Traditions Steer A.A.'s Course Since 1946

Thousands upon thousands have written G.S.O. about Group problems—and in 95 per cent of the cases of A.A.'s 12 Traditions. Since the Traditions were first proposed by Bill W. 20 years ago, and accepted formally by the movement (as the Second Legacy—Unity)—in Cleveland in 1950, they have been woven into the rich fabric of A.A. life so well that nowadays they are as useful as the 12 Steps (the First Legacy—Recovery), many members agree, and it would take a major A.A. revolution to change any of them.

Could A.A. Die?

If wholesale violation of any of them ever occurred, according to one A.A. historian, A.A. would perish forever—just as the Washingtonian and Catch-A-Pal movements did before A.A.'s time.

A quick survey of the most common questions we are asked shows these are among the least understood of the Traditions:

No. 7 (each Group self-supporting). We are frequently asked about a Group's soliciting or accepting funds from industry, or the public.

No. 5 (primary purpose is to carry the message), and No. 6 (no endorsement, financing, or lending of A.A. name to outside enterprises). Many book publishers want our "endorsement," and many institutions would like to claim "endorsed by A.A." There are no such things as "A.A. hospitals, farms, clubs, houses, or retreats!"—although of course many A.A. members cooperate in such worthy enterprises.

No. 10 (staying out of public controversy and legal disputes). Many lawmakers want A.A. on their side in political debates. Some professional alcoholism
IT'S YOUR TURN!

G.S.O. is always sending bulletins and letters to you, trying to help you keep abreast of what goes on in A.A. This time will you tell us what is going on in your G.S.R. world?
1. What is your chief G.S.R. activity?
2. Have you, or your Delegate, told your members about the happenings of the 1966 G.S.R. Conference?
3. Do you recommend the Final Conference Report to members?
4. What would you like to see most in your work?
5. Has your Group seen the G.S.O.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

MARYLAND:
Bowie: Belair-Bowie Gr. ..... $15.00
NEW YORK:
Troy: Saturday Nite Gr. ..... $0-
Troy Group ..... 40.00
OHIO:
London: Open Group. ..... 5.00
Londonville: Londonville Group 36.00
PUERTO RICO
Ponce: Grupa Ponce. ..... 47.00

CANADA:
Edmonton, Alberta:
South Side Group. ..... 310.00
Southside HS Group. ..... $0-
Portage La Prairie, Man.:
Portage La Prairie Gr. ..... 30.00
Portage Family Group ..... 59.50

TRADITIONS (from page 1)

scientists want A.A. approval of their theories and therapies. Even when many think these are all good things, A.A. has found it pays not to get on one side or the other in such matters, but just stick to carrying A.A.'s message.

No. 2 (Group conscience is our only authority), and No. 12 ("principles before personalities"), most Group disputes and arguments yield to the wisdom of these Traditions. A.A. harmony (No. 1) seems to be too important for us to let it die.

The biggest miracle of all is that BY FAR MOST A.A. MEMBERS ALWAYS OBSERVE THE TRADITIONS SCRUPULOUSLY, EVEN WITHOUT KNOWING IT! Look at each one, and decide for yourself during November, Traditions Month—where A.A.—and you—would be if there were no Traditions.

GSR CORNER

filmstrips? The movie of 'Bill's Own Story'?
6. The newest A.A. literature?
7. Has your Group any suggestions for subjects the 1967 Conference should consider for the good of all of us in the whole Fellowship?

We'd love to hear directly from you. But we're sure your local area G.S.R. Committee member and Delegate would also like to know your thoughts on these things.

(Why not write right now while it's on your mind? Your investment of a few minutes this 24 hours might help many of your fellow alcoholics in the years to come.)

A.A. AT HARVARD

When members of the '41 class of Harvard University held their 25th reunion, a special Coffee Reception was held for A.A.'s. It was announced in all advance publicity, and three A.A.'s and their wives showed up and became fast friends. One said he would not have dared the old college reunion without assurance A.A. would be there. Another found that a classmatte he had been 12th stepping finally became willing to try A.A.

"I am grateful to God that I could be gay and happy and free of any desire to drink," writes A.L., who made the A.A. acquaintance.

Frank writes: "For years I prayed for sobriety and now I pray the Serenity Prayer and give thanks for what A.A. and all you lovely people have given me, another life. So you see, Charlie Vienstra might have taken my life, but he could never have taken the 45 years of sobriety from me. God bless you."

P.S. Frank is back. Was at South Eastern Conference.

A.A. IN VIETNAM

Frank writes: "For years I prayed for sobriety, but now I pray the Serenity Prayer and give thanks for what A.A. and all you lovely people have given me, another life. So you see, Charlie Vienstra might have taken my life, but he could never have taken the 45 years of sobriety from me. God bless you."

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INDUSTRY GROUP

"The Brass Group was formed at this company in 1964...now have four meetings a week in the plant. A.A. members persuaded the union and management to start the meetings. Thank you for the pamphlet, 'The Alcoholic Employee.'"—Harold J., Buffalo, N.Y.

A.A. ON TV

The new one-minute filmed public service announcement about A.A. has proven so popular with local TV stations in the U.S.A. and Canada that the Public Information Committee here at G.S.O. which produced the film now charges a reduced rate for prints ordered by local Central Offices, P.I.C.'s, or Groups.

One print costs $20; the second, $15, and additional copies only $10. A recording of the sound portion only—for radio—is $5.

Incidentally, television and radio stations are very glad to give local Groups time for the announcement, free. They get credit for it (from the Federal Communications Commission) as a public service. So don't hesitate to approach them and ask if they would like a print.

The black-and-white film shows four A.A. members (faces hidden), each saying, "My name is ... and I am an alcoholic." Then Dr. John L. Norris, non-alcoholic chairman of the G.S.O. Board, invites anyone interested in help with a drinking problem to contact A.A. locally, but says A.A. will not go out and try to make folks stop drinking.

From the G.S.O. Mailbag

FROM THE G.S.O. Mailbag

THE 'GYP' GROUP

From the R.C.A.F. Station, Gypsumville, Manitoba: "The 'Gyp' Group was originated by two very new members, one a new arrival and one just fresh from a hospital in Winnipeg. We're 10 months old and have had four members. We're trying advertising through the local civilian and base newspapers...."—Jim D.

TRUSTEES (from page 1)

York Intergroup Association.
Other current A.A. trustees are Eugene S.K., Hempstead, N.Y.; Charles E. Ed L., Scarsdale, N.Y.; and Murray W., Norwalk, Conn.

A Canadian and a U.S. "General Service Trustee" will eventually be added to the Board, bringing its total to 14 alcoholics and 7 non-alcoholics in accordance with the new Board alignment recommended by the 1966 Conference and accepted by the Board.
FROM THE GRAPEVINE

Beautifully hand-lettered in 3 colors on quality paper suitable for framing are five A.A. slogans ($1.00 per set) and the Serenity Prayer (10¢ each) which make beautiful, appropriate decorations on any meeting room.

Order all from Grapevine P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.
June, July & August

ALASKA:
G.S.R.'s Anchorage $100.00
CALIFORNIA:
District 5-6-12 Workshop 5.50
Costa Mesa Round Up 5.50
Desert Round Up 96.49
Palm Springs 1,000.00
DELAWARE:
6th Annual Delaware Assembly 172.55
Rehoboth 172.55
MAINE:
District 1, Portland 16.00
MINN.:
Lake Region Area Group 66.75
Fergus Falls 66.75
MISSOURI:
Missouri State Roundup 66.75
Jefferson City 66.75
OREGON:
District 2, Portland 20.00
Pennsylvania:
Cook Forest Conference 700.00
Cook Forest 700.00
WASHINGTON:
In Memoriam — Washington 50.00
State Assembly 50.00
CANADA:
Provincial Committee 15.00
Edmonton, Alberta 15.00
Night Light Breakfast 73.00
Regina...

It's Miami in '70

It's still a few 24 hours away, but A.A.'s can begin planning right now to join in the Fellowship's great 35th Anniversary Year International Convention in Miami, Fla., U.S.A. in 1970. Delegates at the 1966 G.S. Conference unanimously favored the famous resort city, and the Convention Committee has made it official. Details on reservations will come in plenty of time—but we've tracked down this much for you: average high temperature at convention time will be 86°, with average low at 77°.

Nobody who was in Cleveland in '30, St. Louis in '35, Long Beach in '60, or Toronto in '63 needs to be told about the place of International Conventions in A.A. life.

Will Your Group Be Listed Correctly In the '67 Directory?

GROUP INFORMATION CARD

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

1 CITY OR TOWN ON WHICH GROUP SHOULD BE LISTED
2 STATE OR PROVINCE
3 NAME OF GROUP
4 INDICATE NIGHT OF MEETING
5 DIRECTIONS
6 NAME OF GROUP

GROUP

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
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Every notice the list of A.A. World Directory corrections carried in each Exchange Bulletin? Probably not, unless you were looking for a correction about your Group.

When the World Directory is inaccurate, chances are it's because Groups have not sent in proper information in time. Deadline Dec. 15th.

So, in a few weeks now, when your "Group Information Card" (pictured above) arrives, PLEASE be sure that all information is double checked (Zip Codes are now required by the Post Office, too) and sent to us PROMPTLY. It's a shame when any travelling A.A. can't find a meeting because the Directory data is incorrect.

DELEGATES, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND G.S.R.'s, it has been sug-

About 'Stale' Meetings

There's space to share only a glimpse or two:

Faribault, Minn.: "For our weekly closed meeting we break up into small Groups of 10-12 so all get to talk. On Saturday night, speakers from outside Groups. Once a month, pin night. After Saturday meeting, a social—cards, home talent, picnic, Christmas tree, etc."—Martin B.

Cartersville, Ga.: "Few years ago A.A. was nearly dead here, but 3 or 4 men got together and we started having Area Meetings once a month for all Groups in the area, on Sunday night. It has been a big help here."—Stoney.

Tacoma, Wash.: "In 2½ years we have gone from one meeting a week to four. Best meeting is Sunday morning, informal, restricted to alcoholics and their immediate family. ... two or three hours. People come and go free to talk on any subject, have peaceful background music. Closed meetings discuss Steps and Traditions from "1 & 12."—Dan R.

Glasgow, Scotland, "Each week a visiting chairman and speaker tell us how the program works for them. Best part is when the chairman throws open the meeting so anyone can say a few words. I never fail to take away something to digest. Thank you for the best export to come from U.S.A. to Great Britain."—Harvey L.

From Victoria, B.C.: "... we also have a 'phonie.' The night of the meeting he calls everyone early to remind them of the meeting. Those calls are a great morale booster."—Willard S.

* A.A. IN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The new edition of ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA will contain a new 225-word article on A.A. prepared by Dr. John L. Norris, Rochester, N.Y., chairman of the General Service Board, with the assistance of the Trustees' Public Information Committee.
**A.A. CALENDAR**

**October - November**

**OCTOBER**


7-9 - Montana Falls Conv., Livingston, Montana.


14-16 - Provincial Bilingual Conv., Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Dorchester St., Montreal, Que., Can. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 1777, Station B Montreal, 2, Que., Can.


14-16 - Top O’ Texas Round up, 19th Annual, Amarillo, Tex. Write: Roundup Committee Box 1963, Amarillo, Tex.

14-16 - 16th Area Conv., Mount Anthony Country Club, Bennington, Vt.


15 - 15th So. Wisc. Fall Conv., Bethel Lutheran Church, Write: Chm. Box 2, Mecine, Wis.

15-16 - State A.A. Roundup, Jamestown, N.D. Write: Program Comm., Box 1175, Jamestown, N.D.


16 - Banquet So. Jersey Intergroup, Cinnaminson, N. J. Write: Chm., Box 145, Camden, N.J.

16 - 20th Annual Banquet, Mosque Terrace Ballroom, 1020 Broad St., Newark, N.J. Write: Banquet Chm., P.O. Box 575, Newark, N.J.

21-23 - So. Area Fall Conv., Belleville, Ill.

21-23 - 3rd N.E. Texas Fall Conv., Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Tex. Write: Chm., P.O. Box 25663, Dallas, Tex.


28-30 - Georgia 13th A.A. Conv., Augusta Town House, Augusta, Ga. Write: General Chm., P.O. Box 3454, Augusta, Ga.


**OCTOBER CALENDAR** *(continued)*

**NOVEMBER**

11-13 - Tri-State Conv., Gabe’s Tower Hotel, Owensboro, Ky. Write: Tri-State Conv., Box 1402, Owensboro, Ky.

18-20 - 5th Hawaii State Conv., Lanai Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii. Write: A.A. State Conv., Box 2184, Honolulu, Hawaii.

19 - A.A. 21st Birthday Dinner, Wellington, New Zealand. Write: Secy., P.O. Box 6458, Wellington, N.Z.

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**Staff Assignments**

**EVE M.**


**HAZEL R.**

Service Coordinator. Exchange Bulletin and other communication material; all service literature. Secretary, A.A.W.S.

**MIDGE M.**

Conference Secretary, Correspondence, East Central Region, U.S.A. (1531 Groups). Secy., Nominating Committee.

**WANETA N.**

Public Information, Loners Meeting, Correspondence, S. E. Region, U.S.A. (1281 Groups) and Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario (690 Groups).

**CORA LOUISE B.**


**ANN M.**


**BETH K.**

Overseas (Non-English-Speaking). Correspondence, Southwest Region, U.S.A. (815 Groups), Atlantic Provinces (113 Groups), Secy., Finance Committee.