A.A. Participates in Congress on Alcoholism

Among thousands of the world's leading scientific experts gathered for the 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism in Washington, D.C. (now Sept. 15-20), are many alcoholics who found their respective pathways to recovery in A.A. No one knows exactly how many, of course—maybe scores, maybe hundreds—because of anonymity.

The Fellowship's participation includes A.A. exhibits manned by Washington A.A.'s; a hospitality suite manned by G.S.O. Staff; A.A. speakers on the program; and packets of A.A. literature distributed free.

Nonalcoholic friends of A.A. scheduled on the program include Dr. John L. Norris, Dr. Travis Dancey, and Harrison Trice, Ph.D.—members of our General Service Board. Bob H., G.S.O. Manager and Dr. E.M., a doctor in A.A., will also speak.

In addition, many others being heard on various panels are A.A. members speaking in their professional capacities, not as A.A.'s.

The Congress is sponsored by the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, National Council on Alcoholism, Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation.

A far cry from the hospital bedside in Akron where Bill and Dr. Bob first carried the message to A.A. No. 3 some 33 years ago, isn't it!

NEW FOR WOMEN: CARTOON PAMPHLET

"It Happened to Alice," A.A.'s new color comic-strip-type pamphlet for women alcoholics, is now ready. "Alice" is the female version of "What Happened to Joe," the popular men's pamphlet in this format, and is Conference-approved literature.

It has been prepared especially to appeal to women A.A. prospects with little interest in reading our more conventional pamphlets, or with low reading skills. It could be especially useful to institutional 12th-Steppers.

As it tells Alice's story from an occasional beer into alcoholism and finally into A.A., it demolishes myths about drinking, alcoholism, and A.A. (See order blank enclosed with this bulletin for ordering copies.)

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Items of special interest in this issue, which may be read by the G.S.R. or Secretary at the group meeting, will be found on page 6—okay?
Trustees to be Elected From Canada West and North East

(Election Notice to G.S.R.’s)

Two new Regional Trustees of A.A.’s General Service Board will soon be chosen to succeed Tom B., Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Frank R., Lowell, Massachusetts, whose four-year terms expire in April.

The Canadian A.A. will come from the Region composed of Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Groups in Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont are involved in selecting the North East Regional candidate.

General Service Conference Delegates and Committee Members in the affected states and provinces have received letters from G.S.O. calling for the elections.

One candidate is named from each state or province—chosen at an Assembly of local G.S.R.’s—before January 1, 1969.

At the 1969 Conference, one Canadian and one U.S.A. member will be elected from among all those presented. These two will then be recommended to the Board for election at its April meeting.

HANDING OVER THE TORCH

Bob P., Riverside, Conn., was elected General Service Trustee by the Board at its July meeting, succeeding Murray W., Norwalk, Conn., whose 4-year term expired in April.

Murray told the 1968 Conference that rotation means “we hand the torch to a new, fresh runner.”

New torch-runner Bob has been active in the Greenwich, Conn., A.A. Group since 1961. He has served as group Delegate to and P.I. chairman of the N.Y. Intergroup, a Director of the Grapevine since 1966 and of A.A.W.S., Inc. (G.S.O.’s publishing corporation) since April.

Outside A.A., Bob is an oil company executive.

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Dual congratulations!—first, to members in Winnipeg, Man., who finally opened their Central Office this year, and second, to the Harbor Area Central Office, Long Beach, Calif., celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Winnipeg writes, “For some years it was felt there was a need for a Central Office here. With some favorable conditions existing at the opening of ’68, it was discussed by the 20 groups in the immediate area and we decided to go.

Volunteer Staff

“So far everything has been very smooth. We opened on April 3, with a volunteer staff. We are in business, you might say, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., when the Answering Service takes over. Our volunteer set-up is one of the truly great A.A. wonders. It is functioning at present at 102%, with more and more “offers.”

Sells Literature

“Our literature sale has been good. We have an Assembly room, which is available throughout the province, for any service group to meet in. As we go into the various areas of service, we are looking and discussing, then forming the needed committees.”

Long Beach recalls, “Twenty years ago, members of the nine groups in this area formed a Central Committee for the purpose of setting up and maintaining a Central Office. The first location was a home. Since 1953, we have been located in downtown Long Beach.”

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INSTITUTIONAL DIRECTORIES

Two new directories: A.A. Groups in Correctional Institutions, and A.A. Groups in Hospitals and Rehab Centers, will be mailed from G.S.O. early in October to A.A. Institution Committees and groups.

As of this writing, it looks as if the 1969 editions will show some 900 groups in correctional facilities and another 700 in treatment centers.
'DOUG-A TREAT'

"I visited A.A. in three European countries," writes a traveling member, "Rome A.A. could not have been better, nor the people nicer— alas, only Americans and British, no Italians.

"I attended a bilingual meeting in Belgium, thanks to a World Directory listing. Such a friendly welcome! Each member goes around the room greeting everyone present before sitting.

"Discussion of a Step was wild and wonderful, just like home. French slogans on the wall: Force! Fierté! Franchisme! L'abstinence паке toujours! A silk top hat for the collection. (Paul,) sober 10 years, told us of 'Louis's' restaurant.

"We found it the next night and were greeted like kings. Some of the waiters are A.A., too. Nonalcoholic drinks are so delicious and imaginative they have almost begun to outsell French wines, even to continental gourmets. And such food!!!! The Fellowship flavor no doubt prejudiced me, but this was a real double-A treat!"

OLYMPICS BOUND?

A big public A.A. meeting in Mexico City has been planned for 6 or 7 p.m., Sat., Oct. 12—official opening day of the Olympic Games there.

A committee of the Mexico City Intergroup is planning other events to welcome visiting A.A.'s, too. Be sure to contact them if you're there. Tel., 26-24-10,

Choosing Your G.S.R.
For 1969-70: Who?

Who will make the best General Service Representative (G.S.R.) for your group for 1969 and 1970?

Since G.S.R.'s, General Service Committee Members, and Panel 19 Delegates to the General Service Conference are being chosen in 14 Areas of Canada and the U.S.A. this fall (for 2-year terms), here are some thoughts on G.S.R.'s suggested by A.A. experience:

1. The most successful G.S.R. is a man or woman with at least two or three years of continuous A.A. sobriety.

2. He has been active as a group officer, Intergroup delegate, or public information or institutions committee member.

3. He has time available for district and Assembly meetings, and has the capabilities needed in case he becomes a Committee Member or Delegate later.

4. He is a cover-to-cover reader of the books "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," "A.A. Comes of Age," "The Third Legacy Manual," and the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

5. He is not afraid to be a dissenter, or to talk about money, or to make reports to his group, or to undertake the necessary correspondence with G.S.O. and his Area Committee.

SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

VIRGINIA:
Winchester: Four State & D.C. Get-together 100.00

CANADA:
B.C.: Yukon Group 50.00
B.C.: Parksville Rally 100.58
Algonia Dist. Groups 26.20
Niagara General Service Area 22.21
Ontario:
London: 14th Western Ont. Conf. 150.00
North Bay: Parry Sound Dist. 35.34
Ottawa: Ottawa Area Grps. 33.50
Temiskaming-Cochran Area Comm. 14.17

MEDICAL GRAPEVINE

October's issue of A.A.'s monthly magazine (now available at most meetings) is all by doctors!

It includes Dr. Stanley Gitlow's explanation of alcohol addiction; pieces by Dr. Ruth Fox and the late Dr. Harry Tiebout; the A.M.A. statement on "Alcoholism—A Type of Drug Dependence"; "Doctors and A.A." by John L. (Dr. Jack) Norris, M.D., and "Are Psychiatry and A.A. Incompatible?" by Travis L. Dancey, M.D., Canadian psychiatrist.

Three doctors in A.A. are also represented: Drs. Hal S., Claremont, Calif.; Dr. D.G.M., Montreal; and Dr. Earle M., San Francisco.
EVE M. RETIRES

Eve M., known and loved throughout the A.A. world as G.S.O. Staff Member for 16½ years, retired Sept. 1.

"Her letters over the years have woven the tapestry of friendship, understanding, and love that binds G.S.O. with our brother and sister alcoholics throughout the world," said the G.S. Board in a resolution of thanks to Eve.

"Her talent for communication has also given her clarity and presence on the speaker’s platform. She has reflected credit on and has improved relationships with this office wherever she has gone on this continent or abroad. We shall miss her. We wish her well."

With hearts brimming with love and gratitude, we say the same, Eve dear.

NEW G.S.O.'ER

A hearty "welcome aboard" to our new Spanish-language consultant, Mary Ellen U. A former G.S.R. and member of our International Committee, Mary Ellen hails from Colombia, South America, but has been living in New York for the past few years. A dedicated A.A., she lives with her 14-year-old son, Felipe. Incidentally, Mary Ellen is as fluent in English as in Spanish.

INSTITUTIONS MEETINGS

GUESTS

Should inmates and patients with problems other than alcohol be welcomed by A.A. inside institutions?

The 1968 G.S. Conference agreed with its Institutions Committee’s recommendation that A.A. groups in institutions stick to the primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic (5th Tradition), welcoming others as guests at “open” meetings inside, but not to participate in group activities.

DON'T SEND CASH

Our nonalcoholic Controller, Dennis Manders, asks us to remind you once again: Do not send cash in the mail to G.S.O., only checks or Money Orders.
Results of Recent Survey

Prime broadcast time for A.A.'s message may not be the 7-11 p.m. slot most cherished by commercial sponsors, but the wee hours, according to A.A. Public Information Committees in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Ft. Walton, Florida.

St. Paul says, "About one-third of the personal calls for help here come as a direct result of radio and particularly TV spot announcements after midnight." Ft. Walton says, "Some of our new people got the message at 3 or 4 a.m."

After using radio tapes supplied by G.S.O., the Floridians made fresh ones, using voices of anonymous local members. (So did N.Y. Inter-group's P.I.C.)

Oahu, Hawaii, says its radio "mentions" brought in such a flood of calls, the answering service has to be manned 12 hours a day by A.A. volunteers.

Local stations remain eager to give free time for A.A. spots. Films and tapes are available from G.S.O.

FULL FACE?

The 1968 Conference recommended that showing the full face of an A.A. member in TV, movie, or press photos is a violation of A.A.'s public anonymity Tradition—even though the name is withheld.

FAR EAST A.A. ROUNDUP

All A.A.'s near Japan are invited to the Far East Roundup, Oct. 11-13 this year, to be held at the Tama Recreation Center (near Fuchu Air Station), Japan.

In Tokyo, call 501-7381. In Yokohama, Call Dave S. at 201-4202. English-speaking operators answer from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. in Tokyo. If you forget the number, look in the English-language Japan Times classified section every third day.

Of 11,355 men and women questioned at 466 A.A. meetings throughout the U.S. and Canada, 60% reported they had been sober for one year or more.

The survey, first of its kind ever made among a wide range of A.A. groups, also showed that 41% of the members present at these meetings reported that they had not had a drink of alcohol since their first A.A. meeting. Another 23% stopped drinking within a year or less after attending their first A.A. meeting.

Of the remainder, 19% came to A.A. for 2 to 5 years before having their last drink; 8% for 5 to 10 years; 4% for 10 to 15 years, and 4% for 15 or more years.

The survey was conducted through Delegates to the General Service Conference. They went to virtually every type of group—large and small, new and old, urban and rural—with the exception of special-purpose groups, such as those in institutions.

More Accurate Data

According to Dr. John L. Norris, Chairman of A.A.'s General Service Board, the survey was undertaken for two primary reasons:

1. It will enable the A.A. Fellowship to furnish more accurate and scientific data about A.A. and its effectiveness to the growing number of professionals—doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, law enforcement officials and others—who are working today in the field of alcoholism.

2. It will provide those of us in A.A. with more information about ourselves and what brought us to A.A. so that we might work even more effectively in carrying the A.A. message to those who still suffer.

As an example of this type of information, Dr. Norris noted that 55% of the respondents consider that it was another A.A. member who was most responsible for their first attendance at an A.A. meeting, while 34% indicated that some member of their family was most responsible.

Getting to First Meeting

With members sometimes citing more than one factor, doctors were given credit in 16% of all cases, while newspapers, magazines, radio and TV accounted for 12%. Other factors included: A.A. literature, 7%; clergymen, 7%; employers, 6%; friends, 4%; counseling agencies, 4%; hospitals, 2%; N.C.A., 2%; clubs and social organizations, 1%; attorneys and jail, 1%; psychologists, 1%; social workers, 0.4%; and army officers, 0.2%.

While stating that this information provided by the survey will be of great value, Dr. Norris cautioned against using it to project figures for the entire Fellowship, since the members who filled out the questionnaire represent only those who attend A.A. meetings.

Three Men to One Woman

Of those who filled out the questionnaire, 75% were men and 22% were women, with about 3% giving no answer to this question.

Other information provided by the questionnaires showed that the majority of the 11,355 members, or 57% are between the ages of 30 and 49, while 30% are between 50 and 64, and 4% were 65 or more. Representing the younger generation, 0.8% were 19 or younger, while 6% were between 20 and 29.

The survey also showed that 38% of those who filled out the questionnaire had been sober less than one year, 35% sober from 1 to 5 years, 13% sober from 6 to 10 years, 7% 11 to 15 years; and 6% without a drink for 15 or more years. In all, 60% of the respondents had been sober one year or more.

As for attendance at meetings, 46% said that they go to from 3 to 6 meetings weekly; 45% go to 1 or 2. Of the remainder, 4% go to a meeting every day; the rest go from twice a month to less than once a year.
A.A. CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER
27-29 – Detroit, Mi. 16th Mi. State Conf. Write: 16th Mi. State Conf., Box 2005, Dearborn, Mi.

OCTOBER
4-6 – Trail, B.C., Can., Washington Assembly of A.A. Write: Assembly Chm., Box 450, Trail.
5-6 – Aberdeen, S.D., Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 1321, Aberdeen.
5-7 – N.Y.C., 34th Annual A.A. Dinner Write: N. Y. Intergroup Assoc., 337 E. 33rd St., N.Y.C.
11-13 – Near Fuchu Air Sta., Japan, Far East Roundup. Write: G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central P.O. N.Y.C.
11-13 – Cartagena, Colombia, 1st Inter-American Congress of A.A. Write: Grupo del Caribe, Apartado Aereo 2020, Cartagena.
11-13 – Buffalo, N.Y., Buffalo Fall Conf. Write: Buffalo Fall Conf., Room 724, Genesee Bldg. 1 W. Genesee St., Buffalo.
12-14 – Sydney, N.S., Newfoundland, Labrador, N.S., Assembly. Write: 151 Townsend St., Sydney.

NOVEMBER
1-3 – Gilbertsville, Ky., Tri-State Fall Conv. Write: Host Chm. Box 646, Paducah, Ky.

A.A. WILL BE WELL REPRESENTED AT THE BIG INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS WEEK! SEE P. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“IT HAPPENED TO ALICE” IS A.A.’S NEW COLOR CARTOON-TYPE PAMPHLET FOR WOMEN. “ALICE” CAN HELP YOU ON TWELFTH STEP WORK. (See enclosed order blank.)

IT’S ROTATION TIME ONCE AGAIN AT G.S.O. DETAILED INFORMATION ON NEW ASSIGNMENTS (WHICH BEGIN SEPT. 1) MAY BE FOUND ON P. 4.

ANYONE AT THIS MEETING WHO IS SECRETARY OR G.S.R. OF A GROUP SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE NEW NORTH AMERICAN A.A. DIRECTORY. SEE P. 4 OF BOX 4-59.