FOUR ‘SERVICE PRINCIPLES’ SUGGESTED

Public Information Policy ‘Credo’ Stresses Helpfulness; New Display Interprets A.A. To Professional Groups

Two decisions reached at the recent Sixth General Service Conference will be of special interest to all local groups concerned with the growing challenge of sound public relations for A.A.

First, the Conference approved a brief statement, submitted by the G. S. H. Public Information Committee, on “A.A.’s Movement-Wide Public Information Policy.” While the statement or “credo” is not binding on any local group, it may be helpful as a guide in handling local opportunities for interpreting the A.A. program to the public. The text of the statement follows:

“In all public relationships, A.A.’s sole objective is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him and to those who may be interested in his problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.”

New A.A. Folder Setting Records

They’re going like hot cakes! Copies of the new G. S. H. folder, “Is A.A. for You?”, we mean. Orders for nearly 15,000 copies of the latest item of Conference-approved literature have been received since availability of the folder was announced in the May “Bulletin.” This is believed to be a record for distribution of A.A. material and is expected to require a second printing within the next several months. Comments or suggestions for improving the folder, which is keyed to twelve questions on personal drinking patterns, will be welcome. Designed primarily for use with persons who are not certain they have a drinking problem, the new folder is priced at five cents.

The Conference also approved preparation of a portable exhibit on A.A. suitable for use before professional groups in the fields of medicine, penology, law enforcement, public health and social service. Many requests for this type of display have been received in recent years. The first “showing” was scheduled at the meeting of the American Public Health Association in Salt Lake City the last week in May. For the time being, use of the display will be restricted to meetings of national, regional or state professional groups and other large gatherings.

‘Petition, Appeal, Participation & Decision’ Cited

Four “principles of A.A. service”—Petition, Appeal, Participation and Decision—were commended to General Service Conference Delegates by Bill W., surviving co-founder, as the Sixth Annual Conference closed Sunday, April 22nd:

Bill suggested that these principles, "which might some day permeate all A.A. service agencies," seemed to deserve consideration for their value in promoting harmony and eliminating friction in the growing structure of A.A. He emphasized that they were not new and that "many A.A.'s have been practicing them in our service positions for many years.”

A comprehensive digest of Bill’s talk, together with summaries of the many reports and policy sessions that featured the Sixth Conference, appear in “Conference Highlights,” a special four-page report to all groups distributed with this “Bulletin.” Additional copies are available at five cents each. Delegates and Area Committee men also receive copies of the 60-page detailed “Final Report” of Conference proceedings. These reports are the basis for keeping local groups fully informed on General Service Headquarters operations. Copies are available ($1.00 each) only through Delegates or Area Committee men.

New Groups

Sixty-nine new groups and 13 new "loners" were registered at Headquarters during the period from April 15th to May 15th.
A.A.’s growth and development overseas is illustrated dramatically by reports of progress (and a few problems) in each month’s mail bag. For example:

**SYDNEY, N.S.W.**

“A.A.’s in this Australian city now have a new central office, serving 47 city groups and 34 “country” groups, Sheena B., secretary, reports. Service office operations are patterned closely on those prevailing in major U.S. and Canadian A.A. centers. There are an estimated 1,500 members in Sydney. In the past four or five months a substantial increase in newcomers has been reported.

Sydney now has a Youth Group, a Slippers’ Group and a Lunch Hour Group, all of which are flourishing. Institutional groups in New South Wales include two in prisons and four in mental hospitals. (Three-and-a-half years ago the total number of groups was only eleven in the city and two in the country.)

**ORANGE FREE STATE**

“Reports of pro-community of Welkom, A.A. is only eleven in the city and two major U.S. and Canadian A.A. groups:”

“...a new central office, New Plymouth, Jim C., secretary, writes that alcoholism is an in-...”

“I predict that an active group will eventually get under way. Meanwhile Bob has translated most of the Big Book and “The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” into Flemish and seems hopeful that this will encourage...”

**ORANGE FREE STATE**

“Membership in West Australia is “quite good comparatively and should continue to improve,” according to recent reports from that area. To prove the point, registration cards for two new groups in the Freemantle area have just been received.

**NEW ZEALAND**

“Time and patience are important in getting a native group established in East Flanders, according to Bob V. He writes that a number of members appreciate that “A.A. is much deeper than they realize” and he predicts that an active group will eventually get under way.

**WEST AUSTRALIA**

“...in New Zealand... as in most other countries, and it is wonder-ful to see recovered alcoholics breaking their necks, as it were, to help another to recov-er.” The New Plymouth group has four “regulars” and several who are “trying,” Jim notes.

**WILLOUGHBY, OHIO**

“...in 1956 “Handbook and Directory,” a book which should be a help in “instilling some A.A. thinking in me again,” he declares.

**GOLD COAST, WEST AFRICA**

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Counselor Added In North Dakota State Hospital

**New Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hassler Health Home</td>
<td>Redwood City, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marey State Hospital Marey, N. Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. A. 21st Street Group</td>
<td>New York, N. Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. S. P. H. S. Hospital Scott</td>
<td>Staten Island, N. Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Spring, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramnurly Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brisbane, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group # 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ft. Douglas V. A. Hosp.</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
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Lee J. Phillips, graduate of the Yale Summer School of Alcohol Studies, has been retained as a full-time counselor on alcoholism at North Dakota State Hospital, Bernard Larsen, Executive Director of the N. D. Commission on Alcoholism, has advised A.A.s in his area who have helped with the progress of the Hospital patient group.

Due largely to the fine cooperation of hospital authorities, the new Twelfth Step Group at Davidson County is showing rapid growth. Nearly all the 30-odd patients in the newly-organized alcoholic ward attend Wednesday night meetings, Jimmy A. reports. Nashville area groups are helping consistently. Dr. J. J. Baker, superintendent, has given "heart approval and help" to the group. The commitment period for patients has recently been cut from 90 to 60 days.

The Elmwood Group, Longview Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, now has 25 members, is continuing to grow and "we are doing fine," Mary S., writes.

**Texas Program Aids 169 Alkies**

The alcoholic rehabilitation program in the Texas State Hospital system on March 1 included 169 patients in six hospitals at Big Spring, Rusk, San Antonio, Terrell and Wichita Falls, according to the comprehensive "Alcoholic Program Report Number 4" released by Dr. James A. Bethea, Executive Director.

The program got under way last September and at least one A.A. member is working with staff people in each of the six hospitals. Approximately a dozen films on alcoholism and mental showings at each institution on health are in circulation for a regular schedule.

**Literature 'Packages' Available**

Judging from inquiries reaching G.S.H. with increasing frequency, many local groups, as well as institutional and hospital groups, are not aware of the specially-priced literature packages available exclusively to inmate and hospitalized A.A.s.

With only slight variations in content for each type of group, the basic package represents $4.45 worth of literature and is sold for $3.00.

The basic package, plus a one-year $2.50 subscription to the A.A. Grapevine, (total value, $6.95) is available for $5.00.

Here's what the basic package contains:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Prison Package</th>
<th>Hospital Package</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is A.A. For You?</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is A.A.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A.A.—44 Questions and Answers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Young People and A.A.</td>
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<td>A.A. for the Woman</td>
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<td>A.A. Tradition</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Alcoholic the Illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.A. and the Medical Profession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedatives and the Alcoholic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Evening Post Reprint</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fortune Reprint</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your Role in the General Service Conf.</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Housekeeping Reprint</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure and Services of A.A.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallet Cards (Steps and Traditions)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallet Cards (Serenity Prayer)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Local groups may order these special literature packages for delivery to an institutional or hospital group or they may be purchased directly by the latter groups. The package discounts are not available to "outside" A.A.s in his area who have helped with the progress of the Hospital patient group.

Fifty percent of the A.A. members paroled from the Ohio Penitentiary and the London (Ohio) Prison Farm during 1954 are still at liberty outside, according to a recent survey by S. M. Patterson, A.A. Advisor to the prison groups.

While these figures "leave much to be desired," according to Mr. Patterson, they represent progress from the days before A.A. "when we could do nothing with alcoholics and eight out of ten were returned as parole violators. These figures represent an accurate count and I do not believe that statistics of this kind should be padded or blown up to show success if we don't actually have it."

The group at Camp Laguardia, Newburgh, N. Y., has grown from two members to more than 200 in two years, Mickey M. reports. The group is particularly anxious to secure outside speakers.

An interesting feature of the A.A. program at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, State Penitentiary is the quarterly "Sobriety Party," honoring members who have attended meetings for a year without missing. Five members were saluted at the April party.
Sailor Wonders: What Happened To Old Timers?

Captain Jack S., "first of the A.A. Internationalists (seamen)," writes from aboard the S.S. Saucon:

I couldn't help but look back to nine years earlier, when my ship was in Newport News. Twice a week, after climbing up and down tanks all day long, I would take the 6:00 p.m. bus to Norfolk, attend the meetings there and finally get back to the ship by 1:30 a.m. I wanted A.A. that bad. But it paid off. Recently, I asked about two or three old timers and got the same answer: "Oh, they are around; but they don't come to meetings any more."

I am only a sailor, but to me this thing was a matter of life or death. A.A. gave me life. It gave me happiness, kids and grandchildren and ten years of sobriety. And I am still trying to be the man I always wanted to be, but could not be when I was drinking.

Paddy O'R. is a seaman who
gets around, and who likes to be sure he has A.A. contacts at all ports of call. Recently he wrote from New Zealand for names of group contacts in Bermuda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados!

John S. of West Sayville, N. Y., is one of our newest Internationalists. He would welcome correspondence from others who know what it is to sweat out the first rough months of sobriety.

Gordon G., on military duty in Seoul, Korea, writes that he will be transferred to Zama, Japan, not far from Tokyo, this Fall. He'll then cease to be a loner since Mrs. G. will join him in a two-member Zama group.

"First Things First"

Hospital Group In Vancouver Is 7 Years Old

Sixteen ex-patients joined with 19 present members to help the Essondale Hospital Group in Vancouver, British Columbia, celebrate its seventh anniversary recently.

A distinctive feature of the Essondale set-up is the fact that hospital doctors or staff members do not attend meetings, except as invited guests. When it is necessary to have a nurse escort a patient to a meeting, the nurse leaves when the meeting gets under way, returning for her charge later in the evening.

Jim L., group chairman, has kept attendance records that show that more than 1,500 patients have attended A.A. meetings at the hospital during the past seven years.

"The A.A. movement in this country is getting more and more widely known and we hope that before long alcoholism will be recognized by the Ministry of Health as a disease as it is in one other countries."

Denis W., secretary of the Waltham Park Hospital Group at Waltham, Surrey, England, points out in a letter to G.S.H.

 Viện Kiểm soát Dân tộc

Sponsor List Now Available At Headquarters

The list of members who have given permission for their names to be included in our institutional sponsorship list is now available, upon request, through G.S.H.

Enclosing contributions from the St. Croix and Colonnaires chapters of the Stillwater (Minn.) State Prison, Chaplain A. G. Rutenberry writes: "We feel that progress is being made for many of our members in the A.A. way of life. I am not an alcoholic, but I believe that the principles of the program can become a part of a man here so that when he is in a free society he will not succumb to the temptation to drink."

The group at Wethersfield (Conn.) State Prison has changed its name, and the name of its publication, to "Today."

The Talco Group at the Tallahassee (Fla.) Federal Correctional Institution celebrated its ninth anniversary in May.

"Yes, we screen them," writes Charles C., general secretary at Arkansas State Penitentiary (Varner, Ark.), commenting on our recent survey, "But you can't see where it begins and where it ends. They are screened by rubbing shoulders with humble men. They are screened by tolerance and love. And they are screened by self-analysis. We screen them up and down and sideways, 24 hours a day."

The Clinton Farms (N. J.) Group celebrated its twelfth anniversary May 15th. Commissioner John W. Tramburg of the State Department of Institutions and Agencies was the guest speaker.

Fifty inmates are currently active in the "Ultima Copa" group in the State Penitentiary at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

Club Guest Card Problem

Paraphrased in question-and-answer form, here are a few of the subjects referred to.

Q. In the past our area Club officers have given newcomers a complimentary guest card for one month to the local Club. Recently this practice has been discontinued since several Intergroup Committee members feel the practice violates A.A. Tradition. Is this correct?

A. Questions of this type seem to emphasize the importance of A.A. experience which indicates that the recovery program and Club social facilities are most useful when they are kept distinctly separate. An incorporated Club can, of course, make its own membership rules. Intergroup Service Committees not infrequently discover that "sticky" problems develop when they become involved too closely with Club affairs. The solution in this case, based on experience with other similar cases, would seem to be to advise a newcomer of available Club facilities, let him decide whether or not he wishes to use them—and emphasize that the recovery program and the Club are two distinct entities in his new life.

Q. The idea of sending $2 per year per member to support A.A. world services doesn't "go over" with our group. Nor does the so-called Birthday Plan in operation in other areas. We like the idea of sending along ten percent of our monthly collections. Is this okay?

A. The $2-per-member plan was suggested some years ago as the most convenient plan then available. It is not a rigid formula and many groups base their contributions on other yardsticks. All practical suggestions are welcome and will be passed along via the "Bulletin."

Note: All answers are based on group experience recorded in G.S.H. files.