

A.A. Pamphlets Getting 'New Look'

Throughout the first half of 1989 A.A. members will begin to notice what looks like "new" pamphlets popping up on their group literature racks. These are, however, not new pamphlets, but the same pamphlets with new "unified" and "updated" cover changes.

The A.A.W.S. Board and G.S.O. recently concluded that because styles and tastes change over the years, what was effective a while back is not necessarily effective today.

This awareness has brought about the revision for much of "the look" of a great deal of the Fellowship's printed material, and it is being changed as each piece of literature comes up for reprint. The project is just now picking up momentum. But as it does it is also picking up cautions and criticisms from members here and there who voice concern that an overabundance of money is being spent on today's print material.

G.S.O.'s publications director Vinnie M. has an interesting response to this. "When it comes to printed matter, it's quite often true that what looks expensive is not expensive at all. In fact," Vinnie concludes, "even with new colors and designs most pamphlets will cost less to produce than the previous printings."

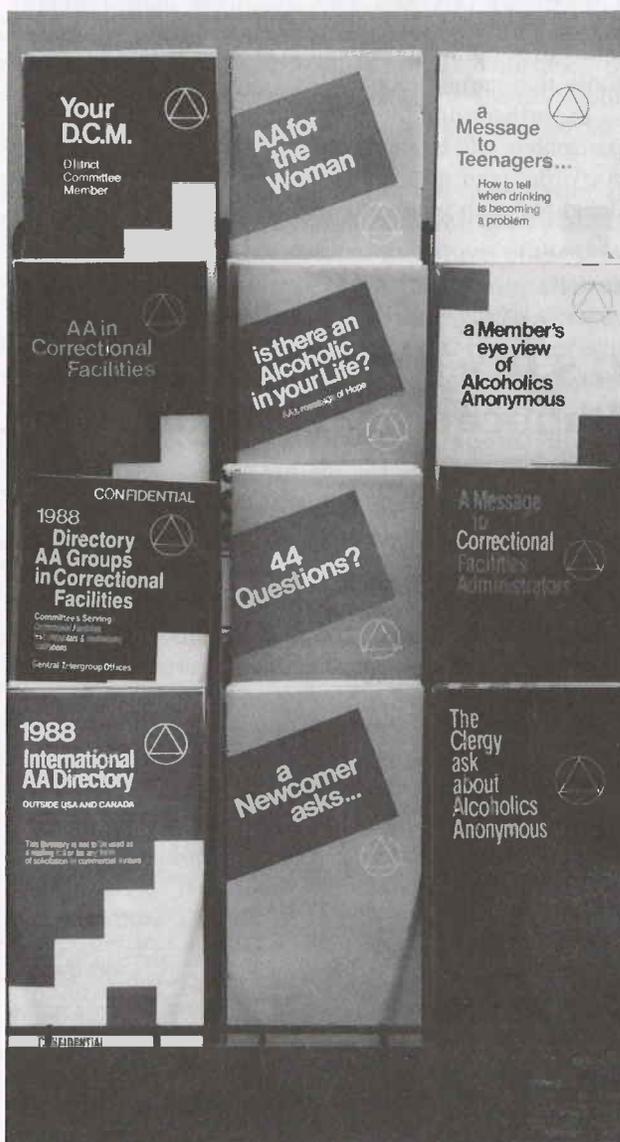
A.A. member Emil A., a freelance designer and art director, is redesigning the covers on A.A.'s pamphlets, directories and flyers. Aiming to bring about a unified "look" Emil first separated the pamphlets into categories – as they are arranged in the literature catalog. Each category has its own design, and it is hoped that the group literature chairpersons will find it easier to buy material and set up the literature rack.

The recovery pamphlets are the most striking. A silver-gray background with the title printed on a brightly colored panel. This colored panel becomes an "interrupter," therefore being more likely to "pop out" on the literature rack and attract the attention of the newcomer.

Pamphlets aimed at the professional (e.g., "The Clergy Ask," "If You Are a Professional . . .," etc.) are printed on red, black or beige – and have a clean, more sophisticated design.

Pamphlets in the Unity and Service category have a "step" motif. Emil says this was totally unconscious; he did not have A.A.'s Twelve Steps in mind but was merely looking for a design format that worked, and did not think of the Steps until a staff member mentioned it.

The body copy of the pamphlets has been reset, and in some cases restyled, in a typeface that affords easier readability.



Box 4-5-9 is published bimonthly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 468 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., © Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 1989.

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

Subscriptions: Individual, \$1.50 per year; group, \$3.50 for each unit of 10 per year. Check — made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc. — should accompany order.

Most significantly, none of these improvements and modernizations render these publications more costly than those they are replacing. In fact, with the continuously-wise purchasing of paper ahead of threatened price increases, astute pursuit of editorial aims and careful scheduling of deadlines and press runs most if not all of today's "new look" and "new life" pamphlets and other publications will cost less to produce than those that came before.

In forthcoming literature catalogs new-cover-design pamphlets will be tagged with a †. Look for them when you order your group's literature — we hope you will be delighted with what you see.

G.S.O.'s Publications Division

Visit the offices of the Publications Division of G.S.O. and you might be intrigued by what seems to be an atmosphere of genuine quiet, comfort and calm.

Of course, this totally belies the true nature of this exciting place where all 21 occupants are endlessly involved in productive action of some sort and the words that best describe what's going on behind the scene are "busy, busy, busy."

Though it can be truly said that A.A. was rather well into publishing following the appearance of the Big Book, G.S.O. and the Fellowship went along one-printed-piece-at-a-time for many years. As publishing output expanded, one staff person would take on publication chores for a project here with another staff member doing the same for a project there.

After a time the total publication operation of G.S.O. was of considerable size and importance but work involved with it and responsibility for it was still scattered among rotating staff people, their assistants and the financial people. And while this did do the job, it became an impractical way to work and, as a result,

could not always turn out quality products on schedule and at the lowest possible cost.

This growing need for a concentration of publication efforts required that it be put into the hands of a few members with publishing know-how and whose sole responsibility would be the inception, production and dissemination of A.A. literature, and, second, that it should be consolidated into a single area physically.

Over the past decade both the inventory of A.A. literature and the activity relative to it have expanded tremendously. It was the ever-increasing success of even a rather unorganized A.A. publishing program that made the establishment of a publications division a virtual must.

The first move was the appointment of G.S.O. staff member Vinnie M. as publications director. She gathered others from various departments with related responsibilities: editorial, Spanish translations, manufacturing, production/purchasing, inventory control, and fulfillment. Now — for the first time — there was one group focused on seeing that printed material made it professionally, smoothly and economically through all the various stages from idea to galley to printed piece and from there to delivery.

Today, among the several key members of G.S.O.'s publishing division is managing editor Eleanor W. As such she provides editorial guidance, when necessary, to G.S.O. staff members involved with preparation and finalization of service materials, newsletters and Conference-approved literature. She also works with A.A. members hired as freelancers to develop, design and edit manuscripts, and is responsible for implementing Conference committees' recommendations for changes and alterations.

Purchasing/production manager is Bob Cubelo, one of several nonalcoholic members of the division. He and his assistant, fellow nonalcoholic Mike Berg, are familiar with all aspects of manufacturing. With this knowledge they are able to work out agreements with a variety of vendors, typesetters and printers that will ensure the Fellowship the highest-quality results — whether literature or audiovisual material — at the most reasonable cost. In addition they work closely with the editors to establish practical schedules and press dates. To project future needs they use their awareness of current printing industry practices and the economics of publishing to make the best possible deals for the Fellowship.

Cindy Katzman, another nonalcoholic, is supervisor of Inventory and Traffic Control. Here a careful schedule of stock-on-hand and depletion of that stock are recorded daily in order to project future inventory requirements.

Here, too, orders are received and via Telex dispatched to warehouse shipping facilities across the U.S. and Canada. Located in Norcross, Georgia; Tempe, Arizona; Tigard, Oregon; Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis,

Minnesota; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Toronto, Ontario; and Calgary, Alberta, literature stored in these facilities is ready to be shipped in bulk (prepacked cartons) to A.A. central offices, intergroups and other large purchasers. So vital are these warehouse distribution centers that material processed through them amounts to about 85% of the dollar volume of overall purchases.

Another plus: warehousing contributes to additional savings in distribution costs and speeds the delivery of literature and other material to the buyer.

Of course not all requests for literature are handled through the warehouse system. In New York City, shipping/mailroom supervisor Aubrey Pereira has a staff capable of making quick and accurate responses to an average of 700 orders per week. From here also are shipped literature items for distribution to countries outside the U.S. as requested by individual A.A. general service offices around the world.

Executive secretary and projects coordinator is Lynda Ernst, another of the division's nonalcoholic operatives. In addition to handling the critical duties of an executive secretary, Lynda is responsible for the coordination of vital details, thus helping to traffic projects through the many stages of editorial production and manufacturing. Along with this she is also involved with mailings to appropriate A.A. entities and service workers everywhere to keep them advised of work in progress.

For a long time it seemed that no single translation of A.A. material into Spanish would be acceptable to all Spanish-speaking people. There were just too many types or variations of Spanish spoken in different areas of the U.S. and Canada – such as Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran and Castillian. Then along came nonalcoholic John de Stefano who took a freelance assignment or two and – working with Vicente M., staff member assigned to Spanish services – worked out a common denominator that was acceptable to most Spanish speakers in North America and continues to be so.

Today, John is a regular member of the publications staff, responsible for the production of a broad assortment of service material, audiovisual items and newsletters – all in Spanish, of course.

Translation and production of A.A. publications in French are done in Montreal, Canada, by Le Service des Publications Francaises des A.A. du Quebec. This work is carried out under the supervision of Lise P., who works closely with G.S.O. New York and with whom publications division people have a constant exchange and warm relationship.

There are right now 89 books, booklets, pamphlets, miscellaneous guidelines and other pieces of service literature available in French due to the dedication of Canada's Lise P. and her associates.

G.S.O.'s publications division is an expanding operation – though a large one even now. Last year A.A. books alone consumed two million pounds of paper; it employed the services of printing firms in four states: Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York and Tennessee; its manufacturing expenses in 1987 approximated four million dollars. And in total the division currently has available 330 products of importance to the Fellowship; 200 of these are in English, 90 in Spanish and 40 in other languages.

And to think it all began not too many years ago with the publication of just one book. But *what* a book!

To take proper advantage of the output of the publications division many groups have a literature chairperson and literature display. If your group does not perhaps it should. Because most A.A. members agree that "literature carries the message too," – sometimes as much as talking and listening.

All A.A. Conference-approved literature and material are available on one simple order form. Send for that order form today, use it and what you select will be delivered to you with a sure but not-so-simple blending of accuracy, speed and love.



New from G.S.O.

- *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (The Big Book in Spanish) is now available on tape cassettes; first 11 chapters plus Dr. Bob's story. (SS-34) \$25.00.
- *Bill's Own Story* (UL-09) and *Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions* (UL-08) are now available on ½" videocassette. For A.A. internal use only; \$35.00 per week rental; \$80 long-term lease.
- *D.C.M. (District Committee Member)* is a flyer telling what a D.C.M. is and does. Also in Spanish. No charge.
- *1988 Directory of A.A. Groups in Correctional Facilities*. Lists groups in prisons in U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico; also committees serving them and central/intergroup offices. Confidential. 75¢

Third A.A.W.S. Central Office/Intergroup Seminar

Dallas, Texas was the site of the Third Central Office/Intergroup Seminar held the weekend of November 4-6, 1988 at the Hyatt Regency/DFW Hotel. A total of 162 registrants representing 36 states, including the District of Columbia, as well as five Canadian provinces, shared their experience, strength and hope on topics ranging from office management to working together for the benefit of those who seek A.A.

Major presentations were grouped under two main headings, "Management Practices" and "Working Together: Central Office/Intergroup and District and Area General Service." A total of 12 topic workshops, plus unstructured sessions were all well received. Many attendees shared that they found the Seminar to be both helpful in providing ideas that could be applied to their day-to-day operations, and in fostering unity among A.A. entities.

A full report is available upon request.

Milton A. Maxwell, Chmn. Emeritus of Board: In Memoriam

On the wall of Dr. Milton A. Maxwell's home in Washington state, hangs a plaque honoring him with the Distinguished Service Award for the year 1985 from the Rutgers University Summer School of Alcohol Studies. It reads: "for his significant contribution to and leadership in the alcohol field. His commitment to education and training has strengthened the alcohol field and his

dedication and untiring efforts have enabled many alcoholics to receive help. He has been an inspiration to professionals and other concerned individuals in prevention and treatment of alcoholism."

That tribute by his peers omits Milton Maxwell's even greater and more enduring legacy: his service as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee of Alcoholics Anonymous from 1971 to 1982. A fellow Class A trustee and long time professional associate, Dr. Joan Jackson, speaks of his "sensitivity to people and to group processes, intelligent and effective analysis of organizational problems, creative solutions" and "a gift for helping people arrive at a consensus. . . ." Joan remembers him as "warm, quiet, gentle, loyal, thoughtful and understanding."

On October 28, 1988, at age 81, Milton died of congestive heart failure, leaving the A.A. Fellowship and the field of alcoholism to reflect on his significant and loving contributions.

In 1939, while studying for the ministry at the University of Texas, Milton was approached by Les S., another young minister, seeking help with his drinking problem. To his dismay Milton realized he couldn't help the young man. Later that year, however, a visitor to the school mentioned reading a recent review about the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Milton carried the word to the young minister, who upon his return to Chicago, found the one existing A.A. group in the city and became very active. Meanwhile, Milton had become intrigued with the field of sociology and decided to do his Ph.D. thesis on the unique sociological workings within an A.A. group. Milton later recalled that summer: "I knew only Les S., but fortunately he had the interest and influence to persuade his A.A. group to let me be a participant observer. The members soon trusted me, and I participated in every type of activity, in and outside of the meetings. I was not only able to observe the full range of A.A. interaction at close range, but I gained a feeling for what was happening. In fact, I experienced some change in myself." Although his work on the thesis was an academic exercise, Milton remembered that he "had very strong feelings [to] do something to further the welfare of this A.A."

In 1950, while attending the Yale Summer School of Alcohol Studies, Milton wrote a paper that came to the attention of the editor of Yale's "Quarterly Journal of Alcoholism," who suggested that Milton undertake a longer study of the Washingtonian movement (a mid-19th-century temperance society with many superficial resemblances to A.A. With a membership of 500,000 at its height, it made some fatal mistakes and soon failed). Copies of the Washingtonian paper are available from the A.A. Archives.

For 21 years, until 1965, Milton was a professor of sociology at the University of Washington. Then, during a two-year sabbatical to the Center for Alcohol Studies at Rutgers (successor to the Yale school) in 1957-58, he

became acquainted with G.S.O. people. "I heard Bill W. speak at his dinner at the Hotel Astor. I heard him give his story while he was in his prime. I did a lot of non-A.A. things – but again and again I was just drawn to A.A."

After Milton's two-year sabbatical at Rutgers, he became director of the Rutgers Summer School on Alcoholism for nine years. During his last two years there, Milton would begin research on A.A.'s professional relations in Oregon, a study which revealed the crying need to educate professionals about A.A. This eventually led to his writing his landmark book, *The A.A. Experience* (McGraw-Hill, 1984).

Milton was elected a Class A trustee of the A.A. General Service Board in 1971. Following the retirement of Dr. Jack Norris as chairperson of the G.S.B. in 1978, Dr. Maxwell was appointed to the position.

Milton is survived by his wife, Charlotte, in Olympia, Washington, and two sons: Douglas Lee Maxwell, Washington, D.C., and Ross Reed Maxwell, San Francisco, Ca. He is also survived by his larger "family" of A.A. and professional friends.

At the board meeting three days after his death, Class A trustee Joan Jackson said: "Milton devoted a large part of his life to helping alcoholics. . . . Many are indebted to him because they saw in him, a nonalcoholic, the maturity and spirituality they sought in following the A.A. program. He helped members of A.A. to understand themselves, their program, their organization and their history. And he helped the outside world understand A.A. and – in greater depth than ever before – what went on within A.A. so that alcoholics could achieve a responsible and mature sobriety. . . . With me, he brought out most often the person I wished to be, while always accepting the person I was. I shall miss him very much." We all will.

In A.A.'s 'Benign Anarchy,' Informed Group Conscience Is Our Ultimate Authority

Co-founder Bill W. liked to call A.A. a "benign anarchy," and for good reason. A.A. is a spiritual movement, and as Tradition Two clearly states, our sole authority "is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience."

But what exactly is the group conscience? How does it differ from a group opinion or a majority vote? And what is the best way to "get" there?

It is generally agreed that the group conscience strives for unanimity through enlightenment, spirituality and

adherence to our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. On sensitive issues, the group works slowly – discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the group is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a "yes" or "no" count – precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience.

The late Dean K., who served a term as delegate, California/Northern Interior, and then managed the Seattle Central Office for a time, said that there are two ways to arrive at a group conscience: "The competitive way permits the person with the loudest voice to push his idea across, take a vote and come up with a 'majority' decision. This is not informed group conscience. In the cooperative way, group members come together in mutual trust to arrive at a group decision, not one individual's personal triumph."

Dean's formula for a cooperative and informed group conscience calls for facts (or presentations) on both sides of a question. "The meeting is not thrown open for general discussion," he stressed. "This would allow the more vocal members to set the debate. It is suggested that the chairperson call on every member in turn, allowing two minutes for each to speak. No member should speak a second time until all have had their turns; this gives even the quietest person an equal chance. The chairperson expresses his or her opinions only after all the others have spoken."

"It is important," Dean noted, "that the minority voice always be heard; but it should be borne in mind that while the minority voice sometimes is right, it is just as often wrong. Unless the minority voice is decidedly persuasive, it should be considered in its proper light – as a minority voice. To permit the minority always to influence the majority is to permit the tail to wag the dog."

Beyond the group level, the A.A. General Service Conference has the responsibility of acting as the collective group conscience of the Fellowship. About the closest thing to a collective voice that A.A. has, the Conference produces statements on important matters of policy that affect A.A. as a whole; approves the choice of some trustee nominees for the General Service Board and directly elects others. But neither the Conference nor the board can dictate to any A.A. group or member.

Not always understood, group conscience as expressed in Tradition Two is a powerful spiritual concept that makes it possible for people of diverse backgrounds and temperament to rise above personal ambition and unite in our common purpose: to stay sober and extend the hand of A.A. to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Has your group had an experience with group conscience that you would like to share? G.S.O. welcomes your input.

Deadline for Directory Information – March 15, 1989

Printouts corrected to show up-to-date group information and returned to G.S.O. by the areas, will be used to produce the 1989 A.A. directories: Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and Canadian. These confidential directories list groups and contacts; delegates and trustees; central offices/intergroups; and special international contacts.

So, a reminder for area delegates: If you haven't already returned your printouts, please remember that the *final* deadline for inclusion in the directories is March 15, 1989.

Space Planning at G.S.O. & Gv

The General Service Office and the Grapevine have established a planning committee to consider improving our use of building space for the various operations of the General Service Office and the Grapevine.

This is in line with the information given to the 1988 General Service Conference regarding earlier studies of possible other locations of the offices in the United States and Canada. At that time a recommendation was accepted that the office remain in the New York area after the expiration of the present lease in 1991, with a complete review of the use of space among various alternatives of location and function to precede the execution of a new lease or leases.

The progress of this planning activity will be reported from time to time in *Box 4-5-9*.

1990 International Convention Update

In 1990 A.A. will be 55 years young, and our celebration via the International Convention in Seattle will be one of the biggest and best gatherings ever. Over the weekend of July 5-8, some 30,000-40,000 (maybe more) A.A.s will come together in workshops and Big Meetings to applaud A.A. and express gratitude for their own sobriety, one day at a time.

The logistics of such a huge gathering are involved and detailed. We have 15,000 rooms under contract for attendees from around the world who will flock to big sessions at Seattle's Kingdome Stadium and to workshops at the Seattle Center and the new Washington State Convention Center.

A.A.s planning to attend this event have many questions, and we thought it might be helpful to list the 12 most frequently asked questions that we receive at G.S.O.

Q What is the theme of the 1990 International Convention?

A "55 Years – One Day at a Time"

Registration

Registration for the Convention will be handled in a manner similar to what was done in 1985. Attendees will be able to register in advance or on-site.

Q When will registration forms be available?

A Preregistration information will be announced to the Fellowship in the fall of 1989.

Q What about on-site registration?

A On-site registration will be set up in the Exhibition



SEATTLE-KING COUNTY CONV. & VISITORS BUREAU

The Seattle Center Fountain.

Hall at the Seattle Center in Seattle. Actual hours have not yet been established but registration will likely open on Monday, July 2, 1990.

Q How much will registration cost?

A Registration fees have not been set.

Q Must everyone register?

A Yes. Everyone must have a badge to participate.

Q Can travel agents register groups or individuals?

A Travel agency checks to register groups will not be accepted. Individuals must register themselves or their families.

Housing

Q Can members contact hotels themselves?

A No. To make the process as fair as possible, all housing requests will be processed through the official housing bureau. Hotel requests will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Housing forms will go out with registration forms.

Q What are the main hotels?

A Events will be at the Seattle Center, the Washington State Convention Center, the Kingdome, and the Westin



SEATTLE-KING COUNTY CONV. & VISITORS BUREAU

Seattle/King County's Kingdome.

and Sheraton Hotels. Other events will also be held at outlying hotels, at the airport, in Bellevue, Tacoma and Everett. Maps will be provided on the location and description of each property with the registration forms.

Q Can travel agents make room reservations?

A Room reservations can only be made in individual people's names and those individuals must be registered in order to be assigned housing. Rooms available through the housing bureau, at specially-negotiated Convention rates, are not commissionable to travel agents. Once hotels have been assigned by the housing bureau, confirmation and a request for deposit will be sent by the hotels.

Q What about forms for camping facilities and other alternative housing?

A The housing information will contain information on camping, dormitories and local A.A. housing (Seattle A.A.s willing to put people up in their homes). Commercial campsites in the Seattle area can be reserved now through Talley Management Group, Inc., P.O. Box 65798, Washington, DC 20035.

A.A. will also be setting up special lots on public school grounds for self-contained units only. These spaces will be assigned, as requested, beginning September 1989.

Transportation

Q Will there be transportation available?

A A.A. will provide transportation to and from most hotel/motel/camping/dormitory facilities. This will be at no cost to the attendee. City (public) transportation routes will also be used (there may be a nominal charge for this service). Continuous free shuttling will be available between all of the event locations and downtown hotels.

Q Where do I call for more information?

A More information will be available throughout 1989 and during the half year preceding the Convention in 1990 in issues of *Box 4-5-9*. All necessary information will be included in the registration packet, which will be available in September 1989. This packet will also list special telephone numbers to call for answers to specific questions about housing, the program, tours, etc.

- and, in 1995 it's San Diego

San Diego, California has been selected by the General Service Board as the site for the International Convention celebrating A.A.'s 60th Anniversary, June 29-July 2, 1995. Because of projected growth in attendance, it is now necessary to reserve major meeting facilities and hotels far in advance. The board made its decision following inspection trips by an ad hoc site-selection committee to Atlanta, Minneapolis/St. Paul, San Diego and Toronto - the cities chosen for consideration by the 1988 General Service Conference.

Entries Still Being Sought for Daily Reflections Book

In the Oct./Nov. 1988 issue of *Box 4-5-9* we printed an article inviting A.A. members to send in their sharing on a brief passage, somewhere in the A.A. Steps or Traditions, or in Bill W.'s or Dr. Bob's writings, that has special meaning for them. This would be for possible inclusion in a Daily Reflections book, as requested by the 1988 General Service Conference.

Response for this appeal has been very slow and we are attempting to cast a wider net for manuscripts in an effort to have a book of the highest possible quality. The Jan. 1 deadline for copy is being extended to April 1.

Guidelines and simple rules for submission of your selection and thoughts about it are as follows:

1. Choose a passage of no more than five sentences on any Step, Tradition or writings by Bill W. from any Conference-approved literature, including Bill W.'s and Dr. Bob's Grapevine articles.

2. Type (double spaced) or hand print your offering using one side of the paper only - and divide your manuscript into two paragraphs together totaling not more than 150 words.

3. In paragraph one present your selection, including source and page number; in paragraph two write out your thought (reflection) concerning that selection.

4. In the upper right-hand corner of the manuscript write your name and address. (This is confidential and for office purposes only.)

Please be advised that if your manuscript is accepted no fee will be paid nor will your name be acknowledged in print.

If your work *is* accepted, however, you will be asked to sign an agreement with A.A. World Services, Inc.,

publisher of the Fellowship's Conference-approved literature.

So, if you have a special passage somewhere in the literature, plus personal feelings about that passage you want to share with others, put that selection and thought together and send them both to: Literature Desk, General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

We look forward to hearing from you. Soon!

Workshop, Anyone? So. Minnesota Committee Shares Successful Format

Carrying the A.A. service message to the groups in District 7 of the Southern Minnesota Area is a full-time experience. Since only half the groups are registered with the General Service Office, providing a flow of information is a continuing concern.

Over the years, various service workshops had been held at random as the need arose. In the wake of their obvious success, a Workshop Committee was formed in May 1987. Its purpose: "to set up and coordinate workshops on topics and issues pertinent to all three Legacies of A.A.; provide an atmosphere for communication, discussion and information." The result, it was hoped, would be "a more informed group and district conscience as it relates to all of A.A."

From the beginning, the committee notes, "we tried to recognize a few objectives that would facilitate workshop effectiveness. Turning for help to G.S.O.'s Conference and Convention Guidelines, the committee singled out two significant words that would figure importantly in the planning process - "balance" and "flow."

The first workshop took place in June 1987; to date, more than ten have been held. Reports the committee: "Through trial-and-error, we have put together a general format that we use for every workshop. We establish two or three main topics and invite informed members to share their experience on one of these for 15-20 minutes. Printed flyers announcing the workshop are distributed throughout the district. Each workshop opens with the A.A. Preamble, followed by readings of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts (short form) and our statement of purpose. After the presenters speak, we encourage dialogue, questions and sharing, including the expression of minority opinions. We have learned that a three-hour period seems to work best with this format."

While the committee is primarily concerned with carrying the message of general service, it also tries to

present a variety of topics ranging from cooperation with court programs to the Grapevine and sponsorship. Each workshop is taped, and the tapes are given to the district archives committee for future reference.

A recent G.S.R. workshop resulted from replies to a questionnaire that had been distributed at a district meeting. The 32 G.S.R.s were asked if they would be interested in attending a workshop, and 31 said "yes." From a list of 45 wide-ranging topics, they were asked to select the ones that appealed to them most. The top six choices that were presented at the workshop: A.A. History; The Traditions - Why It Works; The Service Structure - Focus on Districts; G.S.R. Responsibilities; Group Inventories - Why and How; and Intergroups - Their Function. The G.S.R. workshop was a "great success" and the committee expects to hold more on a regular basis.

Several months ago, the committee observes, "Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee John King shared at one of our Southern Minnesota Area Service Conferences. He pointed to A.A.'s rapid growth, noting that it shows no sign of abating in the near future. His projection, in our view, underscores the need for the workshop concept - not only to carry the A.A. service message but to help keep groups unified and part of the Fellowship's whole."

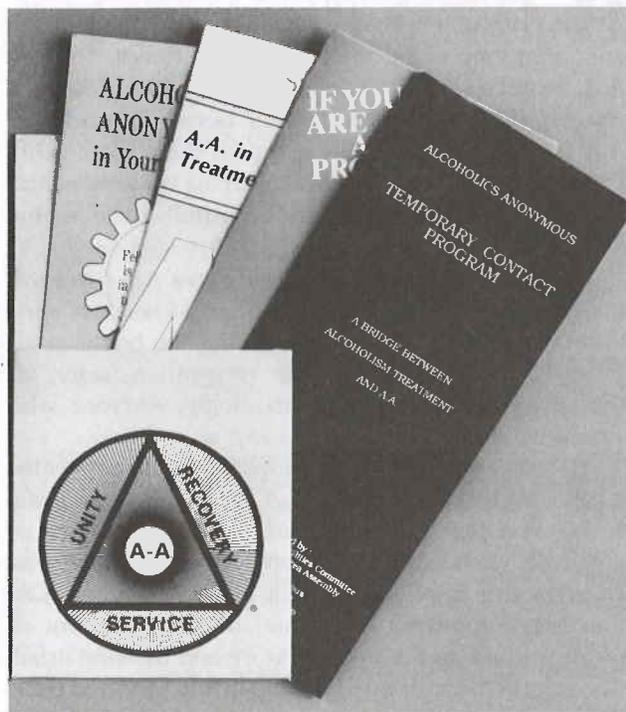
The Southern Minnesota Workshop Committee is "happy to share its experience and format. And, if anyone out there has some ideas or suggestions, we would really appreciate hearing from you!" Please write: District 7 General Service; P.O. Box 26451; St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

Treatment Facilities

Southern Minnesota's Temporary Contact Program

The Southern Minnesota Treatment Facilities Committee, District 7, takes A.A. meetings into 25 facilities in their area, and has a list of 300 volunteer temporary contacts. Sometimes nearby districts will borrow A.A.s from the District 7 list. The contact program is set up with the cooperation of the local intergroup, and either the patient or a staff member may call intergroup for a contact.

The T.F. committee has developed a packet of pamphlets, information and key phone numbers, which they



give out to the temporary contacts. Their information flyer, "Temporary Contact Program – A Bridge Between Alcoholism Treatment and A.A." outlines the basics and importance of this program:

"As you know, the most 'slippery' place in the journey to lifelong sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting," the flyer begins.

It goes on to suggest that the temporary contact may: visit the alcoholic before they leave the facility; provide them with A.A. literature and a local meeting list; take them to a variety of meetings before and after leaving the facility (especially their first day back in the community); introduce them to other A.A.s; ensure they have the phone numbers of several A.A.s; and talk with them about sponsorship and selecting a sponsor.

Guidelines for temporary contacts are outlined, stressing that the contact always keep in mind that the goal of both A.A. and the treatment facility is the same – the recovery of the alcoholic.

Suggestions for working with the newcomer include: making contact while person is still in treatment; clearly explaining that this is a *temporary* arrangement; attending at least one meeting with the newcomer; introducing them to A.A. Conference-approved literature, the Grapevine and meeting lists; and explaining the value of a home group and sponsorship.

The information flyer also points out pitfalls to avoid – such as any statements or interpretations of medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses and to avoid challenging the teachings of the facility.

When we carry the message to those in treatment we may be their first contact with A.A. How we look,

act and talk will be representative of the A.A. Fellowship.

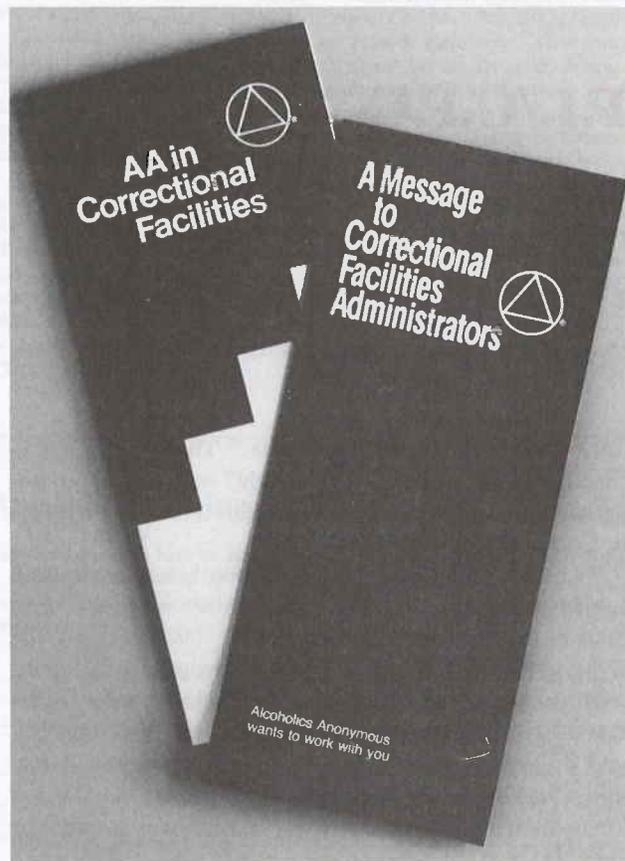
What is your committee doing? We would like to know so we can share it with others.

Correctional Facilities

To better target the specific needs of Correctional Facilities administrators and A.A. members who carry the A.A. message into correctional facilities – and in accordance with a 1988 Conference Advisory Action – the pamphlet "A.A. in Prisons" has been replaced with two separate revisions of the material.

"A.A. in Correctional Facilities" (P-26, 20¢) is aimed at individuals inside and outside of correctional facilities who are interested in forming an inside A.A. group. It describes the steps many people have found to be important in setting solid groundwork for an inside A.A. group.

"A Message to Correctional Facilities Administrators" (P-20, 10¢) responds to questions from administrators about what A.A. is, what it can do, and how groups function in a correctional facility.



Volunteers Needed for Institutions Correspondence Service

The Institutions Correspondence Service (I.C.S.) is a wonderful way for outside A.A. members to do Twelfth Step work, and provides a way to share experience, strength and hope with A.A.s who are confined. In the spirit of the Traditions, we honor one another's anonymity. Many have found this form of service to be a means of spiritual growth for both "outside" and "inside" A.A.s.

A.A. members wishing to participate should write to the C.F. Desk, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. They can use their home address or, with their group's permission, their group's P.O. Box. Then they will receive the name and address of an inmate who is an A.A. member who wants an outside A.A. contact.

There are many inmates just waiting for an outside A.A. to contact them. It is a wonderful way of sharing the A.A. message with recovering alcoholics confined in correctional facilities.

P.I./C.P.C.

'Instant' Booth Carries A.A. Message At Arizona Fair

"Is alcohol a problem in your life?" That question was the theme of a booth – "instantly" conceived, put together and staffed – at the four-day Verde Valley Fair in Cottonwood, Arizona.

"The idea of having an A.A. booth was conceived hardly more than two weeks before the fair," says district committee member Ray D. "We phoned the General Service Office to be sure we would be in accord with the Traditions. Staff member Betty L. gave us the green light, then asked, 'How are you set for pamphlets and other literature?' 'Very poorly,' I answered. A day and a half later, we received our literature via U.P.S. I knew then that God and the Fellowship were on our side."

The price of a space — \$100.00 — "was more than our intergroup could afford," Ray continues, "but an A.A. member said, 'Go for it. I'll contribute \$80.00 if you can dig up the other \$20.00.' Done. Then another A.A., Tom D. of Cornville, accepted the responsibility for constructing the booth and lettering the posters and slogans to be used. These were beautifully done in blue and white."

Next came the process of finding area A.A.s to work two-hour shifts at the booth. "We had 44 hours of open time to fill, with two people staffing the booth at all times," Ray notes. "Despite the recognition factor, all the time slots were filled. Amazingly, everyone who signed up showed up."

The A.A. booth featured showings of the new video tapes, "Young People and A.A." and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." Because the booth was classified as nonprofit, no books could be sold; however, there was an attractive display of the Big Book and other A.A. Conference-approved books and materials. "A lot of people picked up the free literature and meeting lists," Ray reports. "Many visited the booth and stayed to chat, including a number of A.A.s with lengths of sobriety varying from a couple of months to 35 years. Some visitors asked if we were alcoholics, saying, 'You sure don't look like you are.' The good-will and laughter of our volunteers was contagious, and people who came by looking glum went away smiling."

Ray says that the highlight of the event occurred the day the fair opened. "A bedraggled young woman of 18, whom we'll call Joanie, approached the booth with a terrific hangover, saying she wanted to do something about her drinking. Fortunately, the person staffing the booth had joined A.A. when she was 19 and now had five years' sobriety. She poured Joanie a cup of hot coffee and shared her experience, strength and hope. It turned out that Joanie owned only the clothes on her back and, obviously, she and soap had been strangers for quite a while.

"That very night, she was taken to a meeting. The following morning, two bags of clothing, soap, shampoo and other toiletries were left at the booth by concerned A.A.s. Joanie was thrilled; later that day, she returned to the booth clean, smiling and very grateful. The seed had been planted, and she had found a love and caring that would be with her always."

The A.A. booth was "a joint effort of the P.I. committee and the district," Ray reports. "We also received a much-needed contribution from the Thursday Night Seekers Group in Cottonwood to help cover the cost of materials. It was a heartwarming experience for all who participated. We were able to share our primary purpose, we got a lot of much-needed exposure, and we know that we directly helped at least one suffering alcoholic out there to become sober."

BOX 4|5|9 BULLETIN BOARD

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

FEBRUARY / MARCH 1988

Calendar of Events

February

- 3-5 — *Salem, Oregon*. Soberfest '89. Write: Ch., Box 5167, Salem, OR 97304
- 3-5 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. Edmonton Winter Round-Up. Write: Ch., 272 Southridge, Edmonton, AB T6H 4M9
- 3-5 — *Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada*. District 5 Mid-Winter Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 742, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4
- 3-5 — *San Fernando, La Union, Philippines*. Seventh Convention. Write: Ch., LDT, Gov. Luna Station, San Fernando, La Union, Philippines
- 4-5 — *Malvern, Arkansas*. Big Book Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 271, Malvern, AR 72104
- 9-12 — *Columbus, Georgia*. 19th Pine Mt. Fellowship. Write: Ch., Box 12433, Columbus, GA 31907
- 10-12 — *Greeley, Colorado*. Greeley Stampede. Write: Ch., Box 595, Greeley, CO 80632
- 10-12 — *Chicago, Illinois*. East Central Region Delegates & Past Delegates Conf. Write: Ch., 205 W. Wacker, Suite 422, Chicago, IL 60606
- 10-12 — *Cincinnati, Ohio*. CINCYPAA '89. Write: Ch., Box 19338, Cincinnati, OH 45219
- 10-12 — *Bellevue, Washington*. Winter Holidays '89. Write: Ch. (PSYPC), Box 3791, Bellevue, WA 98004
- 10-12 — *Camrose, Alta., Canada*. Ninth Valentine Roundup. Write: Ch., 4610 61st, Camrose, AB T4V 2H7
- 10-12 — *Ngaruawahia, New Zealand*. 26th Nat. Conv. Write: Conv. Sec., Box 54, Ngaruawahia, New Zealand
- 16-19 — *Kansas City, Missouri*. NAAWC. Write: Ch., NAAWC, Box 13245, Shawnee Mission, KS 66212
- 17-19 — *Little Rock, Arkansas*. Seventh Winter Holiday Conv. Write: Ch., Box 55269, Little Rock, AR 72205
- 17-19 — *Sacramento, California*. 12th Spring Fling. Write: Ch., Box 19548, Sacramento, CA 95819-0548
- 17-19 — *Cocoa Beach, Florida*. Florida Mid-winter Conf. Write: Ch., 2000 Commerce Drive, Melbourne, FL 32904
- 17-19 — *Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky*. 38th Conf. Write: Ch., Box 423, Covington, KY 41011
- 17-19 — *Joplin, Missouri*. 12th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2146, Joplin, MO 64803
- 17-19 — *Memphis, Tennessee*. Tenn. Conf. of Young People; Write: Ch., Box 11156, Memphis, TN 38111-0156
- 17-19 — *El Paso, Texas*. Jamboree. Write: Sec., Box 3115, El Paso, TX 79923
- 17-19 — *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*.

- 22nd Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 8878, Saskatoon, SK S7K 6S7
- 17-19 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. Second Annual GHYPC. Write: Ch., 41 Keele St., Toronto, ON M6P 2J8
- 17-19 — *Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 11th Mid-Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., 409 Poplar Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 4K8
- 24-26 — *Denver, Colorado*. Southwest Service Assembly. Write: Ch., 5435 W. Leewood Dr., Littleton, CO 80123
- 24-26 — *Kansas City, Kansas*. Seventh Annual Sunflower Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1281, Mission, KS 66222
- 25-26 — *Arecibo, Puerto Rico*. Puerto Rico Convention. Write: Ch., Box 78, Arecibo, PR 00613
- 27-28 — *Syracuse, New York*. Second Mid-Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 871, Syracuse, NY 13205

March

- 3-5 — *St. Simons Island, Georgia*. 27th Epworth By The Sea Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 892, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 3-5 — *Montgomery, Alabama*. Eighth Heart of Dixie Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6043, Montgomery, AL 36106
- 3-5 — *Santa Cruz, California*. Young Peoples Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3458, Santa Cruz, CA 95063
- 3-5 — *Honolulu, Hawaii*. 22nd Annual Region Service Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 23329, Honolulu, HI 96822
- 3-5 — *Whitefish, Montana*. Sober Ski. Write: Ch., Box 326, St. Ignatius, MT 59865-0326
- 3-5 — *Perrysburg, Ohio*. Seventh Annual Northwest Ohio & Southeast Michigan Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 401, Toledo,

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

February (page 33): "Gateway to Sanity"; old-timers; listening; going to meetings.

March (page 17): "A Program of Action"; Is A.A. changing?; the home group; Grapevine Awareness Month.

OH 43692

- 3-5 — *Eau Claire, Wisconsin*. 30th Alano Group 12 Banquet. Write: Ch., 3025 Rudolph Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701
- 3-5 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. 39th Reg. Conf. Write: Ch., 234 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 502, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5
- 10-12 — *Sitka, Alaska*. Quarterly Business Mtg. Write: Ch., Box 2924, Sitka, AK 99835
- 10-12 — *Fresno, California*. 42nd Annual Spring Conf. Write: Tr., 1046 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122-2290
- 10-12 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. Tenth Annual Las Vegas Young People's Round-up. Write: Ch., 2620 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 160, Las Vegas, NV 89109
- 10-12 — *Corpus Christi, Texas*. 35th Costal Bend Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 3204, Corpus Christi, TX 78404
- 10-12 — *Houston, Texas*. Second District 3 East Conf. Write: Ch., Box 111906, Houston, TX 77293
- 10-12 — *Brandon, Manitoba, Canada*. 41st Westman Intergroup Conf. Write: Ch.,

Planning an April, May or June Event?

Please send your information on April, May or June events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by *February 10*, the calendar deadline for the April/May issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

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 — more events listed on reverse side

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

March (cont.)

- 226 27th Street, Brandon, MB R7B 2A4
- 11-12 — *Colville, Washington*. Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 545, Colville, WA 99114
- 17-19 — *Gulf Shores, Alabama*. Fifth Annual Gulf Shores Jubilee. Write: Ch., Box 1183, Foley, AL 36536
- 17-19 — *Westminster, Colorado*. Spring Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 155, Wheat Ridge, CO 80034
- 17-19 — *French Lick, Indiana*. 36th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 17544, Indianapolis, IN 46217
- 17-19 — *Seekonk, Massachusetts*. 13th R.I. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 9342, Providence, RI 02940
- 17-19 — *Amarillo, Texas*. Fourth Annual Old Timers Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3983, Amarillo, TX 79116
- 17-19 — *Irving, Texas*. Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 15198, Irving, TX 75015
- 17-19 — *Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. Fourth Annual Sober & United Round-Up (sponsored by gays and lesbians). Write: Ch., 5821 66th Avenue N.W., Calgary, AB T3A 2A8
- 17-19 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. North Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., 1751 Manning Ave., Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 1L1
- 17-19 — *Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Canada*. 32nd Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 102, Weyburn, SK S4H 2J8
- 17-20 — *Miami Beach, Florida*. Sixth Annual Florida Roundup (presented by gay men and lesbians). Write: Ch., Box 381274, Miami, FL 33238
- 24-26 — *San Diego, California*. 12th Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 23755, San Diego, CA 92123

- 24-26 — *Reno, Nevada*. Reno Spring Festival. Write: Ch., Box 72, Reno, NV 89505
- 24-26 — *Port Elizabeth, South Africa*. 40th National Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7604, Newton Park 6055, South Africa
- 31-April 2 — *Painesville, Ohio*. Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 43225, Richmond Heights, OH 44143
- 31-April 2 — *Rapid City, South Dakota*. Rushmore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 594, Rapid City, SD 57709
- 31-April 2 — *Longview, Texas*. 20th E. Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2082, Longview, TX 75606
- 31-April 2 — *San Antonio, Texas*. Weekend in S.A. Write: Ch., Box 791985, San Antonio, TX 78279-1985

April

- 1-2 — *Lewiston, Idaho*. Fling in the Spring. Write: Ch., Box 165, Clarkston, WA 99403
- 7-9 — *Grand Forks, North Dakota*. Sixth Northern Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1262, Grand Forks, ND 58206-1262
- 7-9 — *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*. Southern Alberta Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 212, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Y5
- 7-9 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Tenth Annual Celebrate Sobriety Conf. Write: Ch., Box 718, Station A, Vancouver, BC V6C 2N5
- 8-9 — *Saint Joseph, Missouri*. 46th Anniversary. Write: Ch., 3309 Melody Lane, St. Joseph, MO 64503-1343
- 14-16 — *Lincoln, Nebraska*. Lincoln Spring Fling 1989. Write: Ch., Box 30852, Lincoln, NE 68503
- 14-16 — *Cape May, New Jersey*. 22nd Annual Philadelphia Area Intergroup Assoc. Roundup. Write: Ch., 311 S. Juniper St., Rm. 309, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- 14-16 — *Ocean City, New Jersey*. 25th Annual Southern New Jersey General Service Conv. Write: Ch., Box 973, Absecon, NJ 08201
- 14-16 — *Middleburg Heights, Ohio*. Second National Men Conf. Write: Ch., Box 370001, Maple Hts., OH 44137
- 14-16 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 15-16 — *Lewistown, Montana*. Spring Area Assembly. Write: Ch., 413 E. Benham, Glendive, MT 59330
- 21-23 — *Lake Charles, Louisiana*. Lake Charles Group 36th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., 218 Jefferson Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605
- 22-29 — *Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*. Caribbean Cruise Without Booze. Write: Ch., Box 8201, Buckland Station, Manchester, CT 06040
- 28-30 — *Harvey, Illinois*. 1989 NIA Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3941, Joliet, IL 60434
- 28-30 — *Ft. Wayne, Indiana*. Ninth Annual Northeast Indiana Conv. Write: Ch., 8306 Schlatter Rd., Leo, IN 46765
- 28-30 — *Stillwater, New Jersey*. G.S.Y.P. Seventh Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Box 8205, Piscataway, NJ 08855
- 28-30 — *Canandaigua, New York*. Fourth Annual Conf. of the Lakes. Write: Ch., Box 890, Geneva, NY 14456
- 28-30 — *Fairlee, Vermont*. 22nd Vermont Conv. Write: Ch., Box 546, Chester, VT 05143
- 28-30 — *Grand Centre, Alberta, Canada*. District 3 Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 141, Grand Centre, AB T0A 1T0