Delegates from Fifteen Countries
Hold Second World Service Meeting

From five continents, 29 delegates convene at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York, Oct. 5-7, in A.A.'s second World Service Meeting, with several trustees and the G.S.O. and GV staffs participating.

Superficially, such an international session may seem to contrast sharply with that Sunday in 1935 when a shaky, hungover Doctor Bob S. first consented to talk about his drinking to the sober Bill W. in Akron, or even to differ markedly from the average neighborhood A.A. group meeting in some church basement this evening.

At heart, however, all three gatherings represent exactly the same process: the sharing of experience, strength and hope in order that more and more alcoholics may find recovery, as those of us in A.A. already have.

For the first time, Ireland and Sweden, which did not send delegates to the first W.S. Meeting in 1969, will be represented. Holland, which participated in the 1969 session, will not take part this year.

Anonymity, Grapevine, professional relations, publishing and literature policies, finance, and service structure in the 15 nations represented will be reported on.

However, the agenda item of highest interest may well be the site and time for the next World Service Meeting — if there is to be one — as well as financing and voting procedures.

Dr. John L. Norris, nonalcoholic chairman of our North American G.S. Board, is also chairman of the world meeting. Bob H., G.S.O. manager, is vice chairman, and Beth K. of our staff, secretary.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR A.A.W.S.

We have a new director, Jerry D., for A.A. World Services, Inc. There are seven such directors who are responsible for the business affairs of G.S.O. At quarterly meetings, financial reports are given by the treasurer, and there are reports on G.S.O. activities, such as Professional Relations, Public Information, Staff, Conference, Literature, etc. Permissions to translate and reprint Conference-approved literature are considered, and any other matters which may come before this Board.

Jerry has served as a member of the New York Intergroup Public Information Committee, as co-chairman of the St. Thomas Group.
A newsletter for professionals and semi-professionals

New A.A. Bulletin for Professionals

"About A.A." is the title of the newsletter recently mailed to about 1,000 professional and semiprofessional men and women who work in the field of alcoholism outside A.A.

A project of the G.S. Board's new Professional Relations Committee, the new periodical will be sent out occasionally to keep our professional friends informed and up-to-date about the Fellowship.

If you know anyone employed as an alcoholism counselor, be sure he or she gets the newsletter!

DISCOUNT PACKAGE FOR P.I. WORK

A new packet of A.A. materials found useful in Public Information activities has been put together to save P.I. Committees money.

The $6.58 worth of material is available from G.S.O. at $5.00.

It contains seven Guidelines and 25 pamphlets.

Also, the new P.I. Manual, background materials for TV, radio, and print media use, the Basic Fact File and other items.

P.I. Bulletin #31, sent to P.I. Committees in August, announced the discount package. It also told of exciting developments in public meetings in Vancouver, B.C., Spiritwood, Sask., Hartford, Conn., and Portland, Ore.

Mailed with the Bulletin was the new Memo on A.A. Cooperation in Research and Non-A.A. Survey Projects, as well as a pamphlet for social workers. It is a reprint of an article written by John Park Lee for the Journal of the National Association of Social Workers.

CLOSED MEETING TOPICS IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF GRAPEVINE

Can A.A. help the drug addict? The alcoholic with a "dual problem"? In "A.A., Drug Addiction, and Pills" (page 2), those questions are answered by a physician professionally involved with both heroin and alcohol addiction. Considering personal experience, how would members of your group answer?

"On Speakers and Speaking..." (pages 8-16) includes four articles on this vital means of carrying the A.A. message. A group discussion, using these opinions just as a starter, might help to make future A.A. talks more valuable to the listeners and to the speakers.

When a member of your group has a slip, how do the other members react? The latest Around the Tables comment, "The Accidents That Don't Just Happen" (page 20), sets up one useful road warning. Any others?

It's time for the secretary's announcements, winding up with "No Dues or Fees, but..." Under that title (page 31), you'll find material to talk over at either a closed meeting or a business meeting. There are points, Bill W. reminded us, where spirituality and money can mix.

For the new G.S. trustee, U.S., to be elected to the General Service Board next April, candidates' resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than Jan. 5, 1973.

Each G.S. Conference area may nominate one candidate, or areas in one state may jointly propose a single name. Resumé forms and full details of the election procedure were mailed to U.S. General Service delegates and committee members in August, so all groups affected could be informed.

Qualifications desired for the new trustee, according to the G.S. Board, include 10 years continuous sobriety, service experience in depth, and sufficient time to devote to the job. It is to be pointed out that approximately 25% of the A.A. membership is composed of women and that there is not now a woman on the Board.

Trustees are reimbursed for travel and related expenses.

The new trustee will serve a four-year term, succeeding the late Jim H., Huntsville, Ala.
We Get Letters!

Daily the mailbags pour onto our desks a fascinating array of mail of all kinds. Here is a sampling, to give you some idea of what A.A. members and other people write.

Are Loners More Active?

"I seem to be more active in A.A. since becoming a Loner," writes Ron M. from the Yukon Territory, Canada.

"Have been busy making good use of the Loner list. Not too many replies, but, anyhow, we carry the message.

"Through the letters I write to fellow members (and I have lots of time to write), my thoughts are daily on the A.A. program and the way it works as applied to me. With the lack of daily contact, my problems are resolved by personal action, such as reading the Big Book and acting on the suggestions it offers.

"In the past, I rarely looked at the book, preferring to ask someone else. Now in order to maintain my sobriety, I have to take note of what those that have gone on before me did to preserve their sobriety. A cheap price to pay for serenity.

"The government just recently put me in their liquor store. Gave me the keys to the place! Will wonders never cease? Peace to all."

—Ron M.

Learning Young

"Dear Sirs:

I am in the seventh grade and am doing a project on alcoholism for our Science Fair. I am using mice for my experiment. I would be very grateful if you could give me any information on this subject. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,
Miss P—— B——
Arlington, Ohio"

Traditions Group Passes the Word

From the desk of Woody W., out in Oklahoma, comes this memo:

"We in Tradition Group 1 and Tradition Group 2 have been meeting together once a month the first Monday of each month for three years studying the Traditions.

"We believe this has been a way to teach the new people about General Service as well as the Traditions. If you would like to pass this on to someone else, do so."

Unfriendly Groups? Comment Welcomed

"Hi. Please forgive me if I seem critical, but I feel some sensitive alcoholic may get the wrong impression of A.A.

"I recently moved to another state. As an active member and G.S.R. back home, I was soon attending meetings in this area.

"They say not to judge by first impressions but my feelings just cannot be kept to myself. As a rather new and lonely stranger, in two of our three groups not one person put out their hand to say welcome or even to introduce themselves.

"I didn't expect a red carpet, but I don't get the feeling they knew a newcomer or cared less. I just hoped someone would say, 'Hi, my name is ———, where are you from?' I made the initial effort a few times, but with no success.

"I thought the cold shoulder effect was because of the great number of groups in the area, combined with the population explosion and so many vacationers. Maybe they don't know old from new.

"I just feel that if a real new alcoholic were to come in he might get out the door without even one contact and that would be tragic."

(Name withheld)

Welcome To Our British Twin

Congratulations to the General Service Office of the United Kingdom on the appearance of their very attractive and interesting new newsletter, called Box 514.

If the first two issues are any indication, U.K. A.A.'s are in for a real treat.

Recently, in addition to news of their latest Conference and various conventions, there was a heartening report of Sterling area A.A. growth and a fascinating account of activities at the new Manchester Intergroup.

Plus the inevitable, such as "We need money," and also a working vacuum cleaner! As busy as you are at Redcliffe Gardens, how would you ever have time to use it?

DIRECTOR (from p. 1)

in Manhattan and is currently program chairman of the Metropolitan Group in New York. He is also serving on the Trustees' Public Information Committee and has had 5½ years of sobriety.

In his business life, Jerry has been a radio and television consultant for the past ten years. Prior to that, he was a vice president of N.B.C., both in radio and television.
1971 Survey Reveals Profile
of a Typical A.A. Meeting

Questionnaires filled out by
some 7,000-plus A.A. members at
U.S. and Canadian meetings in the
summer of 1971 provide a "profile
of an A.A. meeting." It is the
theme of A.A.'s new Professional
Exhibit (shown at national profes-
sional conventions only). The
profile is also shown on the one-
way (non-returnable) table top dis-
play available for regional and state
A.A. conferences and conventions
(2' x 4', $9.50).

The sex, ages, occupations,
lengths of sobriety and route to
A.A. of members at a typical A.A.
meeting are depicted with drawings.

An illustrated pamphlet is also
being prepared to show highlights
from this survey. It will be priced
at .05.

Sixty per cent of those who
completed the questionnaires re-
ported from one to 20 or more
years of sobriety. Sixty per cent
also reported no slips after their
first year.

Some other findings are:
One in four members is a woman.
Fifty per cent of those present
are 31-50 years old; ten per cent
are under 31, thirty per cent are
51-65, and ten per cent are over 65.

Occupations are distributed as
follows:

MEN
- Executive, professional, and
technical, 30%.
- Crafts, 20%.
- Service and semi-skilled labor,
20%.
- Sales, 20%, and all others,
10%.

WOMEN
- Homemaker, 40%
- Sales and clerical, 20%.
- Executive, professional, and
technical, 20%.
- Service and semi-skilled labor,
10%, and all others, 10%.

Who sends people to A.A.? One
member in 5 credited a physician
or hospital, one in 6 said a counsel-
or, employer, or clergyman was re-
sponsible.

The 1971 findings are fairly sim-
ilar to those unearthed in A.A.'s
first census, made in 1968. Al-
though the earlier one included al-
most twice as many members, the
1971 version produced additional
information not brought out in
1968, such as occupations.

Between 1968 and 1971, there
is evidence that two trends may be
underway in the Fellowship: (1) a
slight decrease in the percentage of
younger members at meetings, and
(2) an increased proportion of al-
coholics gotten into A.A. not by
A.A. members but by members of
the "helping" professions.

Both findings, however, could
reflect only what is going on in the
groups surveyed, and may not be
true of the rest of A.A.

What is an A.A. Group?

How do you define an A.A.
group?

Nowadays so many kinds of
meetings are held for alcoholics
(courtroom classes, therapy groups,
retreats, encounters, insight groups,
study meetings, etc.) that the ques-
tion often arises: which of these, if
any, is really an A.A. group?

Staff members here at G.S.O.
have pooled their thoughts on this
subject, and we have agreed on six
points that describe what an A.A.
group is. They are:
1. All members of a group are
alcoholics.
2. As a group they are fully self-

supporting.

3. A group’s primary purpose is
to help alcoholics recover
through the suggested 12
Steps.
4. As a group they have no out-
side affiliation.
5. As a group they have no opin-
on outside issues.
6. As a group their public rela-
tions policy is based on attrac-
tion rather than promotion
and they need always main-
tain their personal anonymity
at the level of press, radio,
television and film.

If you have further ideas on this,
please let us know.

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groups surveyed, and may not be
true of the rest of A.A.
Rotation Time at G. S. O.

Once again rotation time is coming up for staff members here at your General Service Office. Ever since we had a staff, we have passed the various office assignments around among us.

Rotation was originally co-founder Bill W.'s idea, and still a good one, we think. It helps keep all of us familiar with all the services at G.S.O., and also prevents any staff member from getting too much of a vested interest in, or feeling indispensable to, one particular service.

In addition to special assignments, staff members handle correspondence with groups in assigned regions of the U.S. and Canada.

As of Oct. 15, the line-up of new duties will be as follows:

MIDGE will be administrative assistant to the Manager, Bob H., a newly created post necessitated by the heavy service demands of a rapidly flourishing fellowship.

ANN will be staff coordinator, secretary to the G.S. Board, to the Trustees’ Policy Committee and the Committee on Conference Policy, and will correspond with groups in Western Canada.

BETH will be the new service coordinator, editor of Box 4-5-9, secretary to A.A. World Services, Inc. as well as to the Trustees’ and Conference Literature Committees.

CORA LOUISE’s assignment will be the annual General Service Conference. She will also be secretary to the Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee, and will correspond with groups in the East Central U.S.

VALERIE will have the Public Information assignment, serving as secretary to the Trustees’ and Conference P.I. Committees. Correspondence area: Eastern Canada.

MARY ELLEN’s principal jobs will be the Professional Relations service and Spanish correspondence. In addition to being secretary of the Trustees’ and Conference Professional Relations committees, she will correspond with groups in the Southwest U.S.

WANETA takes on the Overseas desk, plus the World Service Meeting and the 1975 international convention celebrating A.A.’s 40th anniversary year in Denver, Colorado. Correspondence area: Southeast U.S.

PHYLLIS will continue with the Institutions Service and take on the Internationalist services as well.

WORLD MEETING (from p. 1)

At the close of the 1969 meeting, those present unanimously agreed it had been worthwhile and voted to hold the 1972 session. The meeting is financed by all the participating countries.

As in 1969, at the close of the three-day gathering, delegates will be dais guests at the annual N.Y. Intergroup banquet held to commemorate the anniversary of co-founder Bill W., whose last public address was at the 1969 dinner.

Women delegates are Berenice F., Australia, who was the only woman delegate in 1969; Mireille R., France; Margret K., Germany; Inga-Britt S., Sweden; and Shirley S., North Madison, Ohio, U.S.A. The latter and Ben P., Pratt, Kansas, chosen at the 1972 G.S.O. Conference here in April, will represent the U.S. and Canada.

The three nonalcoholic delegates are Andries Van Staen, Belgium; Dr. Walter H. Lechler, Germany; and Alberto Del Corral, Colombia. They are trustees in their respective countries – counterparts of the seven nonalcoholic trustees on the General Service Board (U.S. and Canada).

Other delegates are Ted G., Australia; Andre M., Belgium; Juan A.M.D., Nicaragua (representing also Panama and Costa Rica); Gordon W. and Bill S., England; Veikko K. and Kalervo S., Finland, Charles A., France, Michael O. and Tony B., Ireland; Jorge V. and Adalaberto L., Mexico; Tom P. and Snow C., New Zealand; Arne P. and Hans K., Norway; Geoff R. and Bill S., South Africa; Hector T., Colombia; and Karl N., Sweden.
A. A. Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

20-22 - Palm Beach, Fla. S. Fla. Election Assembly. Write: Chm., Box 684, Jupiter 33458.
27-29 - Buffalo, N.Y. 21st Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Comm. Conv., Room 534, Ellicott Square Bldg., 295 main St., Buffalo 14203.
27-29 - Winnipeg, Manitoba. Can. 1972 Manitoba, A.A. Conf. Write: Cent. Office, 457 Main St., Rm. 204

OCTOBER

6-8 - Sudbury, Ont., Can. 16th Annu. N.E. Area Conf. Write: Conv. Chm., 1132 Attlee St., Sudbury.
6-8 - Dumfries, Scotland 19th Annua. Blue-Bonnets Gathering. Write: Sec., County Bldg., Blue-Bonnets Gathering, Dumfries.
6-8 - Montreal, Que., Can. 14th Bilingual Que. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 7210 St. Denis St., Montreal 327.
6-8 - Great Falls, Mont. A.A. Al-Anon – Alateen Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 403, Great Falls 59401.
7 - New York, N.Y. Intergroup Dinner & Dance. Write: Dinner Chm., N.Y. Intergroup Association, 24 E. 22nd St., N.Y.C.
20-22 - Palm Beach, Fla. S. Fla. Election Assembly. Write: Chm., Box 684, Jupiter 33458.
27-29 - Buffalo, N.Y. 21st Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Comm. Conv., Room 534, Ellicott Square Bldg., 295 main St., Buffalo 14203.
27-29 - Winnipeg, Manitoba. Can. 1972 Manitoba, A.A. Conf. Write: Cent. Office, 457 Main St., Rm. 204

NOVEMBER

2-5 - Shreveport, La. 27th Annua. Tri-State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Box 495, Shreveport 71101.

DECEMBER


SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

CALIFORNIA
Eureka: Humboldt Del Norte
Con. Comm. $50.00
COLORADO
International Doctors in A.A. 200.00
INDIANA
Fort Wayne: State Conv. 632.37
MINNESOTA
Hoyt Lakes: Upper Minn. Banquet 400.00
MISSOURI
Jefferson City: E. Mo. State Roundup 153.00
NEW YORK
Spring General Service Conf. Western N.Y. 600.00
Rochester: 9th N.Y. State Conv. 330.44
NORTH CAROLINA
Raleigh: Tar Heel Mid-winter Conf. 300.00
Sanford: Vade Mecum Retreat 75.00
NEVADA
Fort Collins: State Conv. 301.50
ONTARIO
CONF. Chrn., Box 961 Nacogdoches 75961.

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