NEW WORLD DIRECTORY
IN TWO VOLUMES

Part I: The new A.A. World Directory 1969: Part 1 (U.S. and Canada) will be mailed free of charge to each listed group and Loner early in April. If your group furnished correct information on the Group Information Cards before the printer's deadline, it will be properly listed, along with the groups' contributions for worldwide 12th-step work.

The Directory is, of course, strictly confidential—to be used only by A.A. members and only for A.A. purposes.

A total of 1,151 new groups is listed for the first time this year, and names of 610 Canadian and U.S. groups have been removed because they are inactive.

Part II: A separate section (Part II—Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and Spanish America (i.e. all A.A. outside U.S. and Canada) is now in preparation and will be mailed during the summer.

This is the first year in A.A.'s history the World Directory has been issued in two volumes. The first "directory," published in 1940, consisted of only two mimeographed sheets of paper listing 22 U.S. cities where A.A. meetings were trying to start.

G. S. O. Bustles With Activity

Your G.S.O. is brimming with activity this spring—all involved in A.A.'s primary purpose of carrying the message of recovery, unity, and service.

A few of the things going on are:
1. Quarterly meetings of the General Service Board and its committees in January brought our 21 trustees together—nine nonalcoholics, eight regionally chosen A.A.'s and four "service" trustees (A.A. members from the metropolitan New York area).

Arriving in New York Saturday evening, they began sessions at 10 a.m. Sunday and were still at it Monday night. Policy, Nominating, and Literature Committees met. Among other things, the Board approved the 1969 Conference agenda.

This year a special meeting of the "18th Floor A.A. group" was held Monday morning, at which three regional trustees and Mary Ellen U., latest A.A. addition to G.S.O., told their A.A. stories.

Committee meetings at G.S.O. tend to be very serious, as all present try to fulfill their responsibility of keeping an eye on every aspect of A.A. for the rest of us. But the A.A. meeting, like any other meeting of any A.A. group, was warmly human, both informative and inspiring.

(To p. 4)
ALABAMA
Birmingham: 13th Ala.-N.W. Florida A.A. Conv. ... $  102.09
ARIZONA
Phoenix: 1968 State A.A. Conf. ...  30.00
State A.A. Fund ... $  76.69
ARKANSAS
Little Rock: Ark. A.A. State Assm. ...  162.00
CALIFORNIA
Hollywood: So. Calif. Conv. ...  2,621.45
Newport: Districts 5, 6 & 12 ...  10.00
San Diego: Central All Group Grat. Meeting ...  56.52
COLORADO
3rd Legacy Comm. ...  500.00
CONNECTICUT
Hartford: District 2 & 7 Open Meeting ...  25.00
FLORIDA
Gratitude Dinner Broward County District 7 ...  877.49
KANSAS
Russell: Kansas St. Assm. ...  250.00
LOUISIANA
Shreveport: 23rd Annu. Tri-State Conv ...  225.00
MASSACHUSETTS
New England Conf. ...  100.00
MICHIGAN
Lansing: Cent. Mich. Inter-Area Council ...  65.00
Pontiac: Alano Center-Gps. of Oakland Co. ...  59.02
MISSOURI
N. Kansas City: Western Mis. Area Conf. ...  108.80
NEBRASKA
State Comm. ...  100.00
NEVADA
Panel 17 Delegates S. Nev. Roundup ...  150.00
NEW HAMPSHIRE
State Assem. ...  200.00
OREGON
District # 6 ...  10.00
RHODE ISLAND
R.I. General Assem. ...  100.00
TEXAS
23rd A.A. State Conv. ...  650.00
WASHINGTON
Kirkland: Eastside Beginners' Gp. ...  70.00
Seattle: Seattle Gps. Xmas Party ...  167.38
CANADA
Alberta: Edmonton: 18th Alta. Prov. Conf. ...  500.00
B.C.: Okanagan Valley A.A. Round Up ...  60.00
Ontario: Central East Area Comm ...  100.00
Ottawa Area Alkathon ...  29.00
Ottawa Area Nat. Meet ...  18.50
Ann. International Meeting ...  25.00
Temisk-Maming-Cochrane Area Comm. ...  100.00
W. Toronto Men's Meeting ...  275.00
E. Toronto Men's Meeting ...  138.75

A NEW ZEALANDER SHARES...

"I always enjoy Assemblies, getting together with A.A.'s from all over the Islands," writes Norma B., Pukekohe, Auckland, New Zealand.

"During the business part we nominated two members to go to the first World Service Meeting in New York in October. What a great thrill and honour for the two finally chosen!

"On the 16th of next month I will have two years of continuous sobriety, very happy for me and my husband also—as he is alcoholic, too, going on for 4 years' sobriety. We have a much happier home now that there are two sober A.A.'s instead of one.

"The joy we get from our little boy (Brett David) who is just one year old and the knowledge that my husband loves and respects me bring me my serenity.

TAPES FOR INSTITUTIONS

A.A. groups in jails, prisons, hospitals and rehab centers can now use our special Institutional Loan Library: five tapes for two weeks at a time.

GROUP PROBLEMS SOLVED HERE

Every new group gets one free, of course, as soon as we learn of the group's address and can start furnishing the group with the various free services it is entitled to from G.S.O.

But other groups can have one ($3.00).

It's big and blue and contains all the stuff a group needs to get started—and keep going well. Record forms, lists of free guidelines and other literature available, tips on meetings, finance... and on and on.

What is it? It's "The Group Handbook"—a looseleaf binder chock full of A.A. helpfulness. No group should be without it.

HOW IT WORKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

"Dear G.S.O.: Two months ago we held our first meeting of young people here with many unstable feelings, apprehensions and a great need. We had only two members and a fellow alcoholic from jail.

"We have seven alcoholics now, six under forty. We made a 12th Step call on a girl just before she was committed to a mental institution. We corresponded with her faithfully, and she contacted us when she returned. We've given our literature away freely.

"We attend other groups two or three times a week. Enclosed is our $3.00 per member per year for support of G.S.O. Thanks for the free packet of literature and the 'Group Handbook.'

"We follow the 12 Steps suggested for recovery, and use the 12 Traditions as the mainstay of our group.

"Write us... We need you."

—Joyce L., Southwest, New Hope Group
GRAPEVINE FEATURES M.D.

April issue, with that beautiful 3-color Serenity Prayer cover, has choice insides, too: “Seeking Through Meditation” – how-to-do-it by an A.A. doctor; “Be Still and Know”; “Bleeding Deacon” (from Scotland); “Chance Encounter” (an English woman’s story); “The Wonder Still Lives” – a Big Book story updated; and lots of humor.

May: “Defiance” – a Mass. guy whose wife is in Al-Anon; “Watch out for that 14th Drink!”; “Behind Walls in A.A.”; “The Goal of Perfection” from Jackson, Mich.; pieces on sponsorship and gratitude; a Cape Cod oldtimer’s criticism of things said at meetings; Victor E.; “Once Over Lightly”; “Around A.A.” and “About Alcoholism.”

A.A. IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

S 21 YEARS OLD

Perth, capital of Western Australia

From Perth, Dorothy D. tells us about the “A.A. Coming Of Age” celebration at which Jim W. of Bunbury, who first introduced A.A. into the region, spoke. They had met in Toronto in 1965.

Dorothy leaves Australia in May (anybody know any A.A. aboard the P & O Arcadia?) and hopes her husband gets sent back to Ireland (she loved Limerick meetings) – “wherever we are sent I am only hopeful there will be good A.A.”

Dorothy, wherever you go, that will be true, we think.

We Need Some Answers

We get S.O.S.’s from groups sometimes, so we pass them on to you. If you’re willing to share your experience to help out other groups, drop us a note with your suggestions on these two requests:

1. “Only one member of our group is available for 12th-step calls in the daytime. Is it okay to pay the costs to her from group funds, as she is not financially able to handle this by herself?”

2. “What formats do other groups follow to add zip to meetings, that is, how do you open the meeting? how, when, and what about announcements? how many speakers? how close the session?”

Mail your answers to Box 4-5-9, New York, N.Y. 10017.

TO FIND A.A. IN CAM RANH BAY...

“If any seamen ask about A.A. at Cam Ranh Bay (Vietnam), tell them to get in touch with the guy that stores all the beer and soda they bring over in their ships,” writes Aubrey T., from a San Francisco A.P.O. number.

“I am the N.C.O.I.C. of the Beer and Soda Yard for the Army and Air Force exchange system. They can see the Yard from any pier they dock at.

“On the Loners’ list in 1958, I was almost swamped with mail, I can never thank you at G.S.O. enough for what you’ve done for me the many times I asked for help in some foreign country.”

(Just pass it on, there at the Yard, of course, Aubrey...as you’ve done all along!)

TRAVELING BIG BOOK

The Rev. Miller C. Lovett, fresh out of the Seminary in 1945, traveling west to take his first assignment, found his traveling companion to be from his home town. The miles passed pleasantly by as they talked of home and family.

The new minister was quite taken by his new friend’s frankness in telling of his son’s alcoholism, but he was even more interested in what the son had done about it.

The father told how they had tried everything and nothing helped until the son had joined A.A.

The minister showed so much interest that his traveling companion sent him a copy of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (the “Big Book”) in 1945 at his post in the state of Washington.

Being a friend to the alcoholic from that day on, the clergyman loaned the book many times and it would be missing over long periods. But it always found its way back until he loaned it in 1960.

Then in 1968 he transferred from Washington to Laconia, New Hampshire. Having given up all hope of ever seeing the book again, imagine his surprise the other day when he received an anonymous package in the mail. You guessed—after eight years, the Big Book was returned!

—Sam & George J., Rye, N.H.

(Anybody else have good stories about straying copies of the Big Book? With 34 million of them sold, many things could happen. Have you loaned, or left behind, or otherwise “lost” one lately? It might be one good way to carry the message!)
Conference Delegates 1969

Alabama & N.W. Florida: Ted C. (19), Birmingham, Al.
Baltimore, Maryland: William F. (19), Baltimore.
California: Art K. (19), Los Angeles; Bill B. (18), Laguna Beach; Ralph W. (18), Sacramento, California; Evelyn B. (19), Denver.


What Do Panel Numbers Mean?

Delegates to each Conference are made up of two "members." One is even-numbered and includes those elected to start serving in an even year. The other is odd-numbered and includes those elected to start serving in an odd year. This 1969 Conference is made up of Panel 18-the old delegates—and Panel 19—the new delegates.

VACATION PLANNING?

Two A.A. women planning, Peg (Albany) and Ann (N.Y.C.) had similar vacation experiences. New in sobriety they went on vacation trips without knowing any A.A.'s in other cities. How could they keep in touch and stay sober?

Peg wrote five cards a day to her newfound A.A. friends back home. Ann wrote daily to the leader of the first beginners' meeting she had attended (the only A.A. she had before the trip!).

Result? Both stayed sober beautifully. "With this kind of friendship, who needs a drink?" Peg writes.

But it can be easier, if you'll make sure you get a new World Directory before you go (your G.S.R. or Secretary can order one for you). Then you can look for an A.A. welcome nearly all over the world.

And if New York is on your agenda, please be sure to visit us—the 18th floor, at 305 East 45th Street.

ACTIVITIES (from P. 1)

the year around. This year sessions will concentrate on the group conscience and the ways it helps to insurance our unity.

Two regional trustees complete their four-year terms of service this year: Tom B. of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, Canada, and Frank R. Lowell, Mass. Their successors will be chosen from nominations submitted from Western Canada and Northeast U.S.A.

(3) 1969 also brings a historical A.A. first in October, the first World Service meeting, with delegates from 12 A.A. nations other than Canada and the U.S. Our Board and the G.S.O. staff are involved in planning for these sessions, too, of course.

(4) Recent visitors to G.S.O. included Dr. George Dimas, president, and Mr. Augustus Hewlett, executive secretary, of the North American Association of Alcoholism Programs, and Mr. Bill Moore, the new executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism. We had fruitful discussions about cooperation among professional alcoholism workers and A.A. members who traditionally prefer to remain nonprofessional 12th-stoppers.

(5) Every day, too, further progress is made in planning the 35th anniversary year A.A. International Convention in Miami Beach. More on that in coming issues.

(6) The phone rings, letters arrive, visitors come to see us—and thanks to your help, the message of A.A. is being carried from G.S.O. around the world. May 1969 be the best A.A. year for the most sick alcoholics yet!

BARGAIN-MINDED?

If so, see the listing of discount literature packages on the new Spring 1969 order blank enclosed with this bulletin.

Package #1 includes pamphlets; package #2—books; package #3—books and pamphlets; package #4—books and pamphlets, and package #5—the A.A. Library (all books and Conference-approved literature).
SERVICE MEETINGS
AROUSE ENTHUSIASM

A.A.'s in California and New York recently held new and different "service meetings" which aroused great enthusiasm.

At the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, Calif., a 13-hour "Symposium on Service" sparked such great interest that Warren S., Laguna Beach (Conference Delegate 1968-69) wrote us a detailed account of it.

Would you believe—the 145 California A.A. members present took no coffee breaks, paid $10 apiece for their "training," and even kept reports going during meals?!

Borrowing from university and industrial training programs, the morning sessions were devoted to local service (the A.A. group), the afternoon to area service and G.S.O.

"An absolutely fascinated and excited group of people!" is Warren's description of the results.

On each subject there were talks by informed members, then, believe it or not, a test! Discussion of the answers was followed by a problem-solving session, for which the participants divided into 8-man units.

Everyone got a package of literature—including the miniature Grapevine, "The A.A. Group," a Guidelines listing, the G.S.R. folder and other items. Textbook for the day was The Third Legacy Manual.

Talks by Sumner C., a former trustee, by a physician, an industrialist and a judge led to the closing event, the movie "Time for Decision."

Warren S. keeps in close touch with all former delegates of his area, too.

The General Service Committee of

RERUN OF TV SHOW
FEATURING A.A.

In December, 1968, the TV show, "Judd for the Defense" presented an episode dealing with the subject of A.A., which was enthusiastically received by many members. This same production will be RERUN ON APRIL 4 over the ABC NETWORK AT 10 p.m. EST.

Southeastern N.Y. recently devoted a bi-monthly assembly to discussion of The A.A. Grapevine, Box 4-5-9, and The Link, monthly newsletter of the committee. Editors from all three were present. In preparation, each G.S.R. and committee member was asked to poll his group about the publications.

Marjorie M., committee chairman, and her cohorts arranged this unusual and stimulating session.

COMPARE YOUR GROUP
WITH UPHAM CORNER?

To determine if they were living up to the "I Am Responsible" declaration, members of the Upham Corner Group took inventory for 1968, and James McC., Dorchester, Mass., reports:

Sixty-four speaking commitments (17 in institutions)—none missed; 3 new members, 4 joined other groups, 2 went back for more research; 4 members participated in Central Service Alkathon, one served on Heartline at Central Service, one on banquet committee, one made chairman of Central Service Steering Committee, one made area chairman, one served on 6th Conference Assembly of Eastern Mass.

Any other group have a report?

Our Group Conscience: Voice of A.A.

When your group elected a G.S.R., it set up its stake in this year's meeting of the General Service Conference of A.A. in North America. Your G.S.R., with those of other groups, elected a General Service Committee, which elected an area delegate to serve two years. Your delegate will be in New York April 21-26 to meet with Bill, trustees, staff, other delegates, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors.

"Our Group Conscience: Voice of A.A." (from Tradition Two) is the theme this year.

The Conference was created in 1951 to hold in trust for A.A.'s total membership, the ultimate authority and responsibility for A.A. world services. Today, as Bill puts it in his "Twelve Concepts": "The General Service Conference of A.A. has become...the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs."

What kind of responsibilities will this Conference meeting deal with? With matters affecting A.A. growth; with interpretations of Traditions guiding us in our relations with one another and with the public; with the selection of new trustees. Actions of the 19th Conference meeting will be reported in the Conference Digest, mailed to all groups May 15. Also these actions will be reported by your delegate, committee member and G.S.R. —Conference Secretary

TRINIDAD REACHES OUT

How long has it been since your group had a Hindu priest...or a Presbyterian minister...or 175 people at a meeting?

From Trinidad, West Indies, R.M. fills us in on group anniversaries there, with details like these: El Dorado had 175 at its 11th; Las Lomas had 120 (including the Hindu) at its second; San Juan Unity celebrated its third with a 4-hour meeting (Presbyterian Padre was guest speaker); Londenville had 120 at its first; Paradise celebrated its 4th; and 200, including physicians and clergymen, attended the 9th convention of North and South Trinidad.

They are 12th-stepping in a mental hospital, the poor house, a general hospital, and among the blind.

Trinidad wishes "all the A.A.'s and their families throughout the world a happy sober 1969." The same to you and yours, R.M., and your fellow Trinidad A.A.'s.
A. A. Calendar of Events

MARCH
28-30 – New Orleans, La., 2nd Conv. & 26th Annv. of A.A. Write: Chm., 4170 Holy Cross Place, Kenner, La.

APRIL
12-13 – Neenah, Wis., No. Wis. – Upper Michigan Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 52, Menasha, Wis.
18-20 – N.Y., N.Y., 11th Annv. S.E. N.Y. Conv. & Banq. Write Chm., Box 5468, Grand Central Sta., N.Y.

MAY
2-4 – Bradford, Pa., Western N.Y. Area G.S. Conv. Write: Conv. Secy., 640 Tienesta Ave., Kane, Pa.

9-11 – Pembroke, Ont., 7th Annv. Upper Ottawa Valley Area Conv. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 1, Pembroke.
17-18 – Kamloops, B.C., Ca., 22nd Anniv. Roundup. Write: Kamloops Gps. Roundup, Box 333, Kamloops, B.C.
18 – Bloomington, Ill., State A.A. Roundup. Write: Chm., 69 Town & Country Dr., Decatur.
23-25 – Anaconda, Mont., Spring Conf. Write: Anaconda Gr., Box 1192, Anaconda.
23-25 – Cook Forest, Pa., Cook Forest Conf.

JUNE
6-8 – Fremont, Neb., 10th Anniv. State Conv. Write: Chm., Box 539, Fremont.
6-8 – Palm Springs, Ca. Desert Round-up. Write: Chm., Box 541, Palm Springs.

YOUNG AT HEART?
Both the young and the young at heart are cordially invited to the 12th International Conference of Young People in A.A., July 25-27 in Philadelphia, Pa. For information write 12th Int'l Conf., 2202 S. James St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 U.S.A.

DOCTORS IN A.A.
All physicians and dentists in A.A. are cordially invited to this year's meeting of International Doctors in A.A. Aug. 8-10 in Morristown, N. J. For information write I.D.A.A., Information Sec'y., 1950 Volney Rd., Youngstown, O. 44511.

6-8 – The Pas, Manitoba, Ca., No. Manitoba Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 188, The Pas.
7-8 – Des Moines, Ia. West Con. Regional and Iowa State Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., Box 4773, Jackson.

JULY 1970
2,3,4 – 35th A.A. Anniversary and International Conv., Miami Beach, Florida.

Box 4-5-9 is not Exclusive

To the G.S.R. or Secretary: although this newsletter may be addressed to you by name, it is not intended for your private, exclusive use. It is to be shared with all members of your group, or any other A.A.'s.

Maybe you will put it on the group's bulletin board and call attention to it as many other G.S.R.'s do. Others read part of it aloud at group meetings for discussion.

(If you have paid $1.00 for your own personal subscription to Box 4-5-9, of course, that's different. Anyone can do that who wishes, and some groups order enough copies each time for all members. There are quantity discounts, too; just $2.50 per year brings you ten copies of each issue.)