

A.A.s in India Build Ever-Widening 'Road of Happy Destiny'

Early in May A.A.s in India joyfully gathered for the 27th General Service Conference of A.A. in India. Conference members were seated in the front and, unlike our Conference, other A.A.s and Al-Anons could observe from the back of the room. On hand to witness the group conscience process were two members of the General Service Office, New York—Greg M., general manager, and Eva S., who has the International assignment. Both carried away memories of what Eva recalls as “the shining example of A.A.’s love and service that we encountered everywhere we went.” Adds Greg: “So many moving experiences unfolded each day and forever altered my own life for the better. I pray to be able to transform what I’ve learned into a real benefit in my personal A.A. life.”

A.A. in India was introduced by Harry M., a traveler who found sobriety in New Delhi and then moved to Mumbai (formerly called Bombay), where A.A. was founded. Then there’s a story that appeared in the July 1957 Grapevine relating that in February 1956, G.S.O. (then called



Break during Conference, Bangalore

General Service Headquarters) “set the loom for India’s magic carpet” in New Delhi by answering the inquiries of an English housewife [Sylvia] and an Indian national [Subatti]; both had been told about A.A. by an Indian psychiatrist, who, in turn, had learned of it from Francis Braceland, M.D., psychiatrist-in-chief at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut.

The following December one Charlie M., of Montreal, Canada, wrote to G.S.O. asking for the names of A.A. contacts in southeast Asia, where he was being transferred for two years. In January

Charlie wrote again: “It took me a week to locate your correspondents, Sylvia and Subatti. When I did, I found them close friends who were toying with the idea of doing something about their drinking but just hadn’t been able to make a start. They have been dry a week now, and we’re going to run an ad in the paper.” A few weeks later Charlie announced: “We were hopefully expecting some inquiries [about our ad]. Well, we got them! Seven replies to the first ad and 23 to the second, from all over India!”

He noted, “You will see we have listed our membership as five—all of them successful so far. I can’t tell you how happy I am to be given the opportunity of sharing with others in this part of the world the program which has meant so much in my life. . . .”

Yet another anecdotal nugget turns up in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (pp. 80-81). Writing circa 1956, A.A. co-founder Bill W. relates, “The New York office [G.S.O.] recently received a letter written by a Jesuit priest in India. It told the story of a Hindu schoolteacher who owned a cow and a tiny plot of ground. His wife was stone deaf and he had a sister who, like

himself, drank like a fish. His salary as a teacher was about 50 cents a day. The Jesuit translated A.A.’s Twelve Steps for him. And. . . in spite of his domineering and drunker sister, he was staying sober. We know that this lone Hindu is probably feeling just the same worries that Dr. Bob and I did back there in



G.S.O. office, Mumbai (Bombay), India.

the living room in Akron. This Hindu pioneer is probably asking, ‘Can I carry this message? Will I be able to form a group?’ Yes, he is asking those very questions. But he will soon be in communication with our world

Box 4-5-9 is published bimonthly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, © Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 2001

Mail address: P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site: www.aa.org

Subscriptions: Individual, \$3.50 per year; group, \$6.00 for each unit of 10 per year. Check—made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc.—should accompany order.

office and we can send solid assurance to that distant outpost that we are with him, all of us, and that our experience is his to draw on.”

This expression of unity echoed strongly with Greg and Eva as they gained firsthand acquaintance with the workings of A.A.'s Conference structure in India. Every intergroup has an office and supplies Twelfth Step services, including literature distribution for the groups in their local areas. Literature is published in local languages and dialects. (The Big Book and basic A.A. pamphlets are now published and printed in India in English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi and Bengali.)



The Sarvodya Group, Bangalore

In Mumbai, which sits on India's west-central coast, Greg and Eva toured India's G.S.O., where they were warmly welcomed by Lawrie F., Class B (alcoholic) chairman of the board of trustees, Shashi P., general manager, and other staff members and volunteers. "The office," Greg says, "consists of three rooms where board meetings are held, literature is stored and service

is supplied. I was struck by the unique way in which Shashi and his volunteers give so much service with so few resources. A true labor of love!"

At an East Mumbai Intergroup meeting the following day, Eva and Greg shared their experience in service, responded to questions about the U.S./Canada committee system, and spoke of the many international services offered by G.S.O. New York. After several hours they were whisked away to share their stories at a meeting of the Reviver Group. Men sat on one side of the room, women and children on the other.

Midway through their visit, the Americans, along with Lawrie, boarded the Udayan Express for the 24-hour train ride from Mumbai to Bangalore, which is down near the southernmost tip of India. "During one of our many conversations with Lawrie," Greg says, "we noticed that a fellow in the neighboring berth was listening intently as he nursed a drink. Finally he turned to us and asked if we were from A.A. When we nodded in the affirmative, he shook his head in disbelief and proceeded to tell us of his drinking and visits to a few A.A. meetings. As we shared our stories, our new friend continued to drink. But he did give us his phone number and address so we could alert local A.A. to make a follow-up call."

In Mumbai, Greg and Eva sat in on the 27th annual meeting of A.A.'s governing body in India, its General Service Conference. Greg, who gave the opening address on the topic, "I Am Responsible," told the participants, "Bill W. wrote in Concept One of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* that 'the final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.' This weekend, as you gather together . . . your voice expressed through the group conscience will codify your acceptance of responsibility for A.A.'s future in India, and assure that the doors of A.A. will remain open for those yet to come." Then Eva gave a presentation on the Conference theme, "Service Sponsorship."

In the past, Greg explains, "there had been no committee system within the A.A. service structure in India, although their *Service Manual* depicts a flow chart similar to ours. A committee system was outlined but not practiced. The Conference was still in its early hours when the chairman introduced the concept of the committee system. After several rounds of questions, followed by discussion, there was a unanimous vote to seat two Conference committees—Agenda and Public Information—with the agreement that at the close of the Conference, the chairman would appoint corresponding trustees' committees. Everyone sensed that something great had been accomplished—that the groups had accepted responsibility for the future of A.A. in India."

After the Conference, Greg and Eva attended a meeting of the Sarvodya Group in the poorer section of Bangalore. "The group meets in a small room off a dark alley, made available by Sister Nancy, a local nun," says Greg. "Its format is based on the A.A. book *Daily Reflections* and has about 15 to 20 members, most of them men. That night Eva and I had been invited to share our stories, and afterward we were received with open arms and embraced by each member. It was a memorable moment." Next day the visiting Americans joined their new friends in celebrating the 35th anniversary of A.A.'s arrival in Bangalore. Remembers Eva: "The speakers emphasized sponsorship, gratitude and A.A.'s singleness of purpose, and were inspiring to hear." She notes that "Al-Anons are very active and go to open A.A. meetings though they don't share. Also, at the three meetings I attended, there didn't seem to be people with problems other than alcohol. Narcotics Anonymous is strong in India and appears to be attracting those with drug-related difficulties. The A.A.s are good about steering nonalcoholic addicts to these meetings."

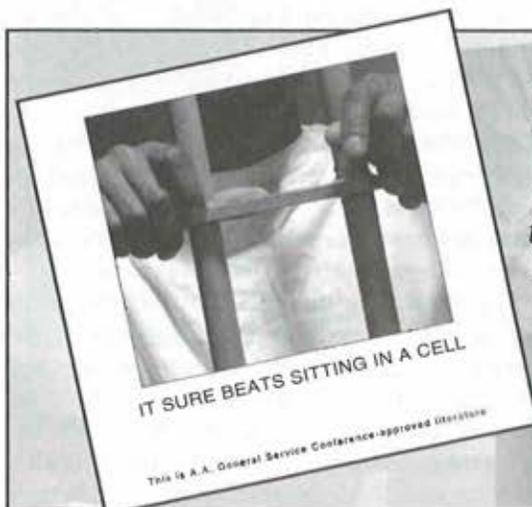
As they took off for the 16-hour flight back home to New York, Greg and Eva hoped that their sharing of A.A.'s rich history in the U.S./Canada would help members in India to know they are not alone. Observes Greg: "I believe the true beneficiary of the week's work is the yet unborn alcoholic in India who will reach out for help—and find that the hand of A.A. is there." Looking back on the memorable journey, Eva recalls the assurance in the Big Book (p. 164) that God "will show you how to create the fellowship you crave. . . . Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny." "In India," she says, "that's how it was."

Canadians Host Intergroup Seminar In Edmonton

The time has come to register for the 16th Annual Central Office/Intergroup/A.A.W.S. Seminar, which will be held September 7-9 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in Edmonton, Alberta. Says Jan D., manager of the Edmonton Central Office: "We are very excited about hosting this event, and ever since last year's Intergroup Seminar in Little Rock [Arkansas], about 40 A.A. volunteers from groups around the area have been working with me to ensure a rewarding time for everyone, complete with all the Northern hospitality we can provide." Noting that registration forms have been sent to all U.S./Canada intergroups and central offices, she says that "the cost of registration is still \$20, while the rooms will run \$79 in Canadian dollars, \$50 in U.S. currency."

"Networking," the theme of this year's seminar, is a concept close to Jan's heart. "That's what carrying the A.A. message is all about," she explains. "I believe we need to network on a daily basis—share our experience, strength and hope—and borrow freely from each other. After all, nothing in A.A. is original. Everything we know and do came from somewhere else, whether the Oxford Group, a variety of spiritual experiences or plain old common sense someone learned the hard way. As [A.A. co-founder] Bill W. said so clearly, "Every aspect of [A.A.'s] global unfoldment can be related to a single crucial word . . . 'communication.'" (As *Bill Sees It*, p. 195)

The weekend of workshops, panel discussions and fellowship will bring together close to 150 intergroup/central office managers and staff, along



The pamphlet, "It Sure Beats Sitting In a Cell" has been revised. Now printed on glossy stock, it has a new layout, more reader-friendly type, and is illustrated with photos. Additional stories depict A.A. members with longtime sobriety who remain incarcerated. Pamphlet is glued for easier accessibility for prisons. P-33; 25¢, 20% discount applies.

with trustees of the General Service Board and A.A. World Services and Grapevine directors and staff. Main topics to be pondered include Twelfth Stepping, literature distribution, protecting anonymity on the Internet, recruiting and keeping volunteers, financial support, office security and much more. Stimulating shop talk is also anticipated from workshops on "Observing A.A.'s Twelve Traditions in the Office," "The Preparation of Newsletters" and "How to Make Groups More Responsive."

"A heartwarming aspect of the Seminar," Jan says, "is the chance it gives us to renew old friendships and make new ones. This is important, because it means that the work we do here will gain momentum as we continue to exchange ideas, and share our problems and solutions with one another via phone, fax and e-mail."

Copies of the Final Report of the 2000 Seminar are nearly gone, so act now if you wish to have one. Write: Sharon M., Arkansas Central Office, 7509 Cantrell Road, Suite 106, Little Rock, AR 72207; or call (501) 664-7303. A \$10 contribution is requested to help cover production and mailing costs.

For further information, or to register, write to Jan D., Edmonton Central Office, 10010 - 107 A Avenue N.W., Suite 206, Edmonton, AB T5H 4H8; or phone (780) 424-5900, fax (780) 426-1929 or e-mail edmontonaa@hotmail.com.

2001 A.A. Membership Survey

Once again it is time for a survey of A.A. membership, which will be conducted in randomly selected groups throughout the United States and Canada. The information gathered by this survey will be used as the basis for the Public Information pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous 2001 Membership Survey." This informational pamphlet, which describes the composition of our Fellowship, has been very successful in introducing and explaining A.A. to nonalcoholic professionals and the general public.

The survey procedure is approved by the General Service Conference, and participation is anonymous and voluntary. If you are asked to fill out a Survey Questionnaire between August 1st and 14th, you will be helping to provide information about our membership to our fellow A.A.s and anyone who would like to know more about us.

If you have any questions about the A.A. Membership Survey, call the Public Information desk at General Service Office.

A.A. Salutes First Woman to Chair the General Service Board

Elaine McDowell, Ph.D., for the past nine years a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee of A.A., is the first woman—and first African-American—to chair the General Service Board. "A.A. has had a profound impact on my own life," she says. "The Steps and Traditions come alive through the members who, in turn, transform



Elaine McDowell, Ph.D.

them into a healing process—their power never ceases to amaze me. Tradition Twelve, with its urging to 'place principles before personalities,' is a beacon of light when issues of money, power and prestige intrude. At day's end it's there to remind us what really counts: "Will this help the suffering alcoholic?"

In the spirit of rotation that is experienced by trusted servants at every level of A.A.'s service structure, Elaine succeeds Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Gary A. Glynn, who has been a member of the board since 1993 and chairman since '97. Gary, a New York City investment analyst and portfolio manager for more than 30 years, brought immeasurable experience to his A.A. tasks as treasurer of the board and chair of the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

However, he has affirmed, "although the continuing good health of A.A. as a self-supporting, nonprofit entity is a priority, I don't view the Fellowship as I would a financial institution. I believe in A.A.'s unwavering adherence to its Three Legacies—Recovery, Unity and Service. In tandem they truly work for the recovery of the alcoholic."

A.A.'s new chairwoman, ever a trailblazer, holds a B.A. from Morgan State University (Baltimore) and an M.S.W. and Ph.D. (in social work) from the University of Maryland. She has more than 28 years' experience in administering prevention, treatment and research programs in the alcohol, drug abuse and mental health fields. During her long federal tenure she rose to the highest career level in the Senior Executive Service: She served as deputy director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and as acting administrator of both the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration. Most recently, from 1988-96, she was director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. After retiring from federal service in December 1996, she spent three years as professor of social work at her alma mater, Morgan State University.

Born in Baltimore, Elaine spent her early childhood in Lumberton, North Carolina, with her maternal grandparents. "They were very spirited and spiritual people," she recalls affectionately. "They taught me that with focus and diligence I could set high goals and reach them, and they also let me know that I am responsible for carrying my weight in the world as a member of the human race and a child of God."

Carry her weight she did. In recognition of her pioneering work in substance-abuse treatment and prevention here and overseas, Elaine has received numerous honors, including two presidential citations and awards from the National Association of Children of Alcoholics and the National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics.

As an A.A. board member Elaine has served on trustees' committees—Public Information, Nominating, International, Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities and International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums—and has been a member of the Grapevine Corporate Board as well. She says that nearly a decade of service as a Class A trustee has convinced her that "the Fellowship's main reservoir of strength is its singleness of purpose." For 66 years, she points out, "the hand of A.A. has been there for the alcoholic. It works! Our long-range job now is to safeguard the future of the Fellowship for those sick alcoholics to come."

Six New Trustees Personify the Power Of Love and Service

In April six new trustees—one Class A (nonalcoholic) and five Class B (alcoholic)—joined the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. All of them express a common desire to serve the Fellowship in any way they can.



Allen L. Ault, Ed.D.

Allen L. Ault, Ed.D., the new Class A trustee, steps into the vacancy created in April by the election of trustee Elaine McDowell, Ph.D., as board chairperson (see article, p. 4). Allen has served, under five different governors, as director of corrections in three states—Colorado, Georgia and Mississippi. He is presently chief of the National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice, a post he has held for more than five years. There, among other things, he is responsible for the development and administration of inmate substance abuse programs. He also has chaired the Criminal Justice Department at Georgia State University.

"The challenge in corrections is greater than ever," Allen says, "what with the explosion of the jail and prison population and, at the same time, a reduction of funding for rehabilitation." He points out that today "there are more mentally ill people in prison than ever, 80 percent or more of them also addicted to alcohol and/or drugs—and compounding the problem, some states handle mental illness and substance abuse separately, even though they frequently go hand-in-hand." He reports that "research by the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates that if alcoholics and drug abusers receive help for their addictions in prison, their recidivism rate is much lower—provided there is followup on the outside immediately after release. So the alcoholic inmate who has been exposed to A.A. inside, then is helped to become a part of mainstream A.A. on the outside, has an excellent chance of staying sober and out of trouble."

Allen and his wife, Anita, enjoy traveling, he says, but if you're a golfer, which he is, home is best: His Virginia home fronts on a golf course. Looking ahead to his work with the A.A. board, he muses, "My life has been spent working, with no time for volunteer activities. Now it's time to give back, and where better than A.A.!"

Archives WORKBOOK

The long-awaited Archives Workbook is now available. This 47-page booklet covers everything you need to know for setting up area, district or group archives. Covers such topics as preservation, oral histories, research forms, reference information and resources.

Available from G.S.O.,
Order Entry Dept.,

1-212-870-3312 or e-mail: orders@aa.org
(M-44I), \$2.50, 20% discount applies.

Charles "Charlie" B., of New Orleans, Louisiana, succeeds Oklahoman Dean R. as trustee-at-large/U.S. Sober 14 years in A.A., Charlie recalls that in fall 1987, "I was at death's door; I temporarily lost the use of my legs, weighed 105 lbs." Finally transferred from the hospital to a treatment center, where there were A.A. meetings, he learned that "the only way I could get out was to have a sponsor. So I picked one, named Sky, for all the wrong reasons. He had a master's degree from Harvard, so I figured, 'He's got me for all the right reasons.' Seriously, though, I came to rely on another human being. Sky stayed the course with me through the Steps, he got me into service. Then one day he said, 'If anything happens to me, get another sponsor, because you can't stay sober yourself.' He died suddenly two days later, and I did as he said."

Charlie holds an Sc.D. in experimental psychology and both an M.A. and M.S. in mathematics. A retired professor and presently an independent oil and gas producer, Charlie last year married Georgia, an A.A. member he'd met while carrying the message into prisons; both are committed to service. As a trustee, Charlie says, he will rely strongly on the Legacies, Concepts and Traditions, especially Tradition Two: "As it tells us, there is but one authority in A.A.—'a loving God as expressed in our group conscience.' I'm for that, and for redoubling my spiritual efforts."

David E., of Maui, Hawaii, follows Florida's Tom M. as general service trustee. Having served at the group, district and area level, and as a delegate and a non-trustee director of the Grapevine since 1997, David is no stranger to general service. Nonetheless, he says, "I am in awe of the task that lies ahead—to follow in Bill W. and Dr. Bob's footsteps in helping to safeguard the future of A.A."

David, who has a strong publishing background and a decade's experience in the computer industry, today publishes visitor guides to Hawaii and is co-owner of an Internet-based travel information and booking business. A member of A.A. since December 1982, he met his wife, Tanya, at an A.A. meeting "early in my sobriety," he remembers, "with me looking pretty unkempt." But the meeting of two recovering alcoholics took, and they married in 1984. Noting that "my father died a drunk, and my brother got sober six years after I did," David says, "I'm incredibly grateful to be sober in A.A., and to have the opportunity to give back a little of the lot that's been given to me."

Dorothy M., of Indianapolis, Indiana, follows Jack O., of Joliet, Illinois, as East Central regional trustee. A past delegate, in 1990-91, she served on the Conference Correctional Facilities and International Conventions committees. "My first love is corrections," Dorothy says. "I sobered up in A.A. in 1974 and, thanks to the guidance of some wonderful mentors, began to take meet-

ings into a women's prison a couple of years later." A retired educator, the native Hoosier continues to work as an item writer (of test questions) for a publishing company. In addition to her A.A. activities, she is on the board of directors of a men's recovery house and will soon serve in the same capacity for a new women's recovery house.

Dorothy is "thrilled, excited, blessed to be a trustee—and it has happened simply because I've stayed sober, suited up for service and tried my best to give back to A.A. what was given to me."

Richard "Dick" G., of Altamonte Springs, Florida, steps into the post of Southeast regional trustee formerly held by Betty S. of Columbia, South Carolina. Joshing that "nobody was born in Florida," Dick says he hails from Gary, Indiana, started drinking as a toddler—make that grade schooler—and sobered up in June 1974. A past delegate, he also is an active member of his Longwood Group and a fervent believer in sponsorship. A proud moment in his life came just recently, he says, "when I gave my daughter a 15-year sobriety chip."

A certified public accountant specializing in litigation support and business valuations, Dick also serves as a consultant and lectures on divorce taxation and valuation ethics. As a new trustee he is "eager to get out to the Southeast region, which encompasses Alabama, the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico. It's important to see the various ways in which groups, districts and areas go about carrying the message of sobriety; their collective experience can help us become more effective and keep the Fellowship vital." When it comes to all the traveling his A.A. service entails, Dick says his wife of 40 years, Carolyn, an Al-Anon member, "will accompany me. I couldn't do it without her."

John K., of New York City, follows Chicago's Richard R., who rotated out as a general service trustee. Sober since 1981, John is a practicing attorney specializing in maritime law. A nontrustee director of A.A. World Services since 1997, he has chaired the A.A.W.S. Finance Committee and further served as a member of that board's Publications, Services and Employees' Retirement committees, as well as an ad hoc committees on Group Registration.

One of John's concerns is with the many rituals that have been creeping into the Fellowship. "While A.A. disclaims any strictly 'religious' orientation," he explains, "the seduction of organization—of dogma, regulation and ritual—is that each individual element of it usually seems quite harmless at first and even may feel good, not unlike alcohol itself. My concern is not with the transient fads that pass through A.A. like the wind. It's with the 'practices'—the often tiny little rules and rituals—that become embedded and resistant to

change. Let us be aware that ritual and regulation create an appearance of exclusion—which is contrary to the A.A. way and a threat, if permitted to accelerate, to the spiritual underpinnings of the Fellowship itself.”

A.A.’s General Service Board is comprised of 14 Class B trustees and seven class A trustees, including the trustee chairperson. From education, organization and finance to public information, jurisprudence and health care, their areas of expertise touch on every aspect of A.A. world service.

The Answer Is Blowin’ in The Wick

What do candles have to do with sobriety in A.A.? Plenty, it seems, judging from a couple of tall but true tales told by a member of the host committee of the 2000 International Convention.

In 1997, Len Z. was sipping coffee in a Portland, Oregon, café when he spotted a Volkswagen bus with a bumper sticker sporting A.A.’s circle and triangle symbol. Len went out, introduced himself as a friend of Bill’s and struck up a conversation with the driver, whose name was Pete. He related that during the 1980 International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, he was there, still drinking. An A.A., Keith C., found Pete drunk in the street. He took him to the International, where he was asked to blow out the candle at the closing meeting of the Convention. It seemed like he connected with the A.A. message at first blow.

Pete was engulfed in fellowship, and brought out to Portland by some A.A.s who helped him get settled in the Fellowship. Pete later left Portland but stayed sober till then, and as far as we know, is sober still.

Last summer, on June 29, relates the host committee member, “the International rolled around again, this time in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and we hoped to find a new drunk, we didn’t know where, to ‘pass it on’ to and ask to blow out the candle at the last meeting. Then on the first day a new guy, Kevin, came in and registered. An executive with a large local company, he’d been running into trouble with his drinking; he read a writeup in the newspaper about the International and walked over at lunchtime to see what it was all about. Kevin didn’t know which box to check—A.A., Al-Anon or visitor—but was lucky enough to hand the registration form to Pete G., sober 38 years. Pete asked Kevin which box he thought applied to him, and Kevin said he didn’t know. He said he just wanted to stop drinking.

“Pete took Kevin under his wing and introduced him around. We surrounded the newcomer with A.A. love. And we asked him to blow out the candle at the closing Alkathon meeting. Like Pete before him, Kevin puffed at that candle and got the impact of the A.A. message. He is still sober today. He has been to a meeting almost every day since then and hopes, one day at a time, to be in Toronto, Canada, in 2005 to celebrate A.A.’s 70th birthday. He wants to be there when maybe another new alcoholic is found and asked to blow the candle out.”

4th Edition Update

As we draw closer to the publication of the Fourth Edition of our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, we are receiving various queries. Here, with the answers, are a few of the frequently asked questions:

• When will the Fourth Edition be available?
Hard-cover, soft-cover and the large-print formats will all be available the third week of November.

• Is there a price yet?
No. The price will be established at the General Service Board weekend, July 30.

• When will you be taking orders?
October 1st. An order form will also be enclosed with the Oct./Nov. issue of Box-4-5-9.

‘Dark’ Districts Require a Helping Hand

In A.A. the district is to the area what members are to a group, but on a larger scale. Just as the group lights dim and then go out if the membership is silent, so does a district go dark when there are no meetings of group representatives, no participation in area assemblies. In short, no “lifesaving communication,” as A.A. co-founder Bill W. termed it, “among ourselves, with the world around us, and with God.” (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 243)

In the northwest corner of Eastern Pennsylvania, about 240 miles from Philadelphia, reports current delegate Marty S., “we had been faced for some time with the perplexing challenge of a dark district. In December 1998, past delegate Gary C. suggested that

the Area Structure Committee evaluate the situation, then develop guidelines on ways to deal with this district that hadn't been adequately represented for more than two years and whose future representation looked grim."

With help from individual A.A.s, the Structure Committee set up a meeting with 11 members of the dark district in July 1999. Recalls Marty, who was serving as committee adviser at the time: "We discussed the fact that decisions were being made without the input of district members—decisions concerning not only local interests but those of all A.A., such as making their wishes known about the addition and deletion of material in the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, the updating of other A.A. literature, possible changes in the area structure, and much more. Some members," Marty notes, "complained that a G.S.R. (general service representative) would return from the area assembly observing that 'we had a great time' but failing to submit a report to the groups about what actually had transpired at the assembly. Another A.A. said that 'nobody wants the job of D.C.M. (district committee member) because of burnout.' I suggested that in order to achieve our common goal—to stay sober and carry the message to other alcoholics—it is imperative that we communicate among ourselves. That's why we have D.C.M.s and other district and area officers."

At a second meeting some weeks later, all the area officers, four D.C.M.s from the surrounding districts and, again, 11 members of the dark district gathered together. "There was tension and doubt in the room," Marty says. "The first concern aired by members of the dark district was, 'Are you here to tell us how to run our district?' We explained we were there just to help jump-start the district as a functioning entity, and that all decisions concerning the district would be made by the A.A.s in it. We told them, 'Please understand that you have the full support of Area 59.' Thus reassured, they elected a temporary D.C.M. and arranged to hold their first district meeting the following month for the election of all their district officers."

Today the district, now far from dark, holds a meeting every month. It has 11 members, with eight groups represented, and is looking at ways to attract greater group involvement. "There's even a monthly district newsletter," says Marty. He adds that the area Structure Committee has since established guidelines to light up dark districts in the future, including:

1. If a district officer fails to show up at an area assembly, be sure one of its officers calls to learn if there's a problem; if there is, ask how the area can help. It is the responsibility of the area, not the groups, to make contact with a dark district—to find out what's going on and, if need be, work to get the district up and running.

2. Once a dark district has been spotted, assign one or more area officers to visit each group and see why the district is not functioning. In the case of the district in northwest Pennsylvania, a major problem was distance: The D.C.M. had to travel two or three hours to attend area assemblies. "Our yearly assemblies used to be held in one central place—Redding," says Marty. "To cut down on travel time, we're now rotating locations around the state."

3. Area officers should receive the minutes of their monthly meetings from every district. That way they can keep the channels of communication open, spot a district in trouble early on and offer a helping hand. "This is a 'we' fellowship," Marty stresses, "and we are only as strong as our weakest link. But with Recovery, Unity and Service as our guideposts, we can do anything."

Danny M. Retires after A Decade on G.S.O.'s Spanish Services Desk

Looking back over his past ten years as coordinator of Spanish Services at the General Service Office, Danny M. says, "It has been the experience of a lifetime to walk in the path of our co-founders, Bill W. and Dr. Bob, not to mention other trusted servants—many who have gone before and others who are with us still." Danny notes that "it has been an incredible privilege to share a part of my life with thousands of wonderful A.A.s all over the world."

Throughout the years G.S.O. has provided services in several languages, but not until 1984 was Spanish Services formally initiated, with Vicente M. at the helm. Danny succeeded him in 1991, and over time has seen A.A.'s Spanish-speaking members increase to more than 40,000; they meet in approximately 1,500 groups in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada alone. Danny is pleased to report that "as more bilingual people come into A.A., communication between the Spanish- and English-speaking members is improving."

He adds that "many Spanish-speaking districts have been added to the areas in our service structure. More and more, Spanish-speaking members are becoming part of mainstream A.A. Increasingly we have simultaneous translations of English into Spanish at area assemblies and Regional Forums, and besides the considerable amount of literature and audiovisual material previously available in Spanish, we now have translations of numerous service pieces, the General Service Board's *Quarterly Report*, Highlights of the A.A. World Services' reports and *Box 4-5-9*.

A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Danny arrived in the U.S. in 1961. "I worked in the airline industry and later in transportation," he remembers, "and while moving about I did a lot of drinking." During an October 1983 vacation back home in Buenos Aires, he sobered up "with help from my brother Mike. We consider ourselves very fortunate, because alcoholism is a family disease and my brother and I are the only ones in our original family to have A.A.'s gift of sobriety."

At G.S.O., he reminisces, "I have experienced so much love and service. I shall miss everyone." He says he is particularly grateful to his associates on the Spanish Services desk, "including nonalcoholics such as Mardia Vidal and Stella Gallon, who is now retired." Among the most rewarding aspects of his work: "attending A.A.'s biannual zonal meetings, such as the Meeting of the Americas [REDELLA] and World Service Meeting, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Peru and San Salvador joined the Meeting of the Americas for the first time in 1999," Danny points out. "Countries that couldn't afford to send representatives far afield to the World Service or European Service Meetings today can benefit from the sharing and support these meetings closer to home provide."

For Danny retirement from G.S.O. looks to be a springboard for more service to come. Blessed with a zest for living, he is an involved sportsman who revels in a variety of contact sports, from polo and rugby to hockey and squash. "In 1956," he recalls, "I was an Argentinian Track and Field selection for the Olympics in Helsinki but couldn't make it. Now, with some other A.A. members, I am involved in helping young people to get involved in marathon running—all they need is a pair of sneakers—and encouraging people of all ages to participate in tennis and other sports."

"The first couple of years after leaving G.S.O., I expect to move about considerably," he predicts. "I look forward to spending next winter at a beach in South America near my mother, who is now 86. I also anticipate going to the soccer World Cup championships in Japan and Korea in 2002." Danny will remain active, and plans to travel widely, as an A.A. member. "There is a tremendous amount of Twelfth Stepping to be done in Africa, Asia, Haiti and elsewhere," he says. "So many people where there's no A.A. are dying of alcoholism; they need help desperately but have nowhere to turn."

He plans to spend time in the remote communities of the Peruvian Andes and Ecuador, where varying dialects can cause communication difficulties. "Their language is spoken, not written," Danny explains. "and they are understandably distrustful of outsiders. Poverty and alcoholism are rampant. I want to help carry our A.A. message to these isolated alcoholics. Helping even one or two of them would make a difference."

Correctional Facilities

Southern Insiders Help to Host Picnic With Outside A.A.s

Members of the One-Two-Three Step Group at the Alexander City Work Release Center, a males-only facility of the Alabama Department of Corrections, are very much a part of mainstream A.A. "In fact," reports Johnny M., Correctional Facilities chairman, the Alabama/N.W. Florida Area, "on May 19 they helped host a picnic for our District [9], and it was a huge success. These men don't just go along, they're eager to get along and give back to the Fellowship."

The group "celebrated its fifth anniversary recently," says Johnny. "The celebration was marked by gifts of Big Books, Twelve and Twelves, *Daily Reflections* and back issues of the Grapevine by groups in the district. Funds came from literature cans set out at meetings—empty coffee cans covered by C.F. committee members with chartreuse construction paper and printed with reminders of the need for literature behind the walls."

During the long holidays—Thanksgiving and Christmas, especially—"the group has had to make special arrangements to accept the things it cannot change," Johnny notes. "The population of the center is at its maximum at such times because businesses that hire the inmates and day laborers are closed for the extended holidays. During the years when outside sponsors were numerous, there were holiday alkathons, with meetings held every six hours. These past two years we've had a Traditions play—adapted from the original available from the General Service Office—with both inside and outside members comprising the cast. The camaraderie is great, and feeling like a part of A.A. as a whole relieves the sense of loneliness and isolation that hits the men particularly hard around the holidays."

The One-Two-Three Group met for the first time in January 1996 as a monthly meeting; today it meets three times a week, with visits from outside sponsors every other Saturday. "After a few months of finding its way," Johnny relates, "the group was listed with G.S.O. As time passed, inmates with periods of sobriety ranging from one to 10 years became willing to identify themselves as A.A.s in the inmate population, and this in turn attracted new members to the group."

Most of the meetings are open-discussion, Johnny points out, "but the biweekly ones are where the group

got its name. At these meetings the group studies a Step at a time, rotating only through the first three Steps because of the heavy turnover in the center's population. Members are encouraged to work the Steps by mail or with another inside member on a one-to-one basis."

Treatment Facilities

How Groups Are Absorbing an Influx Of Newcomers

"In my area," reports Nancy K., Eastern Pennsylvania's alternate delegate, "a number of A.A.s have been seeking ways to cope with a sudden plethora of newcomers referred to A.A. by local treatment facilities. Many are living on an outpatient basis: They go to work, to rehab, and often are required to attend up to four A.A. meetings a week—sometimes an entire van-load of people, eight or nine frequently rambunctious newcomers, will show up at a meeting."

Recently, she relates, "I was at an Ask-It-Basket session of an orientation meeting for G.S.R.s (general service representatives). One G.S.R. said her group was getting five van-loads of clients at a time from a local rehab—some were young and disruptive and causing havoc at her meeting." Fortunately, Nancy notes, "I happened to have a copy of the service piece 'Sharing Experience on Coping With An Influx of New Members' that's published by the General Service Office—just another wonderful A.A. 'coincidence,' right?" Since then she has sent copies of the Treatment Facilities service piece (and a list of other G.S.O. service material) to all G.S.R.s, and says, "The response has been terrific, reflecting a lot of gratitude for the guideposts." Here are some suggestions and comments in the service piece that have proved helpful:

- "We cannot discriminate against any prospective A.A. member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency. Although the strength of our program lies in the voluntary nature of membership in A.A., many of us *first* attended meetings because we were forced to, either by someone else or by our inner discomfort. But continual exposure to A.A. educated us to the true nature of our illness. . . . Who made the referral to A.A. is *not* what A.A. is interested in. It is the problem drinker who is our concern. . . . We cannot predict who will recover,

nor have we the authority to decide how recovery *should* be sought by any other alcoholic." (from the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals," pp. 9-10)

- "For many [newcomers fresh out of treatment centers], sponsorship needs to begin at a different point in [their] recovery. Much, but not all of the beginning work has been done. The person who comes to A.A.'s doors sober, feeling pretty well physically, having learned something about the illness. . . . having had some kind of introduction to A.A. . . . a person with such a start needs a sponsor who can meet the person where he or she is. Certainly, the sponsor should not run down the treatment center program. . . . but should help the newcomer make the transition into A.A. — get involved in group life, to understand the program, to work the Steps, and to grow in the A.A. way of life." (speaker, 1975 General Service Conference)

- "Administrators of treatment facilities cannot be expected to understand the dynamics of A.A. groups—how they function or the Traditions that keep them together over long periods of time. Sometimes clients from a treatment facility 'descend' on a local A.A. group in large numbers, thereby upsetting the balance of the group by 'weighting' it on the side of too many newcomers for the group to handle. In such an instance, the area treatment facilities committee has the responsibility for approaching the treatment facility administrator to discuss the matter." ("Treatment Facilities Workbook," p. 16)

In some areas of the U.S./Canada, local intergroup/central offices have been meeting the challenge posed by the influx of newcomers by encouraging the formation of new meetings. On another tack, certain groups have created special sections of their meetings for the new people. And a number of the treatment centers have been working to line up sponsors for clients before they are discharged; some will not agree to release unless the person has a sponsor.

Additionally, a number of facilities have an A.A. sponsor list; a week before the alcoholic is to leave, the assigned sponsor makes a Twelfth Step call. Importantly for the A.A. volunteer, as the Big Book states (p. 89), "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail."

The challenge of absorbing groups of newcomers into A.A. is hardly new. An A.A. trustee remarked back at the 1974 General Service Conference, "The prayers of many of us have been answered—even if not always exactly as we planned. At any rate, we now have more alcoholics at our A.A. doors than ever before." In 2001 his words ring fresh. The miracle of recovery rolls on.

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s—Via G.S.O.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2001

Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

August

- 2-5—*Mountain View, Arkansas.* State Conv. Write: Ch., 714 O'Dell Road, Bismarck, AR 71929
- 3-5—*La Ronge, Saskatchewan.* 26th La Ronge Campout. Write: Ch., Box 1024, La Ronge, SK S0J 1L0
- 3-5—*Carlisle, Pennsylvania.* Eighth State Conv. Write: Ch., 6377 Alderson Street, St. Pittsburgh, PA 15217
- 3-5—*Cromwell, Connecticut.* 18th Annual Walk the Walk Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 1389, New Haven, CT 06505
- 3-5—*Eagle Rock, California.* Foothill Round Up. Write: Ch., 1307 Oak Circle Drive, Glendale, CA 91208
- 3-5—*Elko, Nevada.* Fifth Elko Comes Alive Gathering & Campout. Write: Box 166, Elko, NV 89803
- 3-5—*Indian Wells, California.* 27th Annual Maaad Dog Daze Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4383, Palm Desert, CA 92261
- 3-5—*Ogallala, Nebraska.* Ninth Friendship Campout. Write: Ch., 1001 West A., Ogallala, NE 69153
- 4-12—*Sturgis, South Dakota.* Sturgis Group Rally Week Event. Write: Ch., 861b Valley View Drive, Sturgis, SD 57785
- 8-12—*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.* 52nd IDAA (International Doctors) Conf. Write: Ch., 12101 North MacArthur PMB 166, Oklahoma City, OK 73162
- 10-12—*Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada.* Eastside Round Up. Write: Ch., 338 Creekside Dr., Flin Flon, MB R8A 0M1
- 10-12—*Fort Assiniboine, Alberta, Canada.* Dist. 9 Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 257, Legal, AB T0G 1L0
- 10-12—*Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.* Red Deer Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 116, Red Deer, AB T4N 3T2
- 10-12—*Squamish, British Columbia, Canada.* 28th Squamish Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 2238, Squamish, BC V0N 3G0
- 10-12—*Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.* 17th White Rock Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 45085, Ocean Park RPO, Surrey, BC V4A 9L1
- 10-12—*Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada.* 17th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0
- 10-12—*Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.* 32nd Annual Central West Conv. Write: Ch., Box 43055, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9
- 10-12—*Beckley, West Virginia.* Summer Fun Round Up. Write: Ch., 118 Orchard Ave., Beckley, WV 25801
- 10-12—*Chicago, Illinois.* Chicago Round Up (presented by gay and lesbian members). Write: Ch., 909 W. Belmont, 2nd Flr., Chicago, IL 60657

- 10-12—*Plano, Texas.* 30th Lone Star Round Up. Write: Ch., 5442 Pecan Place Drive, McKinney, TX 75070
- 10-12—*Erlanger, Kentucky.* Rule 62 Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 62, Covington, KY 41012
- 10-12—*Garrison, New York.* 22nd State Informational Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 1850, New York, NY 10116
- 10-12—*Jackson, Mississippi.* 15th Annual Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289
- 10-12—*Kutztown, Pennsylvania.* Reading Area Conf. Write: Ch., 439 North 5th Street, Reading, PA 19603-0181
- 10-12—*Phoenix, Arizona.* Salt River Summer Round Up. Write: Ch., 4602 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014
- 10-12—*Oakhurst, California.* Serenity In The Sierras. Write: Ch., Box 23, Oakhurst, CA 93644
- 10-12—*Tiel, Holland, Netherlands.* 15th Scanelux Round Up. Write: Ch., Kerkstraat 391d, 1017HX Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 11-12—*Gillette, Wyoming.* Pig Roast. Write: Box 3343, Gillette, WY 82717
- 16-19—*Columbia, South Carolina.* 54th State Conv. 57th Southeast Reg. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 5152, Columbia, SC 29250
- 16-19—*Omaha, Nebraska.* Cornhusker RoundUp. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 17-19—*Port McNeill, British Columbia, Canada.* 25th Annual North Island Rally. Write: Ch., 1003 Ocean Place, Port McNeill, BC V0N 2R0
- 17-19—*Beaumont, Texas.* 20th Annual District Conf. Write: Ch., Box 933, Beaumont, TX 77704
- 17-19—*Kerrville, Texas.* 26th Hill Country Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 2391, Kerrville, TX 78028
- 17-19—*Miami, Florida.* 21st FCYPAA Conf. Write: Ch., Box 144819, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

August (page 47): "The Case of the Inflated Ego"; "How is my Now?"

September (page 47): Step Nine; Cultivating Tolerance

- 17-19—*New Orleans, Louisiana.* Greater New Orleans Roundup. Write: Ch., 326 South Scott Street, New Orleans, LA 70119
- 17-19—*York, Pennsylvania.* Fourth Sunlight of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3538, York, PA 17402
- 18-19—*Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 37th Windsor Area Mini Round Up. Write: Ch., 103 Innes Lane, RR#3 Windsor, NS B0N 2T0
- 18-19—*Moscow, Russia.* International Conv. Write: Ch., Central Service Office, Box 33, Moscow, Russia 129128
- 24-26—*Writing on Stone Park, Alberta, Canada.* Corn Roast. Write: Ch., 719 Birch Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474-2430
- 24-26—*Astoria, Oregon.* Youngs River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 12, Astoria, OR 97103
- 24-26—*Chataaugua, New York.* 48th Tri-State Assembly. Write: Ch., 3722 Crestwood Drive, Erie, PA 16510
- 24-26—*Chattanooga, Tennessee.* 14th Annual Choo Choo Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9673, Chattanooga, TN 37412
- 24-26—*Nenagh, Ireland.* Tipperary Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 12, Post Office, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
- 24-26—*Orcas Island, Washington.* Sixth Annual Share the Miracle. Write: Ch., Box 1677, East Sound, WA 98245

Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the Box 4-5-9 Calendar, G.S.O. most receive information three months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 19 _____

Name of event: _____

Place (city, state or prov.): _____

For information, write: (exact mailing address) _____

Contact phone # (for office use only): _____

Flip up this end of page - for events on reverse side

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

- 24-26—*San Luis Obispo, California*. 34th Annual 22nd District Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 24-26—*Seattle, Washington*. Emerald City Round Up. Write: Ch., 1122 East Pike, PMB 1006, Seattle, WA 98122-3927
- 24-26—*Sioux Falls, South Dakota*. West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 25-26—*Elk Point, Alberta, Canada*. Fifth Elk Point Round Up. Write: Ch., General Delivery, Elk Point, AB T0A 1A0
- 30-September 2—*Beaver, Utah*. Great Outdoor Beaver Meeting. Write: Ch., 7518 Jumilla Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91306
- 31-September 2—*Powell River, British Columbia, Canada*. 54th Rally. Write: Ch., 5903 Arbutus St., Powell River, BC V8A 4S2
- 31-September 2—*Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada*. 29th Slave Lake Campout & Round Up. Write: Ch., 516 4th Street NW, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A1
- 31-September 2—*Abilene, Texas*. 21st Big Country Conf. Write: Ch., 2850 Southwest Drive, Abilene, TX 79605
- 31-September 2—*Corner Brook, New Foundland*. 37th Annual Nova Scotia/New Foundland/Labrador Assembly. Write: Ch., 72 Lomond Street, Corner Brook, NF, A2H 3A9
- 31-September 2—*Denver, Colorado*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 29523, Thornton, CO 80229-0523
- 31-September 2—*Houma, Louisiana*. 21st Annual Bayouland Jamboree. Write: Ch., 4501 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
- 31-September 2—*Nashville, Tennessee*. Recovery On The Ocoee. Write: Ch., 614B Russell Street, Nashville, TN 37206
- 31-September 2—*Payson, Arizona*. Ninth Annual Payson Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 2575, Payson, AZ 85547
- 31-September 2—*Portland, Oregon*. First Annual Rose City Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 648, Wilsonville, OR 97070
- 31-September 2—*San Diego, California*. San Diego Feeling Good Conf. (presented by gay and lesbian members) Write: Ch., Box 3999, San Diego, CA 92163
- 31-September 2—*Seattle, Washington*. Sponsorship Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1795, Ferndale, WA 98248
- 31-September 2—*St. Louis, Missouri*. 18th Annual Fall Classic Conf. Write: Ch., Box 190026, St. Louis, MO 63119
- 31-September 2—*Westlake Village, California*. 23rd Ventura Country Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2550, Woodland Hills, CA 91365
- 31-September 3—*Tampa, Florida*. 15th Tampa Bay Fall Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685-2545

September

- 7-9—*London, England*. The Cockney Conv. Write: Ch., c/o The Convener, 90 Parkside Estate, Rutland Road, Hackney, London, England E9 7JZ
- 7-9—*Many, Louisiana*. Western Intergroup Conv. Write: Ch., 411 Eissman Road, Apt. 28, Leesville, LA 71446
- 7-9—*Park Rapids, Minnesota*. 11th Annual Heartland Round Up. Write: Ch., 624 Second Street West, Park Rapids, MN 56470
- 7-9—*Sydney, Australia*. NEWYPAA 2001 Conf. Write: Ch., Box A1120, Sydney, South NSW 1235, Australia
- 14-16—*Lenox, Massachusetts*. 19th Back to Basics Weekend. Write: Ch. Central Service, 368 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210
- 14-16—*South Charleston, West Virginia*. 73rd Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 103 Savilla Lane, Charleston, WV 25312
- 21-23—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. L.L.A.A. 27th Annual Meeting. Write: Ch., 2318 El Nido Court, N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87104
- 21-23—*Bastrop, Texas*. Fellowship in the Pines. Write: Rgstr., 282 Old 71, Cedar Creek, TX 78612
- 21-23—*Limestone, Maine*. Northern Maine Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 162, Madawaska, ME 04756
- 21-23—*Oahu, Hawaii*. Fourth Annual Men's Campout. Write: Ch., 84-174 Makau Street, Wai'anae, HI 96792
- 21-23—*Ocala, Florida*. 10th Annual Southeastern Woman-to-Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 3713, Ocala, FL 34478-3713
- 21-23—*Salt Lake City, Utah*. Skyline Conf. Write: Ch., 230 East Crescentwood Drive, #63, Sandy, UT 84070
- 27-30—*Amarillo, Texas*. 55th Annual Roundup & Reunion. Write: Ch., 4711 Virginia Street, #1409, Amarillo, TX 79109
- 28-30—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. Southwest Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 28-30—*Louisville, Kentucky*. Sixth Annual National Archives Workshop. Write: Ch., 9065 E. Circle Drive S, Syracuse, IN 46567

October

- 5-7—*Burley, Idaho*. Area 18 Fall Assembly and Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1180, Twin Falls, ID 83301
- 5-7—*Troy, Michigan*. Tri-County Conf. Write: Ch., Box 152, Garden City, MI 48136
- 5-7—*Redding, California*. NCCAA 54th Annual Fall Conference. Write: Secy., 1723 Anamor St., Redwood City, CA 94061
- 5-7—*Riverside, California*. 50th Southern California Conv. Write: Ch., 1308 E. Poppy Street, Long Beach, CA 90805
- 7-9—*Denver, Colorado*. 11th Annual Bridging the Gap. Write: Ch., 11551 10th Street NE, Hanover, MN 55341
- 10-12—*Bulawayo, Zimbabwe*. National Conv. Write: Ch., Box 996, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- 12-14—*Tracadie-Sheila, New Brunswick, Canada*. Fall Roundup 2001. Write: Ch., 19 rue Plante, Le Goulet, NB, E8S 2H7
- 12-14—*Petit Jean Mountain, Arkansas*. Join Us On The Broad Highway. Write: Ch., 14107 Ridgewood Dr., Little Rock, AR 72211
- 12-14—*St. Pete Beach, Florida*. Suncoast Conv. Write: Ch., Box 14182, St. Petersburg, FL 33733
- 12-14—*Toledo, Ohio*. East Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 19-21—*Bilibago, Angeles City, Philippines*. Sixth Fall International Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 308, Manila 1099, Philippines
- 21-23—*Austin, Minnesota*. 13th Annual Hiawathaland Get-Together. Write: Ch., Box 5792, Rochester, MN 55903
- 26-28—*St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands*. 15th Annual Caribbean Conv. Write: Ch., Suite 201 - PMB 420, 6501 Red Hook Plaza, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00802-1306

November

- 1-4—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. The 40th Annual Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823-3434
- 2-4—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. 57th Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., 208-323 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2C1
- 2-4—*Jekyll Island, Georgia*. Fourth Gratitude Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 214911, South Daytona, FL 32121
- 8-11—*Wilmington, North Carolina*. NCCY-PAA. Write: Ch., 5001 Wrightsville Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403
- 9-11—*Glenwood Springs, Colorado*. Winter Assembly. Write: Ch., 39551 Hwy. 82 #132, Aspen, CO 81611
- 15-17—*Diamondhead, Mississippi*. 12th Annual Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 7851, Gulfport, MS 39507-7851
- 15-17—*Huntsville, Alabama*. Southeast Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163