TRUSTEES APPROVE 1960 CONVENTION

A.A. Is Theme Of TV Drama on CBS Oct. 2

"Playhouse 90," one of the best known and most highly respected dramatic programs on television, will feature a fictional story dealing with A.A. in its telecast of Thursday, October 2.

The dramatization, entitled "The Days of Wine and Roses," will be carried over stations affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System. Group G.S.R.s and secretaries are urged to determine the time at which the telecast will take place in their areas and to alert members of their groups and others who may be interested in the A.A. recovery program.

Doctors Plan

Thirty-eight men of medicine attended the recent Tenth Annual Convention of "International Doctors in A.A." at Clayton, New York, according to a report from Dr. Herb C. Many of the conventioners had attended all ten meetings held by the doctors and eight "newcomers" joined the group for the first time.

Plans are already under way for next year's meeting, to be held at the Kenwood Country Club, Bethesda, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. The dates tentatively announced are July 12-13-14, 1959.

General Service Briefs

CENSUS

As announced last month, September has been designated as "A.A. Census Month." All groups are urged to fill out the special census form enclosed with this Bulletin and return it to General Service Office not later than October 15th.

POST OFFICE BOXES

If one of your neighboring groups complains that it is not receiving mail promptly, it may be that the group has failed to continue paying its post office box rent. Occasionally, when new group officers take over, they neglect this important matter—and mail is returned to the sender.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

To answer a number of inquiries, both individual and group contribution checks may be made payable to "General Service Office" or "Group Fund." Checks should be sent to P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y.

USPHS Credits A.A. For Help

A.A. was credited as being an outstanding rehabilitation facility for alcoholics during the course of an historic conference on State Alcohol Programs sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service at Atlanta, Georgia, earlier this year.

The regional meeting, which attracted national experts and alcoholism workers from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi was the first of its kind in history to be arranged by the U.S.P.H.S. Of the states listed, all but Mississippi have statewide programs in this field.

A second similar regional conference in another area in 1959 was regarded as a virtual certainty by several who attended the Atlanta meeting.

Grapevine

"I don't see how we can avoid taking inventory if continued sobriety is to be attained," writes the anonymous author of an article on Taking Inventory in the September issue of The A.A. Grapevine.

Other featured articles include a reprint of an article, I Was Made To Be Me, by novelist Victoria Lincoln and an essay, Words Can't Say Everything.
Carrying The Message Of '58 Conference

General Service Conference Delegates report that they have been active in recent months in giving members in various Areas first-hand descriptions of G.S.O. activities and needs.

Nearly half of membership in the Province of Alberta, Canada, had heard Delegate Ken P.'s Conference report by mid-July.

Georgia's Delegate, Louis M. addressed approximately sixty General Service workers earlier this Summer at Macon. A study is currently being made of the need for increasing the number of Committeemen in the State.

900 Miles Overnight

Jim H., Alabama Delegate, traveled 900 miles overnight this Summer to report to groups in his Area.

More than 200 persons heard the Conference report by State Delegate Jim O. at Spokane in July.

John F., Delegate for the Springfield, Massachusetts Area, enlists the help of group General Service Representatives in making his local reports. The GSRs are also urged to give four-to-five-minute summaries of Exchange Bulletin items each month.

A. A. CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER**

5-6-7 - COOKE FOREST, PA. (Contact Pittsburgh Central Office)

13-14 - ANNUAL NEW JERSEY CONVENTION - Seton Hall University, South Orange.

27-28 - MICHIGAN STATE CONFERENCE - Contact: P.O. Box 35, Flint, Michigan.


27-28 - KANSAS STATE CONFERENCE - Colby

**OCTOBER**

3-5 - ATLANTIC REGION CONVENTION - Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Canada.

11-12 - MISSOURI STATE CONFERENCE - St. Louis, Mo.

11-12 - SASKATCHEWAN 9TH ANNUAL ROUNDSUP - Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon (Box 251).

10-12 - GEORGIA STATE CONVENTION - Bon Air Hotel, Augusta (Contact: P.O. Box 3454, Augusta).

11-12 - MOHAWK-HUDDSON CONFERENCE - Radcliff Hudson Hotel, Troy, N.Y.

16-18 - ANNUAL NEW JERSEY DANQUET - Mosque Theater, Newark.


18-19 - 9TH STATE CONVENTION - Hi Way House Motel, Phoenix

26-14TH ANNUAL MONTREAL (CANADA) DANQUET - Windsor Hotel.

**DECEMBER**

8-9 - BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE - Canadian Legion Hall, Vancouver.


**NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FIELD**

The following editorial is reprinted from the July-August issue of Here's How, published monthly by the Chicago Central Office of A.A., 205 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.

ANONYMOUS—EVEN BY MAIL

The letter was sent to the man at his office. His address, not yet known. And the letter wasn't marked personal. Naturally the men's secretary opened the envelope; that's part of her job. And naturally, having opened it, she read enough to find out that disposition should be made of the letter.

It happened to be enough to tell him this. What she hadn't known before— that her boss was an alcoholic, a member of A.A.

The boss himself had been careful not to break his anonymity. This one careless letter broke it for him, and broke it wide.

There was another letter. This one was sent to a public restaurant where an A.A. group was regularly holding a meeting.

So no one could have any doubts at all, the first line of the address on the envelope shouted it in capital letters: "Alcoholics Anonymous—No Name.

That particular letter broke the anonymity, just of one man, but of an entire group. The envelope itself made it certain that the manager and the assistant manager and the cashier and the waiters and waitresses and the bus boys and anyone else around could know that the meeting group was a bunch of alcoholics.

Trivial matter? Not in our book, which happens to be the big book.

This fellowship of ours wasn't carelessly formed. And what it was named was Alcoholics Anonymous—full stress on both words in the title, the second at least as much as the first.

Reasons For Importance

There's a whole clutch of reasons for the importance of anonymity.

Chief among them are the spiritual reasons. Anonymity is a method of showing forth the human instead of the machinery. It's a proper and morally profitable way of guarding against the prideful puffery of publicity-seeking.

But there are practical reasons for this precedent, too, and they're weighty.

It's essential for the group protection that no one make public boast—or public apology—for his association with the fellowship. For if he boasts or apologizes and then stumbles, the whole movement will suffer for his stumbling.

It's also essential for personal protection that no one break the anonymity of his fellows—not even by mail.

The problem of the large may take it for granted that alcoholism is no more reprehensible a disease than diabetes. Someday—but not yet. So a man or woman who wants to keep it quiet that he or she is disease-stricken deserves to be permitted to do just that.

No one need be ashamed of his affiliation with A.A. Everyone ought, though, to be fully discreet about that affiliation. He should be made much more often discreet—he should be quiet—about the affiliation of others, all others.

G. S. O. STAFF SERVICE

Within our Fellowship the word "service" is both common and misunderstood. Most members commonly accept the fact that some form of service, from coffee-brewing to Twelfth Step work, is necessary to keep a local group alive. Service is readily apparent as something our friends and neighbors do to help us as individuals and as members of a unique human society. At the group level we recognize service in terms of the people who perform it.

When we talk about the services performed at A.A.'s General Service Office, it is not always easy to remember that the same principle applies: that there can be no service without servants.

Duties Are Listed

That's why we have listed on the facing page the first names and the specific duties of the six Staff Members at G.S.O. who are largely responsible for "carrying the A.A. message" on what is virtually a global basis. Many members already know these gals by name. Thousands of other members still think of G.S.O. service as something vague and not quite clearly defined.

These six gals, all of them alcoholics, all of them highly experienced in A.A. "structural" affairs, rotate their duties on a yearly basis. This means that, over a period of years, each becomes acquainted with distinctive regional problems as well as with special categories within A.A.—Institutional Groups, Loners, Internationalists, etc. The 1958 rotation became effective September 1.

Six Spelling

The outline on the next page shows the particular areas of responsibility assigned to each Staff Member for the coming year. Your group may wish to file it for quick reference if and when some problem requiring correspondence may arise.

At G.S.O., service is spelled six ways: Hazel, Eve, Lyb, Anita, Ann and Jane. The work they do is important to every newcomer seeking personal help and to every old-timer concerned for A.A.'s survival as a Fellowship.

**SEPTEMBER IS**

"A. A. CENSUS MONTH"
G.S.O. Staff Assignments For Coming Year

The listing below indicates the primary fields of responsibility of the six Staff Members at G.S.O., as well as the specific territories assigned to each for purposes of group correspondence.

Staff Members normally serve as secretaries of committees of A.A. service entities such as the General Service Board, the General Service Committee and the Conference. In certain cases, to satisfy practical requirements, they hold titles in corporate structures such as A.A. Publishing Inc.

Service assignments are rotated annually. Correspondents are urged to consult this listing to be sure that mail relating to a particular territory or category of A.A. is directed to the proper Staff Member.

Hazel R.
COORDINATOR
3rd Vice-President—A.A. Publishing
Secretary, Policy Committee of the General Service Board and of General Service Conference Assistant Secretary, General Service Board
Secretary—1960 Convention Group Correspondence:
Alabama
Arkansas
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Louisiana
Maryland
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

SAME SERVICE
A few of our correspondents still refer to "The Alcoholic Foundation" and seem puzzled by the term "General Service Office." Briefly, use of the phrase "The Alcoholic Foundation" was dropped several years ago when the body of Trustees for the Fellowship became known as the General Service Board. "General Service Office" is the operating arm of the Board. It is the same unit that used to be referred to as "the Foundation office," "the New York office," "General Service Headquarters" etc.

REPORTS
Final Reports of the G.S. Conferences are marked "Confidential." Does this mean that a member who is not a group (or Area) worker cannot obtain a copy? Extra copies of Conference Final Reports are available to any interested member at $1.00 a copy from G.S.O. These Reports are confidential only in the sense that, since they list the names and addresses of Delegates, Trustees and G.S.O. staff members, they should not be circulated outside of the Fellowship or used in any manner that will compromise the anonymity of members.

Eve M.
1959 CONFERENCE
Secretary, General Service Committee
Secretary, A.A. Publishing, Inc.
Secretary, Conference Agenda Committee
Secretary, Conference Report and Charter Committee
Secretary, Conference Admissions Committee
Public Information Service Secretary, Public Information Committee
Public Relations—Inquiries

Lyb S.
OVERSEAS SERVICES
(Outside United States & Canada, except Hawaii)
Secretary, Literature Committee of the General Service Board
Secretary, Literature Committee, General Service Conference Group Correspondence:
Africa
Asia
Australia & Oceania
Europe
United Kingdom
Central America
Caribbean Islands
South America

Ann M.
GROUP SERVICES
Coordinate Monthly Exchange Bulletin
Coordinate Service Surveys and New Services
International Services Group Correspondence:
Internationalists
Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Rhode Island
Vermont
Ontario:
Quebec

Jane F.
INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE
Hospital and Prison Service
Secretary, Nominating Committee of the General Service Board
Secretary, Trustees Committee, General Service Conference
Group Correspondence:
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Michigan
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Wisconsin

Anita R.
GROUP DIRECTORY & RECORD SERVICE
Secretary, Finance & Budgetary Committee of the General Service Board
Secretary, Conference Finance Committee
Loner's Listing
Group Fund Appeal
Group Correspondence:
Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Guam
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

EDUCATIONAL
The Willow Run Training Group, Erie, Pennsylvania, has the special distinction of meeting in a "little red schoolhouse" owned by one of its members.

Q. & A.
What is your group doing about the two new G.S.O. pamphlets, "Partners in A.A." and "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship?" The editor of "All Around Ontario," published for Canadian groups, asks the question and then provides one answer: "We know of one group which has ordered a sufficient quantity to enable one of each to be given to each member, with some left over. These will not be put on the table with the rest of the literature but will be kept by the Secretary and set given to each new member who joins the group."

Approved Definition
Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership.

We are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorsing nor opposing any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.
SOBER ALCOHOLIC CONFUSING TO SOME MEDICAL OFFICERS

From a variety of locations comes increasing evidence that medical officers in the Armed Forces are beginning to appreciate A.A.'s help, even when they do not fully understand how it works.

The following confirmation is an excerpt from a letter from Sgt. Bob E., with the Moschehaus Group at Soest, Germany:

Of the several avenues open to us in seeking a line on pixilated potentials, the medics have proved to be the most cooperative. We have written direct and primary referrals. In all three cases the officers involved made it quite clear that the disease was alcoholism and the therapy would have to be exposure to the A.A. program. So far, by the grace of truly benevolent Providence, they have arrested the disease and even seem to be pleased about it.

In one instance the chappy is on a "return for a look-see every three months" basis. Between the sixth and ninth months there was a change of medical officers in this lad's unit.

The new M.O. appears to have somewhat less knowledge of us than his predecessor. He looked the lad all over and then said, "There is something wrong with your son."

"Our hero smiled and said, "On the contrary, sir, I am an alcoholic."

The M.O. checked the paper-work dating back some considerable time and said, "It does show that here but you appear to be in the best of health now: how much are you drinking?"

Tommy said, "As a matter of fact I haven't had a drink in six months."

"Then," said the medic, "we can mail this file, closed. You are cured."

Our boy baited him a bit, "I am with the A.A. group, sir, and they suggest very strongly that I not forget that I am an alcoholic in fact that I am, as of now at least, incurable."

The M.O. was patient. "Look, lad; I have to state that you are in excellent health and that there is no further need for you to come here for checks, so that means cured to me, "Kay?"

"It's a funny thing, sir," said Tommy. "The medical service spent many months trying to convince me that I was an alcoholic and now that I have come here for checks, you start telling me that I'm not. Anyway for safety I better listen to the A.A. group-with your blessing, I hope."

The M.O. smiled and said, "The blessing bit is a little out of my league, but I will mark this case closed for the record. But personally I think you had better keep doing whatever it is that I think you are doing, because if you don't show up here in the condition that this file shows you were in before, I wouldn't bet on your survival chances."

New Facilities in Australia

The July issue of The Reviver, published for A.A. members in Australia, features a special article on The M. O. Dolphin Group and Alcoholism" by the Hon. W. F. Sheahan, State Minister for Health in New South Wales.

Mr. Sheahan, well known as a friend of A.A., pays tribute to the Fellowship in the course of his description of the new North Ryde Psychiatric Centre which will eventually have facilities for 800 alcoholic patients.

Mary F. and her husband of Buffalo, N. Y., both new A.A. members report that they not only enjoyed their first sober vacation in years in a small Wisconsin town but were also delighted to be able to meet a Loner in town. It was hard to tell who benefitted most, Mary or the locals. (Have other members made it a practice to "look up" Loners on their travels?)

Kas Ir A. A.

-In Latvian

The interest in translations of A.A. literature continues to expand. With G. S. O. translations of the A.A. text being written by students, a Latvian version of the pamphlet This Is A.A. in Latvian the title is Kas Ir A.A. The translation was developed by a young woman in Canada who is physically handicapped and unstable to attend many meetings. She has also translated the Twelve Steps into Latvian.

HUSH MONEY

The Norwalk, California, group has a special coffee tin for "small change" contributions to G. S. O. But the money now is metal. The one-pound tin has been lined carefully with carpeting!

Easy Does It

INTERNATIONALISTS

Dolphin Group Unchallenged As 'Low Bottom'

Who are the "lowest bottom" members in all of A.A.?

Leading challenges for that title right now are the members of a small Internationalist group aboard the U. S. submarine Dolphin, which has been engaged in operations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean during the past Summer.

"The Dolphin group is doing fine," Bill O. writes. "Our meetings don't always run according to schedule but A.A. has never needed organization in any way. Some meetings are held as deep as 300 feet when we are engaged in operations. Am I right in believing these are the first A.A. meetings to be conducted beneath the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea? We probably the first group aboard a U. S. submarine also, but hope it won't be long before other submarines are equipped with the A.A. message.

Bill notes that the inhabitants of Rhodes, Athens, Naples and Malta were astonished to see a group of American sailors who didn't drink. Bill argues that it's been quite amazing to find out how many foreign ports can be visited without drinking.

Write To Bombay

Laura C. of Richmond, Virginia, does more than merely talk about A.A. She writes to Bombay. "And it's been quite amazing to find out how many foreign ports can be visited without drinking."

Correspondence Helps Him

Ioe C. of Montreal has an interesting and "selfish" (in the best sense) reason for correspond ing with Loners. Ioe feels that putting his thoughts about A.A. in writing helps him to appreciate and understand the program better.

Ioe thinks that the benefits that come from the actual writing, even before a letter is mailed, are the mental and physical type of Twelfth Step work, "he writes. "The replies I get are the dessert."

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Fort Lauderdale, Florida - $25 should have been credited to the Beach Group, rather than to the Group Ex-The Sea.