup.
Write: Ch., Box 1244, Muskogee, OK 74401
16-18 — Ogden, Utah. Fall Assembly.
Write: Ch., 192 North 4700 West, West Weber, UT 84404