

# BOX 4-5-9

formerly the **A. A. EXCHANGE BULLETIN**

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A. A.

Aug.-Sept. 1967

Vol. 12 No. 4

• 305 East 45th Street, New York 10017 • Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 10017 •

## International Franciscan Award to A.A.

Alcoholics Anonymous received the 1967 International Award of the Conventional Franciscan Fathers and Brothers in a ceremony at Prior Lake, Minn., April 26.

Dr. John L. ("Dr. Jack") Norris, current nonalcoholic Chairman of the General Service Board of A.A., represented A.A. in accepting a plaque and a citation from the sons of St. Francis of Assisi. We also received, through Dr. Jack, praise and congratulations from Rome; from the Vice President of the U.S.A.; from the Knights of Columbus; and from Gov. Harold LeVander of Minnesota.

### Contribution Noted

The Franciscan citation read, in part: "... in recognition of the outstanding contribution to fellowship and humanity this society has made."

It noted that "the sympathetic understanding and the patient application of charity toward those afflicted with the disease of alcoholism has brought about



the rehabilitation of thousands of alcoholics formerly thought to be hopeless addicts."

Governor LeVander offered "sincere congratulations" to A.A. "which has done such excellent work."

Expressing "the admiration and gratitude of over 1,000,000 Knights of Columbus," Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt said, "This admirable organization's membership has earned the unqualified esteem of their fellow citizens for the un-

selfish devotion and practical dedication with which they have fulfilled their voluntary missions of mercy and fraternal love."

### Vice President Sends Message

Vice President Hubert Humphrey's telegram to the Rev. Urban Wagner, head of the Awards Committee for the Franciscan Retreats, said: "It is so very appropriate that spiritual leadership which exalts man's soul, should pay tribute to this organization which has so effectively helped to heal the body and mind of men and women and to enable them to achieve their birthright as children of God. Please convey my best wishes."

### Kind Words from Vatican

Rome's 114th Successor to St. Francis, the Most Reverend Basil M. Heiser, OFM Conv., wrote to Dr. Jack: "St. Francis loved all creatures... Inspiration like his is behind the spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous."

(continued on page 2)



Here are a few items from "Box 4-5-9" just received from G.S.O. - our General Service Office in New York...

• • •

**PLAQUE SHOWN ABOVE** symbolizes 1967 International Franciscan Award to A.A. Come see it in G.S.O. Reception! (Full story above)

• • •

**DR. JACK HONORED.** Hon. John P. Lomenzo, Secretary of State of N.Y., led visiting dignitaries who honored non-alcoholic chairman of our G.S. Board when Rochester State Hospital dedicated alcoholism clinic to John L. Norris, M.D. Congratulations, Dr. Jack.

• • •

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GROUP MEETINGS

(Items of Special interest to be read by G.S.R. or Secretary at your group's next meeting.)

"THE A.A. WAY OF LIFE," Bill W.'s newest book, is receiving an enthusiastic reception. More than 7,000 were purchased from May through July 15.

• • •

**WORLD DIRECTORY DEADLINE COMING UP.** Make sure our group's information card gets back to G.S.O. in time.

• • •

**FOR EASY A.A. CHRISTMAS AND ANNIVERSARY SHOPPING,** use Grapevine flier enclosed with this—to order beautiful new calendar, "One Day At a Time."

• • •

**MOST POPULAR A.A. PAMPHLET EVER!** In first six weeks, over 45,000 copies of "What Happened to Joe" comic book went out from G.S.O.

# Who Is 'Indispensable'?

We have a gag at G.S.O. When a Staff Member seems to be knocking herself out on a job, unless she can unfreeze herself and delegate some of the work, we threaten her with a fictitious sign that she must wear. The sign reads: I AM *REALLY* INDISPENSABLE.

There are many indispensable people in A.A. and every year they must be replaced — because of death and retirement and relocation — with others who may become equally indispensable. Down through the years, hundreds of A.A.'s have made deep impressions on our history. Each has made a *unique* contribution.

How then can we say a kind word for a custom which revolves a Trustee, a Delegate, a Committee Member, or a group chairman out of office, often long before he may be ready to go?

## Rotation

Our custom of rotation, as we see it, is more than a device to keep oldtimers from freezing onto jobs, or to keep small cliques from running the show year after year.

It took hundreds of A.A.'s during the early years — and thousands in later years — to build the program and the Traditions and the structure into a strong and enduring fellowship. And there simply would not have been room enough for all these contributions, if the early settlers had sat and sat — and refused to move over.

In a fellowship like ours — without a government and with a program that is self-help and mutual-help — we need room for many, many people to participate.

Rotation can move too rapidly at times. It can create a turnover that brings on new, untrained people too quickly and may let them go just about the time that they know what they are doing. We should make the cycle of rotation consistent with the complexities of the job.

## What? Me?

Another built-in weakness turns up when you feel rotation applied to yourself. Then you can't help but feel: What? Me?

But in every case it was the *work* that A.A.'s *did* that was important — not themselves. And much as we might miss them personally, their going made the opportunity for others to come in with *their* contributions to the Fellowship's growth and health. The real mark of their value to A.A. lay in their ability to develop people and methods that would serve A.A. well long after they had left.

Which is just another way of saying what we all believe: Principles Before Personalities. You see this wonderful Tradition applies to people as well as to events.

—Herb M.'s *Closing talk*  
'67 G.S. Conference

## The Other Package

*Did the books you ordered from G.S.O. arrive without the pamphlets, or vice versa? That's because, to save postage, they have to be shipped in separate packages. TIP: Order early, PRINT name, address, Zip Code.*

## 'DR. JACK' HONORED

*A.A.'s join in gratitude for the "John L. Norris, M.D., Clinic" dedicated on May 21, 1967, as part of the Rochester State Hospital.*

*The dedication ceremonies included the following expression:*

*"In appreciation of, and gratitude for, his pioneer work, painstaking research, and sustained effort in the treatment of Alcoholism, this unit is dedicated to 'John L. Norris, M.D.' The lives of many are forever indebted to his great interest and compassion for their need."*

## GERMAN LITERATURE HELPS

"Thank you for your promptness in sending material to me for our new German member, Joe. He has joined a group and goes to meetings regularly. We are working the program together. . . our understanding greatly enhanced by the literature which we read in our own languages. I am engrossed in '12 & 12' and he in 'Alcoholics Anonymous.' We are helping each other.

"He wrote as you suggested for the German bulletin from Bad Reichenhall. Your demonstration of personal concern for Joe inspired me. It opened my mind to the importance of the legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service."

—D.L., Hamilton, Ont.

## AWARD (continued from page 1)

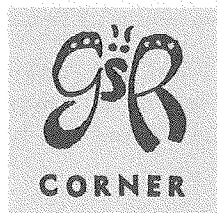
"We hope that the . . . Award . . . will be an impetus to all the members to continue and increase their great and much needed work." As alcoholism is increasing, he said, the A.A. remedy "needs to be diffused and intensified.

"We congratulate each and every member of Alcoholics Anonymous and we impart to them and their families the blessing of St. Francis."

## YOUR A.A. LIBRARY

Anyone interested in owning—or giving—the complete "A.A. Library" (Big Book, 12 & 12—both gift and regular sizes, "A.A. Comes of Age," and Bill's new "A.A. Way of Life") can now get the whole shelf of 5 books as Discount Package #5 (\$14.25) from G.S.O.

# A.A. Butterflies Have No Home



"New members desire to take part in the business meetings of *all* local groups, but yet *claim* no group," a Midwest A.A. writes.

"Our group regulars are unified in our policy, but the visitors would like to change it. Should A.A.'s have a 'home group'?"

A.A. butterflies who flit from group to group, but never can settle into a home group are a source of A.A. confusion. They are discussed in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

We asked members through this bulletin "Is a home group important to you?" Scads of replies, overwhelmingly endorsing the idea of a home group, were received. One said: "You bet your life it is! Forming the habit and sticking to a home group insures me at least one meeting a week. I know the members of my home group in depth. More important, they know me in depth. And, they give me an opportunity to serve."

Another said: "When any crisis arises in my life, a lifeline for my sobriety is supplied by these understanding and loving friends."

And another: "I visit around and it is always an adventure. I always learn something new or refine some particular phase of the program.

"The best part of affiliation is the regular attendance at meetings and the rewards of serving as officer, and really being part of the group."

## 'JOE' BREAKS RECORDS

Sixteen per cent of the orders for A.A.'s new comic-book style pamphlet, "What Happened to Joe," came from *outside* A.A., Dennis Manders, our nonalcoholic Controller at G.S.O., tells us. It's usually 3% on any pamphlet. But suddenly state programs and hospitals, alcoholism information centers and councils, prisons, clinics, industrial plants, VA hospitals, mental health departments, county and state health divisions are carrying the A.A. message in this new format.

## DOUBT FROM HONDURAS

"We have a doubt. I wish to know if the Big Book is the same as the 'Alcoholics Anonymous' book."

—C.V., *Tela*.

*Si, Carlos. First edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous," printed in wartime was on very thick paper, with big pages, and the nickname "Big Book" just stuck.*

## FAR EAST ROUND-UP

Seven Japanese A.A. Groups hosted the first Far East Round-Up this year in Tokyo over the weekend. The handsome programme featured the Japanese symbol for Happiness.

## THE RIGHT PLACE

"Dear Sirs: I have this short opportunity of asking you what can I do with alcoholism because I am really defeated by living it. So you can now tell me what to do or how to live please." —M.L.N., *Kenya, Africa, Nov. 12, 1966.*

"Mar. 30, '67. Dear Sir: You are looking forward to hear more from me. I read your letter and I say to myself I will not take the first drink and I say that now I am staying sober from January. I have come to the right place of staying sober. I am looking forward to hear more from you." —M.L.N., *Kenya.*

## Your Group Directory Card

As soon as it arrives—probably in early September—won't you please make sure your "Group Information Card" is completed and returned promptly to us?

Give this reminder to your Group Secretary or G.S.R. (whoever gets the group mail) to show that YOU CARE about your group's being listed correctly in the 1968 *World Directory*.

### SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

MASSACHUSETTS:	
New England Conference.....	\$200.00
MICHIGAN:	
Detroit — General Service	
Southeastern Michigan.....	200.00
MISSOURI:	
Kansas City — Western Missouri	
State Committee.....	40.08
WASHINGTON:	
Seattle — 14th District A.A.	
Washington.....	10.85
Spokane — Spring 1967 Little	
Assembly.....	9.85
CANADA:	
Alberta — Edmonton Ten Year	
Breakfast Meeting.....	47.24
Quebec — Montreal — Conference	
Provincial Bilingual de	
Quebec.....	50.00

### SPONSORSHIP IN ACTION

"At our business meeting this month we agreed to start a group-sponsorship committee," writes Stew M., Beginners' Group, Simi Valley, Calif.

"Here's what we decided on to start:

1. All members encouraged to be on the committee (9, so far). Rotate turns greeting people at the door and introducing new friends and guests. Rotate dish-washing and clean-up chores (always a good meeting around the sink and cupboard after the regular meeting).

2. Secretary to contact other groups about exchange meetings.

3. Regular monthly meeting to exchange ideas on 12th-Step and help each other on follow-up. Get admittance procedures from hospital.

"We're using the Sponsorship pamphlet to get started."



Rose Failla, nonalcoholic head of our Records Department, shown above, says that last year only 4,055 of the 12,000 cards were returned.

Even if there are no changes to report for your group, SEND IN THE CARD ANYWAY, Rose urges.

### ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

Groups in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky "carried the message to other alcoholics."

If we have to give sobriety away to keep it, but can't drag alcoholics into A.A., then we have to find ways of telling and reminding them we are here — or of getting other people to tell them about A.A.

In Cincinnati, members make sure doctors, nurses, etc. have accurate information on A.A., so they can send problem drinkers to us. Fifteen hundred "A.A. in your Community" pamphlets, with appropriate local telephone numbers and addresses, were distributed to industrial plant dispensaries, nurses, doctors, clergymen and social workers recently.

Special meetings for professionals are held. The TV public service announcement is shown six times a month. A weekly one-hour radio show on A.A. is broadcast, and a new one (taped talks) starts this summer on another station. Five hundred "What Happened to Joe" went to industrial clinics, economic unemployment and service centers, etc. Members speak to community clubs, schools, and churches at least once a week—in cooperation with Al-Anon.

Dayton members distributed 600 pamphlets to the Church Federation, and 650 to the local medical society. They speak before these groups 25 times a year and hold four annual public meetings.

In both cities A.A. news releases are published regularly.

Hamilton has a half-hour interview show about A.A. on radio, and cooperated with the state board of health and the local Council on Alcoholism in putting on an 8-hour seminar, distributing "A.A. in your Community" to doctors, employers, clergymen, and judges.

## A.A. CALENDAR — August–September–October

### AUGUST

- 4-6 — 4th N.Y. State Conv., Hotel Roosevelt, N.Y. Write: Chm., Box 1753, Grand Central Sta., N.Y.C.
- 10-12 — 23rd S.E. Conf. — 14th Georgia State Conf., Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Ga. Write: Host Comm., Box 7188, Station C., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.
- 11-13 — International Doctors in A.A., Airlie, Warrenton, Va.
- 18-20 — 7th Annual Colo. Conv., Albany Hotel, Denver. Write: Conf. Sec., 885 South Ogden St., Denver, Colo.
- 25-27 — 14th Tri-State Canadian Assembly, Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, N.Y. Write: Chm., Box 96, Meadville, Pa. 16335.

### SEPTEMBER

- 1-3 — Oregon Conf., Fairgrounds Pavilion, 1451 Fairgrounds Road, Grants Pass. Write: P.I. Chairman, 203 N.E. Steiger St., Grants Pass, Ore.
- 1-3 — Virginia State Conv., Jefferson Hotel, Richmond. Write: Va. State Comm., Box 952, Richmond, Va.
- 2-4 — 15th Annual European A.A. Roundup, Wiesbaden, Germany. Write: Chm., Apt. 1, Aar Strasse 40 A, Wiesbaden, Germany.
- 2-4 — 20th Anniversary Rally, Powell River B.C., Canada.
- 8-10 — 8th Annual Conn. Get-Together, Banner Lodge, Moodus, Conn. Write: Chm., 12 Bruggeman Place, Mystic, Conn., 06355.
- 8-10 — 7th Lakeside Conf., Lake Brownwood. Write: Lakeside Conf., Box 157, Brenham, Tex.
- 16-17 — 19th Annual Southern Minn. Conf., Faribault. Write: Faribault A.A. Group, 316 A Central Ave., Faribault, Minn., 55021.
- 16-17 — North Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Conf., Green Bay, Wisc. Write: Chm., Box 810, Eau Claire, Wisc.
- 16-17 — Annual Wyoming Fall Conf., Holiday Inn, Casper. Write: Alano Secy., Casper, Box 1644, Casper, Wyo.
- 22-24 — New England Conf., Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway, N.H. Write: Chm., 46 Page Ave., Walpole, Mass., 02081.
- 22-24 — Eastern Ontario Regional Conf., Ottawa, Can. Write: Box 38, Terminal "A", Ottawa, Ont., Can.

- 22-24 — 15th Michigan A.A. Conf., Grand Rapids. Write: Conv. Chm., 3022 Bird Ave. N.E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 29, 30 & Oct. 1 — West Virginia Conf., Chancellor Hotel, Parkersburg. Write: Chm., Box 612, Parkersburg, W. Va.
- 29, 30 & Oct 1 — Kansas State Conf. of A.A., Broadview Hotel, Wichita. Write: Secy., Box 8193, Wichita, Kansas.

### OCTOBER

- 7 — Bill's Annual Dinner, Hilton Hotel, N.Y.C. Write: N.Y. Inter-group Assn., 337 E. 33rd, N.Y.

- 6-8 — 16th Annual Southern Calif. Conv., Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim. Write: Secy., Box 1665, Glendale, Calif.
- 6-8 — 4th Annual N.E. Texas Area Conf., Ramada Inn, Wichita Falls. Write: Faith Group, 4307 Seymour Highway, Wichita Falls, Tex.
- 6-8 — St. John's-Newfoundland Conf., 3rd Nova Scotia, Nfld. & Labrador Assembly Conv., College of Trades & Technology. Write: Chm., Box 5489, St. John's, Nfld.
- 6-8 — North-Northeastern Ontario A.A. Conf., Empire Hotel, North Bay, Ont., Can.
- 13-15 — Top-O-Texas Roundup, Herring Hotel, Amarillo. Write: Chm., 3804 E. 15th St., Amarillo, Tex.
- 13-15 — 26th Ann. & Buffalo Fall Conf., Buffalo. Write: Secy., Rm. 724 W. Genesee St., Buffalo, N.Y.

## Staff Assignments . . . .

\* Delaware

EVE



Staff Coordinator, Regional correspondence \*Northeast (U.S.) and Atlantic Provinces (Can.). Loner and Central Office Bulletins, Ass't. Secty. G.S.B., Sect'y, G.S.B. and G.S. Conf. Policy Committees, Dir. A.A.W.S.



MIDGE

Regional Correspondence — East Central (U.S.). Conference Sect'y, Interim Report and Sect'y, Conf. Agenda — Admissions Committee.

BETH



Regional Correspondence — West Central (U.S.), Ontario (Can.) Overseas — English-speaking, Overseas Bulletin. Sect'y, G.S.B. International Committee.



ANN

Regional Correspondence — Pacific (U.S.) British Columbia — Yukon (Can.) Institutions & Bulletin, Internationalists & Bulletin. Sect'y, G.S. Bd. & G.S. Conf. Literature Committees.



HAZEL

Service Coordinator, Regional Correspondence — East Central Jan.-May. Box 4-5-9, Guidelines, Service Kits, Group Handbook, Films, Displays, Tapes, Correspondence Manual. Sect'y, A.A.W.S.



WANETA

Regional Correspondence — Southeast (U.S.), Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba (Can.), Information Service and Bulletins, Sect'y, G.S. Board and G.S. Conf. P.I. Committee.



CORA LOUISE

Regional Correspondence — Southwest (U.S.), Quebec, (Can.), Overseas — Non English-speaking, Sect'y, G.S. Bd. Nominating Committee and G.S. Conf. Trustees Committee.