

## The Big Book Can Be a Sponsor's Gold Mine

Members who take on the responsibility of sponsoring another alcoholic in A.A. frequently wish they had the Midas touch when it comes to "doing the right thing." And chances are, they do. As Patrick M., of St. Louis, Missouri, points out, "anyone—from newcomers to long-timers—who carefully reads *Alcoholics Anonymous*, is rewarded with new concepts, understanding, wonder, delight . . . and a powerful support system for sponsorship. Which is why it is often referred to fondly as 'a meeting in print' or 'the A.A. Bible.'"

Patrick, who has been continuously sober more than 30 years, informally surveyed about 200 A.A.s recently to learn their favorite passages in the Big Book. Following are excerpts from some of the pages most frequently mentioned:

"*There is a solution.* . . . We have found much of heaven and we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which we had not even dreamed." (p. 25)

"We never apologize to anyone for depending upon our Creator. . . . The verdict of the ages is that faith means courage. . . . We never apologize for God." (p. 68)

"We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. . . . We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us." (two of the Promises, pp. 83-84)

" . . . we must be careful not to drift into worry, remorse or morbid reflection, for that would diminish our usefulness to others. . . . God gave us brains to use. Our thought-life will be placed on a much higher plane when our thinking is cleared of wrong motives." (p. 86)

"When we look back, we realize that the things which came to us when we put ourselves in God's hands were better than anything we could have planned." (p. 100)

" . . . acceptance is the answer to *all* my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation—some fact of my life—unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing, or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. **Nothing**, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake. Until I could accept my alcoholism, I could not stay sober; unless I accept life completely on life's terms, I

cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes." (p. 449)

## A.A. Information on World Wide Web

As of December 22, 1995, information about Alcoholics Anonymous became available on the World Wide Web <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>

The General Service Board approved, at their October 1995 meeting, the recommendation of the trustees' Public Information Committee that G.S.O. implement an A.A. Web Page. The A.A. Fact File and a list of addresses to contact General Service Offices worldwide is now available, in English, Spanish and French, on the A.A. Web Site.

There are ongoing discussions as to how to use the A.A. Web Page, (in keeping with our Traditions), to communicate the A.A. message.



One of the highlights for A.A.s visiting G.S.O.'s Archives is Bill W.'s couch, the only original piece of furniture from the first office. In 1995 A.A.s and friends visiting the office totalled 1,538. We hope to see you this year.

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## 1995 Intergroup Seminar Stresses Unity in Service

“Sharing Our Unity in Our Common Differences” was the theme of the 10th annual Intergroup/Central Office Seminar held Oct. 6-8 in Atlanta, Georgia. The weekend of workshops, panel presentations and fellowship brought together 135 intergroup/central office managers and delegates from across the U.S. and Canada. Together with a handful of A.A. World Service trustees and members of the General Service Office staff, they focused on the spirit and substance of unity as embodied in A.A.’s First Tradition.

Says Helen R., manager of the Atlanta Central Office and coordinator of the host committee: “These seminars draw us all much closer together, and I am grateful to G.S.O. for initiating them in the first place. Many of us have known each other by name and we’ve communicated by phone, but there’s something about coming together in person that reminds us we do not labor alone in our respective offices, a feeling many of us have had no matter whether our operation is large or small. Just as the support of the groups and the meetings helps alcoholics get well in A.A., so do our seminars give new direction, strength and enthusiasm to our common purpose—to reach suffering alcoholics and to respond to the needs of those who are recovering in A.A.”

During the busy weekend, Helen reports, there were workshops for intergroup/central offices serving more than 300 A.A. groups as well as for those serving under that number. Participants were eager to explore both their similarities and their differences in matters ranging from community relations and finance to methods of staffing and operation. For example: Some offices use volunteers exclusively, while others employ paid workers. At night, some use answering machines while others have their phones answered “live” round-the-clock. And

though most offices have managers who are themselves alcoholics, a couple in Canada are headed by Al-Anon members.

The next Intergroup/Central Office Seminar will be cohosted by the St. Paul and Minneapolis Intergroups in Minneapolis, Nov. 8-10, 1996.

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## New Zealander Took The Long Way Home

When Ray R. of Wellington, New Zealand, was advised to go to A.A. 20 years ago, he remembers, “I went to two meetings and ran away.”

Five years and countless bottles later, he was “confined to the hospital with chronic alcohol poisoning for nine weeks,” but still couldn’t stop drinking. Finally, in 1990, he landed back in the hospital, where, he says, “I was to die three times.” One morning he awakened “to find the chaplain standing over me. That was the day I surrendered and vowed, ‘No more.’ I walked back into A.A. on my crutches, sat down and said, ‘My name is Ray. I am an alcoholic.’”

Five years later, Ray says gratefully, “I am still sober, still going to A.A. and trying to help others who suffer as I did for so long.”

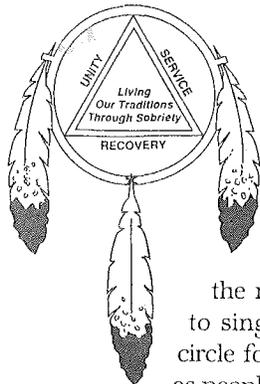
A.A. was introduced into New Zealand in 1946 (and will celebrate 50 years, Feb. 2) when one Ian M., the drunken scion of an affluent Wellington family, checked himself into a psychiatric hospital. There he read the *Reader’s Digest* article on A.A. He wrote to the General Service Office in New York City and received back a letter of encouragement and a copy of the Big Book. Using it as an instructional manual, Ian sobered up and sought out other alcoholics. The Fellowship grew, and today New Zealand has a board, a service structure and a general service office.

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## Enclosed A.A. Literature Catalog

During the past year G.S.O. has produced many new pamphlets in foreign languages, as well as the Big Book in Armenian and Nepali. Check pages 4 and 8 for new translations—as well as any other A.A. Conference-approved literature you might need for your group—in the enclosed new catalog.

# Fifth Annual A.A. Convention Sponsored by Native American Indians



A young Lakota woman stood, and in her native language she sang a Sundance song she'd learned in the sweat lodge, a prayer handed down through generations of the Lakota Sioux people. When the meeting closed, she was asked to sing another prayer and a huge circle formed around the meeting hall as people held hands and shared in the

powerful spirit of her prayer.

This event took place at an A.A. meeting, the Sunday morning spiritual meeting at the Fifth Annual National/International Alcoholics Anonymous Convention sponsored by Native American Indian A.A. members. It was held in Rapid City, South Dakota, October 5-8, 1995. The event was a remarkable testimony to the universality of Alcoholics Anonymous. The language spoken, the social customs observed may vary—but our message remains the same.

The convention evolved out of the experiences of a Native American named Earl L., who in the summer of 1990 was attending an Area 42 (Mid-Central California) Assembly. Earl realized that he had seen few Native Americans at these conferences. On impulse, he suddenly announced that the First Native American Conference was in the planning stages. Full of warm feelings when he made the announcement, Earl soon began to have serious doubts about what he'd done. Pete W., current chairperson, explains what happened next:

"Earl wondered what had possessed him to make such an outlandish statement. He asked for some sign from the Great Spirit, but none was forthcoming. For the next three weeks he was filled with confusion and uncertainty. Finally he decided to share with others what he'd done. But the ball still couldn't get rolling.

"However, some medicine people had heard about what had happened and they called on Earl. They questioned him for two days, after which they told him that he had experienced a vision. They explained to him that the warm feeling that engulfed him before he made the announcement was a vision of thousands of Indian people sober, and not yet sober, coming together at one place in the spirit of sobriety—sharing, eating, dancing."

This gathering became the first Native American-A.A. Convention, held in Las Vegas, Nevada. It took much planning and coordination, and had its ups and

downs. But today, the convention has become an effective way for Native Americans to carry the message to their sisters and brothers.

Explaining how important it has been for his sobriety to claim his Indian heritage, Peter W. relates: "Before I sobered up and joined A.A., I was ashamed of being Indian. I lived as I was stereotyped: no good, taking handouts—a drunk. For twenty years, my life was filled by the need to escape, and alcohol filled that need until I no longer could control my own life. Toward the end I felt the deepest loneliness and emptiness, a hurt so bad no amount of booze or drugs could numb or take away the pain. Suicide was the only answer. As we hear from many others, I too failed at this.

"By this time, I had bounced in and out of A.A. for years and finally something I heard stuck. One day I woke up and realized this. I began to remember my heritage and started to participate in sweat lodges, pow wows, and began attending Native American A.A. meetings. In May of this year I celebrated ten years of continuous sobriety. In April 1995 I was elected the new convention chair for the next four years. Great Spirit has filled my life with many blessings and honors. Where I used to walk with my head down in shame, today I walk proud, head up, because I am a proud St. Croix Chippewa tribal member—and most of all, I am sober.

"Sobriety has helped me to find Great Spirit, Mother Earth, Father Sky, and to live in harmony with all living creatures. It teaches me that one day at a time is important and that reaching out my hand in fellowship is my responsibility."

For Gene B. of Wisconsin, there are many similarities between the great principles of A.A. and the Native American Indian way of life. At the Saturday night A.A. meeting, Gene spoke for many others when he talked about the parallels: "The concept of a Higher Power is the concept of Indian people. The philosophy of living one day at a time is basic to our life: each day is a gift from God. The songs for the defeated or dead warrior—that's the same honor and dignity and respect we A.A.s have for the suffering alcoholic. We have that song, we have that quiet time for making amends—that's Native American philosophy. It should not be foreign to Indian people; it should be a part of our basic psychology and our understanding of life. It's in you."

The convention crosses tribal lines and language barriers to bring the message of A.A. to many Indian Nations, from the West Coast to the East Coast, north to south, and from Canada. Just as at any A.A. meeting or conference, the common bond of recovery from alcoholism is stronger than any individual differences. As Pete W. says, "Alcoholism is our last great battle and our Native people are dying from it, young and old, child and elder. But our convention and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous may reach someone and save a life."

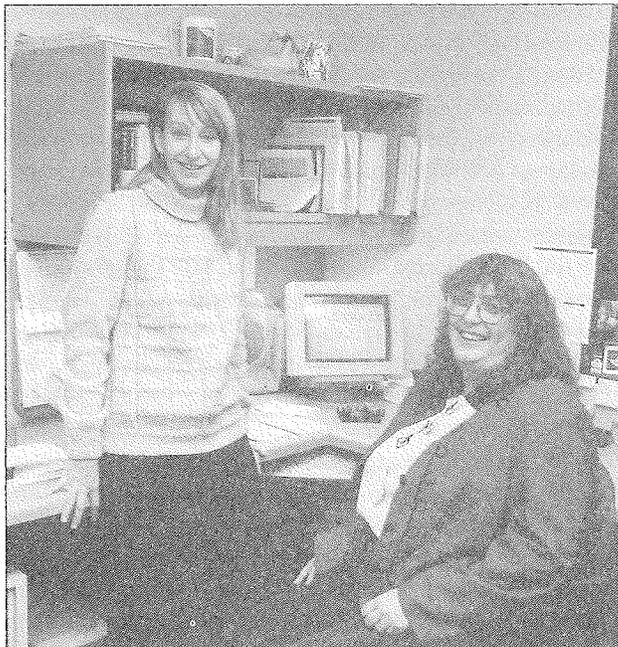
## SERVICES AT G.S.O.

### Order Entry and Inventory Control Departments

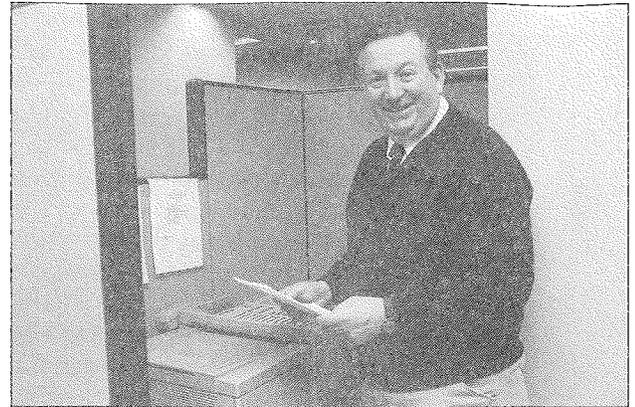
For many A.A. members, the General Service Office means A.A. literature. Every year, thousands of orders pour into G.S.O. for the Big Book, the Twelve and Twelve, *Living Sober*, and hundreds of other books, pamphlets, directories, audio and video cassettes, wallet cards, and other service material. It's the job of two closely-linked departments at G.S.O.—Order Entry and Inventory Control—to make sure that these materials continue to be available and ready for shipping when needed.

Orders come into the Order Entry department via telephone, mail, and fax, and can be paid for in three ways: credit card, cash, or billing. Since July 1994, customers have been able to charge orders on either Visa or Mastercard; currently, approximately 10% of all orders are billed to a credit card. Any A.A. group listed with G.S.O. can order and be billed later if it has had no outstanding balances for over 30 days.

Order Entry and Inventory Control now have their own direct telephone line, which saves time for the caller by eliminating going through the switchboard. Callers are directed to choose from three options: order-taking, customer service, and a Spanish-speaking representative. If all phones are busy you may leave a message on voice mail and someone will call you back. The goal is to never



*Cindy Katzman, supervisor of Inventory Control, and Andrea Brennan, supervisor of the Order Entry Department.*



*Tom Dagna (nonalcoholic) faxing information to the warehouse in Kansas City.*

have a busy signal. Order Entry gets 1,200 calls a month. Most of these are orders; some are questions about pricing, the status of an order, or general information regarding ordering.

Intergroups and central offices are major purchasers of A.A. literature, and Andrea Brennan (nonalcoholic), who heads the Order Entry Department, has become the de facto liaison for these entities. She says, "Intergroups like to work with somebody who's familiar to them, so they usually call me personally when they want to place an order." Andrea has been to every Intergroup Seminar except one for the past ten years.

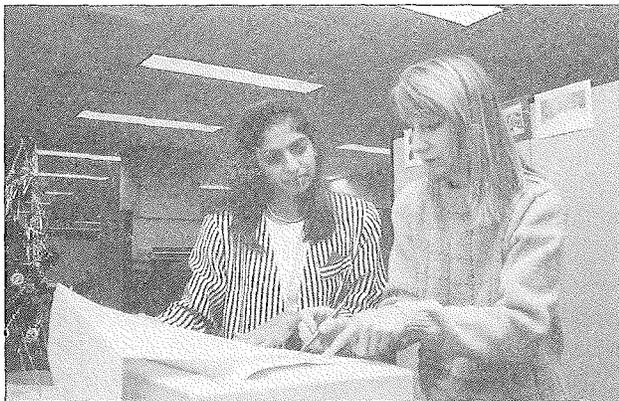
There have been fewer problems with orders, Andrea explains, since the order form was redesigned to make ordering easier and more error-free and new fulfillment technology was introduced. The problems come, she says, when customers order from old catalogs or order forms. Andrea reports that nearly 40% of all prepaid purchases get a refund because they've incorrectly estimated the discount or because they were working with out-of-date prices or discounts. So it pays to have a current catalog and order form on hand.

In 1991, a new fulfillment system replaced time-consuming manual functions. Today, Order Entry posts all orders to the computer daily. Andrea explains, "After the orders are posted, we generate numerous reports, including a daily sales report, invoices for charge orders, 'pick-pack' slips for the Shipping Department, and a daily warehouse shipment report for Inventory Control." In addition, Andrea prepares monthly sales reports for the Accounting Department, which uses them to balance the books. She also sends quarterly reports, used to prepare

the Finance Committee's quarterly reports, and yearly reports used for preparing the annual sales forecast.

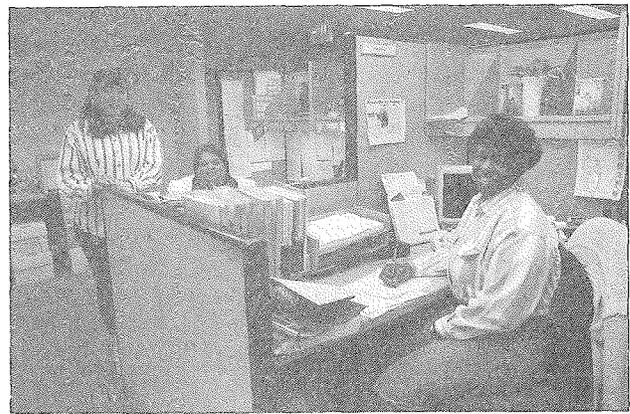
"Pick-packs" are packing or work orders sent to warehouses where materials are stored. There is one major warehouse in the U.S., in Kansas City, Kansas; and warehouses in Oakville, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A small inventory of all items is kept at G.S.O. for drop-in customers and for small orders going to the East coast. The warehouses are stocked from about 20 printers and manufacturers who produce everything from the *A.A. Service Manual* to the Big Book in Braille to the literature display rack.

If there were no mechanism to keep track of inventory, then Order Entry would fill orders until the warehouses were empty. It's Inventory Control's job to make sure that items are replenished as needed and the warehouses stay stocked. Cindy Katzman, (also nonalcoholic), who supervises the department of Inventory Control, explains how the software system keeps them up-to-date: "When the orders are posted to the computer, the system automatically depletes that number from the amount on hand." One software tool is the Inventory Projection Report which records sales for every item for a given amount of months, automatically averages those sales, and calculates how many months of inventory are on hand. For example, the Inventory Projection Report, as of the end of December 1995, showed that, based on sales for the previous 12 months, there were enough



*Alpana Mehta (nonalcoholic), checking warehouse printouts with Cindy Katzman.*

book cassettes of the Twelve and Twelve to fulfill orders for a little over three months. There's also a kind of early warning system: the Recommended Reorder Report, prepared daily, flags inventory items that have fallen below the minimum acceptable stock level. When the stock for an item is getting low, Inventory Control advises the Production people who initiate print orders. Some fast-moving items, like the Big Book or *Daily Reflections*, are on a regular printing schedule, set up at the beginning of the year.



*Order entry personnel Wanda Fernandez (standing), Elizabeth Ramdarass and Stella Johnson. All are nonalcoholics.*

It's the responsibility of Inventory Control, as Cindy says, "to make sure that shipments go out in a timely manner"—that the warehouses' turnaround time is one to two days. To that end, the department may randomly choose an order and follow it through, comparing the "bill of lading" from the warehouse, which shows items shipped and the shipping date, to the date of the original order.

Years ago, there were seven warehouses in various locations around the United States, but as sales volume grew, it became too expensive to keep these different places stocked. The consolidation of inventory in one central location, in the heart of the country, has improved service and reduced warehousing costs. Customers can expect that they'll get their orders in about two weeks, sometimes less. Most orders will be shipped from the warehouse the same day it receives the work order from G.S.O.

The filled orders go out by UPS, RPS, or truck. Cindy explains how to solve problems with deliveries: "When deliveries are received, always check the number of cartons against the paperwork that you're asked to sign, and if there are any discrepancies indicate that when signing for the shipment. Do this while the driver is still there, even if it means asking them to wait. Then, if there is a discrepancy, call us and we'll take care of it." If a carton count isn't made at the time of delivery, it's more difficult to correct either shortages or overages later on. Cindy also suggests that, when only part of a delivery arrives via UPS or RPS, the customer wait a day or so to see if the remainder shows up. Sometimes part of a delivery arrives earlier and that gets customers worried that they're missing the rest of an order.

"I encourage people to call," Cindy says, "if they're having any troubles with delivery or with the carrier. If they don't tell us, we're not going to know!" If a customer doesn't get an order, the Customer Service representative finds the order and tracks it down. But, Cindy says, "The process goes smoothly." It must, because in

1995, more than 34,000 orders were processed for total gross sales of over \$9,444,548. The average turnaround time was six business days. Dependable service and delivery of A.A. literature is one of the important ways that the General Service Office helps A.A. members and groups carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

For a current copy of the catalog and order form, write G.S.O. For queries and for telephone orders (billable and credit card orders only), call (212) 870-3312. For ordering by fax (billable and credit card orders only), call 1-800-437-3584.

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## Rituals at the Close of Meetings

A recent letter from a member of the Fellowship brought up the question of what often follows the closing prayer at some A.A. meetings. The tag "Keep coming back, it works" has been used, in some areas, for years, but now the phrase "if you work it" has been added in many places. And that has progressed to "so work it you're worth it." The A.A. member theorizes that the longer version originated outside of the Fellowship. He thinks the idea "it works if you work it" places the emphasis on an individual's own power to stay sober. "Please remember," he writes, "that Doctor Bob said that he never took credit for his sobriety, but gave credit to God. For myself, I believe I do the footwork but God is the one who 'works it' for me."

He also pointed out that in the A.A. Fellowship and in the Twelve Steps, we use "we" rather than "you" and we make suggestions only. The Steps describe what other A.A. members have found effective; they don't prescribe what an A.A. member should do. As the Big Book says, "Here are the Steps we took." But, the A.A. continued, when we say "you" we are preaching. The phrase "So work it!" is an injunction to someone else to do something. He further comments, "This encourages a holier-than-thou attitude and is an attempt to moralize to the newcomer."

Some people—especially newer members—may believe that this longer tag is an A.A. custom. But in some places, oldtimers have decided to reverse the trend. At one group on the Westside of Manhattan, member Jim W. and others shared spontaneously during the regular Wednesday meeting that they didn't believe the longer tag was in the best interests of Alcoholics Anonymous. A number of the group's long-time members stopped saying the longer tag that night. No formal action was taken, and no announcement is made, but gradually the longer tag is phasing itself out at this group.

Jim explains why he doesn't like the longer tag "so work it you're worth it": "It's not an invitation, it's a directive. When I came into the Fellowship, I was simply asked to keep coming back. I was told that if I just kept coming to A.A., everything would be all right. I felt a hand in each of mine and a warm squeeze—I was offered a gentle invitation."

Jim said, "I've had the experience of stopping after 'It works' and dropping my hands, only to have someone hold on tighter and refuse to let go. It's like I was being punished for not knowing the secret handshake. But other people have said, 'Oh good, you don't say it either!' A lot of people are glad that we're not saying the whole tag.

"I don't like the idea of magic formulas. It's like some secret we all have to know. This is a life and death situation. I don't like it when people get cute with A.A."

Of course, many groups are happy with the longer tag, while others in the same area are not. Ultimately, we should remember that our Fourth Tradition guarantees the autonomy of every A.A. group, and the General Service Office offers no opinions on this matter.

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## Sobriety Gives Loner A Second Chance

"Just when my Navy career of 17 years looked like it was over because of my alcoholism," writes Loner William K., "my Higher Power placed a real blessing into my life. The ship received a new commanding officer, who was told of my case by the officer he was relieving. In no time at all, he came and asked to hear my story. Sober just months, I told it haltingly, reluctantly—but making sure to be honest and spare no details. Then he asked if I would like to stay in the Navy and finish my career—I could hardly believe my ears! He then said that, by letting me stay, the Navy would be better off and so would I."

Not long afterward, William relates, he was instrumental in forming an A.A. group aboard ship: "Today eight of us in recovery participate in the meetings. Also, as an amphibious ship, we always have Marines onboard. By having meetings available, they can achieve sobriety and at the same time help us to keep ours."

William, who celebrated his second A.A. anniversary last October, notes that, "at first, I was the only one in recovery; then there were a couple of shipmates scheduled to go into treatment. So until they left, we had meetings onboard every day. While they were away in treatment, I was alone; so I wrote to the General Service Office and then was able to be in touch with other A.A. members, thanks to LIM (*Loners/Internationalist Meeting*) I received so much support, and I pray that one

day at a time God will continue to give me the strength to give back to other alcoholics some of the help I've received in this program.

"I have learned that there is no job, woman, son, daughter or anything else worth taking that first drink over. The only person who can really help you achieve sobriety is yourself, with some help from A.A."

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## **Deadline for Directory Information —March 1, 1996**

A reminder for area delegates: If you haven't already returned your group information printouts, please remember that the *final* deadline for inclusion in the directories is March 1, 1996.

Printouts corrected to show up-to-date group information and returned to G.S.O. by the areas, will be used to produce the 1996-97 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 international contacts.

If a phone number for your group contact is not received your group will not appear in the directory.

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## **Iberoamerican Meeting Changes Its Name**

Delegates to the Ninth Iberoamerican Meeting, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, Oct. 18-22, 1995, voted to adopt a new name—REDELA, an acronym for Reunion De Las Americas (Meeting of the Americas)—which they felt would more clearly define their reason for being: to strengthen their unity through the sharing of experience, strength and ideas, and to help each other reach the many thousands of suffering alcoholics throughout Latin America.

"The theme of the biennial meeting, 'A.A.—A Message of Universal Love,' was especially apt," says Danny M., the General Service Office staff member who coordinates Spanish Services. "Why else would we hold this meeting if not to share what we've learned about carrying the A.A. message in our block, our community, our country, our continent?"

Uruguay hosted this year's meeting, which drew delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Mexico, as well as (nonvoting) observers from the U.S./Canada. For the first time a delegate from Costa Rica was on hand, and provided an in-depth picture of A.A. in Central America. Topics discussed included the

Concepts and the role of Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees.

"An important area of sharing," Danny notes, "concerned women in A.A. in this part of the world and how to reach them with our message of hope."

The next Meeting of the Americas will be held in Acapulco, Mexico, in 1997, with the thought-provoking theme "In Search of a New Destiny."

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## **Through a Glass, Resourcefully**

What happens when an alcoholic hits bottom in a foreign country whose language he can't understand? This happened recently to a fellow we'll call Juan, who found himself desperately wanting help from A.A. but not knowing how to communicate his need in the Japanese town where he was staying. Casting about for help and determined not to give up, Juan finally connected with a friend of the Fellowship in Houston, Texas. The acquaintance gave Juan the address of the General Service Office in New York and suggested that he write. Juan, who needed no urging, did so at once.

"Please help me to stop drinking," he wrote in Spanish. "I cannot stop on my own, and I am at the end of my rope. I live alone, here in Yamashina, and when I come back from work each evening, I cannot stop myself from drinking. Sometimes I don't drink for a couple of days, but then I feel horrible and start all over again. Please contact me. I need your help."

Says Danny M., who has the Spanish Services assignment at G.S.O.: "We have sent our friend in Yamashina Spanish translations of the Big Book, Twelve and Twelve and other literature. We have talked with him on the phone and put him in touch with Tokyo A.A.s and he is attending meetings in Japan. He's also corresponding now with Spanish-speaking A.A.s who are acting as sponsors-by-mail to help him during these early days of his sobriety. Juan is communicating in A.A.'s language of the heart, and doing fine. His story shows that A.A. works for the alcoholic who reaches out for help, whether from around the corner or around the world."

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## **Ask-It-Basket**

Every day of the year, A.A.s in the U.S./Canada and around the world write, phone or fax questions and comments to the General Service Office that mirror their concerns in the Fellowship. Here is a sampling, along with the responses of the G.S.O. staff.

**Question:** Help! We are a small, fairly new group attempting to follow the Traditions. Understanding that each A.A. group is autonomous, our conscience voted to send flowers bearing our group name to late members' funerals and present members' weddings. Are we breaking Traditions?—C. C., Kansas

**Response:** The collective experience of this office is that the use of Seventh Tradition contributions is limited by our Fifth Tradition: "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Usually, if individual members wish to do something like send flowers, they would do so separately. That is because Seventh Tradition contributions are generally used only to support the group and its service expenses.

**Q.:** I started my sobriety on July 28, 1994. I am having trouble dealing with my anger and frustrations; I lose my temper with my wife, then apologize. She is tired of hearing "I'm sorry, it won't happen again," and I don't want to lose her. Any help would be greatly appreciated.—D. G., Tennessee

**R.:** It is not unusual to have feelings of anger and frustration when one stops drinking after a period of abusing alcohol. Do you have a sponsor? And are you attending lots of A.A. meetings? You see, each of us is encouraged to get a sponsor (often an A.A. member of the same sex, who has been sober a while and has an understanding of the Twelve Steps). Most of us share our deepest feelings, fears and problems with a sponsor, who can often point the way toward progress in recovery through the practice and application of the Steps. Also, it might be helpful for your wife to participate in ALAnon meetings on a continuing basis.

**Q.:** I have been sober for 10 years. However, I suffer with a mood disorder and am bipolar. I am being treated for this. My psychologist asks: Is there a list of drugs A.A. says to stay away from?—J. E., Florida

**R.:** As a society, A.A. is nonprofessional and does not take part in research, treatment or education. The medical, psychiatric or other treatments of individual members are personal and not a part of the A.A. program. Page 133 of our Big Book suggests that "God has abundantly supplied this world with fine doctors, psychologists, and practitioners of various kinds. Do not hesitate to take your health problems to such persons. Most of them give freely of themselves, that their fellows may enjoy sound minds and bodies." At the same time, as is stated in the pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications & Other Drugs," try to "be frank about your alcoholism with any physician or dentist you consult." It will help your doctor to help you.

**Q.:** At the close of the meetings, many groups make it a practice to hold hands while reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Our group does not do this; but we have been criticized by some A.A.s and accused of "breaking the chain." Are we?—L. P., New York

**R.:** The custom of hand-holding began 15 or 20 years ago. At the time, many groups didn't like it at all, but today the objectors are in the minority. However, whether or not to hold hands at an A.A. meeting has no bearing on the Traditions. It is a matter of group autonomy and personal preference.

**Q.:** Do you know where I might obtain literature on women in the history of A.A.?—L. K., Virginia

**R.:** The Big Book includes the personal stories of 13 sober women, and there are numerous references to female members throughout the basic text. 'Pass It On,' the story of co-founder Bill W.'s life and how the A.A. message reached the world, includes a wealth of information about A.A. history, and some about early women members such as Marty M., who joined Alcoholics Anonymous in 1939. Additionally there are numerous references to pioneer women in A.A. in *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, as well as material in *A.A. Today*, published by the Grapevine.

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## A.A. Hastens Slowly Into Cyberspace

"I don't believe that we in the Fellowship should go full force into the Internet, World Wide Web, Bulletin Boards, e-mail or other online programs. But I do believe we should move forward swiftly."

Speaking at the General Service Board weekend in October, Chuck C., a Grapevine director from Chandler, Arizona, noted with a smile that "A.A. is known for moving slowly, and normally I agree with that philosophy, but the computer world changes amazingly fast. If we travel at our normal pace, why, by the time we get to an agreement stage, the technology will have left us behind. We have a vested interest to ensure that the word of A.A. is kept clear, concise and unchanged. And because there is an unbelievable amount of misinformation on the Internet as we speak, it would benefit us to be in the forefront of ensuring that A.A.'s clear message is available to those utilizing the electronic media."

Online communication regarding A.A. "is sometimes beautiful, but at other times far from it," Chuck says. "One day I'll read where some new person is struggling, and 15 or 20 responses of sound A.A. experience pour in. Yet another day there will be people wanting to share on some weird topic not related to A.A. or recovery. In other words, if you sign up to be a member of one of the

active A.A. meetings on the Internet, you will experience the same thing you would in a nonelectronic meeting. There are chairpersons, topics, individual sharing. . . . They appear to be very serious about maintaining this structure and our Traditions.”

G.S.O. staff member Pat R., who has the Literature assignment, was another presenter at board weekend. She queried whether or not “this seemingly endless technological growth might change our beloved A.A. Did setting our message down on paper and publishing it in the Big Book change the message of recovery from alcoholism? Does carrying the message through the printed word in the Grapevine or in the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* change the message we were brought? I think not.”

Sharing her own experience online, Pat said, “Business meetings are no different than any ‘live’ A.A. group business meeting, and you know what that means! Actually, there is one big difference: On the Internet you SHOUT by typing in capitalized letters. You hug by using ((parentheses)) and you smile with a colon, a hyphen and a closed parenthesis symbol: -). For a physical being such as myself, that is a hardship. The miracle is that, ‘We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. . . . we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action.’” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 17)

At the International Convention in San Diego last July, Pat related, “there was a workshop on ‘A.A. in the Computer World.’ This meeting, along with the Living Cyber hospitality suite, brought many people together for the first time face-to-face.”

Additionally, Pat pointed out, “there are scores of tales about A.A. members, new and longtime, homebound and free-wheeling, physically incapacitated, remote, aged, blind, burdened with responsibilities that keep them at home, shut-ins and many other sorts and conditions. . . all helping and being helped, meeting people and developing deep, true and permanent friendships with those they never would have been in contact with at all, making friends and staying sober through electronic gatherings of A.A. members.”

It certainly is true, Pat acknowledged, “that a virtual ((hug)) is not the same as the hug I receive and give when I walk into my home group on Saturday at noon. Sitting in a meeting in front of my pc at midnight on a Saturday is not like being in the 24-Hour Club at a meeting of the Fellowship Group of A.A. in Houston, Texas. But so what? If all things are equal, and drunks are drunks when they say they are, then what difference does it make where they and the rest of the bunch choose to meet? There comes again the question of the

Second Legacy—Unity. I have heard it said that there can be ‘horrendous Traditions problems’ associated with A.A. online groups. But come to think of it, there can be horrendous Traditions problems associated with every A.A. gathering. Isn’t it great? That’s exactly how we got the Traditions; it is why we have them. And online is a perfect place to put them into practice.”

In our lives in A.A., Pat continued, “let us never fear needed change. Certainly we have to discriminate between changes for the worse and changes for the better. But, as A.A.’s visionary co-founder Bill W. stated in his keynote address at the 1965 Toronto International Convention, ‘once a needed change becomes clearly apparent in an individual, a group or A.A. as a whole, it has long since been found that we cannot stand still and look the other way. The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever the responsibility.’”

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## Countries Sponsoring Countries Urged at European Service Meeting

In his welcoming remarks at the Eighth European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, Oct. 27-29, Christian G., of German-speaking Europe, stressed the need for more active sponsorship of countries needing help in building their A.A. lifelines. Noting that the theme of the biennial meeting was “Our Primary Purpose,” he asked each of the delegates to respond by the next morning with a list of three countries (not represented at the meeting) that A.A. in their own lands would be willing to help. By the end of the weekend conference, most of the 34 delegates from 19 European countries had pledged to contact at least one country each.

The ESM has three standing committees which met on Saturday to discuss common problems and explore possible solutions and compile reports, which were presented to the entire meeting. *Agenda/Policy/Admissions/ Finance* discussed ways to help overcome a decrease in total contributions to defray the cost of the ESM, and the responsibility of delegates to explain the importance of the ESM to groups.

In the *Literature Committee* there was sharing on practices to follow when a country wants an existing book or pamphlet translated into its language. *Working With Other Countries* heard reports from countries that are actively involved in carrying the A.A. message across borders, and discussed problems related to this unusual form of Twelfth Step work.

The delegates presented brief histories of A.A. in their countries, and gave progress reports, laced with warmth and humor, on how A.A. is faring today. They candidly

shared their experience, strength and problems—with many a delegate taking home some very workable solutions, Joanie M., G.S.O. staff member on the International desk, says. A few highlights from her report:

**Germany**—A total of 2,500 groups are registered, including 90 in the “new” eastern part of the country. In 1990, the German Conference established a committee to outline a new structure that would include all German-speaking countries, using the British structure as a model. This was accepted in 1992, and there are now 12 intergroups, which are part of the service structure in Germany. The board of trustees is composed of a chairperson from each intergroup, 3-to-5 nonalcoholics, and a chairperson, president and G.S.O. general manager.

**Ireland**—Three Golden Jubilee conventions are scheduled in 1996, with A.A.s coming from around the world to celebrate the 50th anniversary of A.A. in Ireland. The 683 groups, with 11,000 members, comprise the Fellowship’s strength and in-depth commitment to its primary purpose.

**Poland**—Seven regions and 44 intergroups serve an estimated 1,000 groups and 25,000 members, with men outnumbering women by 10 to 1. Four A.A. books are published in Poland, with a translation of A.A. *Comes of Age* currently in the works.

**Malta**—The first Maltese group was founded in 1961, and today is one of the strongest of 11 groups, with a total of 83 members. Maltese A.A.s are translating the Big Book and hope soon to forward this work to A.A.W.S. They recognize that publication costs are difficult for so small a population to underwrite.

**Portugal**—The sponsorship by Spain has been invaluable. Members are proud of the European Portuguese Big Book, published with the help of a loan from the World Service Literature Fund. They also print five pamphlets with the permission of A.A.W.S. and five through permission granted by Great Britain. Portuguese A.A.s are grateful for the assistance of U.S./Canada, Great Britain and Brazil, which has furnished a small amount of literature.

The Ninth European Service Meeting will be held in Rome, Italy, in 1997. Its theme: “Responsibility Begins with Us.” The date is to be announced.

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## P.I./C.P.C.

### From Suds To Sobriety

“Here in southeastern Wisconsin we are trying to reach the suffering alcoholic in every way we can,” says Rudy G., who chairs the Jefferson County District 11 committee on Public Information and Cooperation With the Professional Community. “We stack pamphlets in schools, hospitals, police stations and doctors’ offices, to

name just a few; and in various stores and other outlets we tack up a simple flyer, with our district name and number, that says in easy-to-read lettering: ‘If you want to drink—that’s your business/ If you want to stop—that’s our business/ Alcoholics Anonymous.’”

Noting that “we have a 24-hour phone,” Rudy reports that “to date, the greatest response has come from people who saw our flyer not in stores or coffee houses but in laundromats!” Furthermore, he adds, “we have enjoyed a good deal of success placing PSAs (public service announcements) with local radio and TV stations. The local newspapers and hospital newsletters also are most obliging in carrying the message for the Fellowship.”

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## Correctional Facilities

### Seeding Is Believing— Twenty Years Later

“The first A.A. meeting I ever attended was while I was incarcerated in New York State,” recalls David E. “What I heard at those meetings didn’t take then, but the seed had been planted.”

The years rolled by, David says, and “20 years later, after yet another D.W.I. arrest, I surrendered to the program of A.A. Fortunately I joined a group and found a sponsor, one who was active in corrections and fulfilled his commitments to carry the message at the local jails. Following his example over time, I in turn became an outside sponsor.”

On one occasion, David relates, “I complained to an A.A. friend that I really was overextending myself and wanted to cut back. Besides, I told him, a lot of these guys were getting out and drinking anyway. He quickly reminded me that there was one guy who was not drinking—me. I realized that but for God’s grace, there went I, along with those active alcoholics out there, and I knew I should be thankful that I had this job. Since then, I’ve seen many A.A.s from behind the wall at meetings on the outside. Quite a number of them are active in service as greeters, coffee makers, secretaries, G.S.R.s (general service representatives) and, in one case, a D.C.M. (district committee member). Seeing them always adds strength to my own sobriety.”

In conclusion David adds: “As I sit here writing this letter, I think back 30 or so years to those New York A.A.s who left their homes that night to carry A.A.’s message of hope to me. I would like to thank them for my sobriety and all I have now. I would like them to know that the message they carried to me was delayed but not wasted and is being passed on today. It works.”

## 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.

### February

- 2-4—*Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.* Ninth Annual Mid-Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 742, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5B4
- 2-4—*Burbank, California.* 21st Annual San Fernando Valley Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7727, Northridge, CA 91327-7727
- 2-4—*Sacramento, California.* 19th Annual Spring Fling. Write: Ch., Box 19548, Sacramento, CA 95819-0548
- 2-4—*Biloxi, Mississippi.* 15th Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 705, Gulfport, MS 39502
- 2-4—*Christchurch, New Zealand.* 50th Anniv. National Conv. Write: Conv. 96 Secy. Box 2062, Christchurch, NZ
- 2-4—*Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.* 14th Nat'l. Conv. Write: GSR, c/o The KFL Books and Magazine Center, #5 Rizal St., Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines
- 8-11—*Salt Lake City, Utah.* 32nd Int'l. Women's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 521451, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-1451
- 9-11—*Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* North Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91086, West Vancouver, BC V7V 3N3
- 9-11—*Little Rock, Arkansas.* 14th Annual District Conv. Write: Secy., 11701 Garrison Road, Little Rock, AR 72211
- 9-11—*Greeley, Colorado.* Greeley Stampede. Write: Ch., 2644 11th Ave., #D, Greeley, CO 80631
- 9-11—*Naperville, Illinois.* ISCPAA. Write: Ch., 109 Terrace Lake Dr., Aurora, IL 60504
- 9-11—*Cincinnati, Ohio.* CINCYPAA '96. Write: Ch., Box 19338, Cincinnati, OH 45219
- 16-18—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada.* Western Canadian Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 16-18—*Lexington, Kentucky.* 45th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23, Lexington, KY 40501
- 16-18—*Liverpool, New York.* Ninth Annual Salt City Mid-Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3588, Syracuse, NY 13220
- 16-18—*Virginia Beach, Virginia.* 20th Ocean Front Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2801, Virginia Beach, VA 23450
- 16-18—*El Paso, Texas.* 34th Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 3115, El Paso, TX 79923
- 17-18—*Kalispell, Montana.* Into Action Weekend. Write: Ch., c/o Dist. 91, Box 7731, Kalispell, MT 59904
- 23-24—*Sikeston, Missouri.* 15th Five Corners Conv. Write: Ch., 205 N. Jackson, Kennett, MO 63657
- 23-25—*Whitefish, Montana.* Sober Ski. Write: Ch., Box 326, St. Ignatius, MT 59865

- 23-25—*Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Saskatoon Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 8878, Saskatoon, SK S7K 6S7
- 23-25—*Honolulu, Hawaii.* Aloha Roundup (sponsored by gay&lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 88293, Honolulu, HI 96830-8293
- 23-25—*Cherry Hill, New Jersey.* NERAASA '96. Write: Ch., Box 8541, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
- 23-25—*Sidney, Ohio.* 13th Annual Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 40324, Cincinnati, OH 45240-0324
- 23-25—*Pattaya, Thailand.* First Thailand Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1032, New Petchburi Rd. Post Office, Bangkok 10311, Thailand
- 29-March 3—*San Jose, California.* PRASSA 96. Write: Ch., Box 6918, Eureka, CA 95502

### March

- 1-3—*Bundoran, Ireland.* 17th Irish/Scottish Gathering. Write: Secy., Gargrim, Tullagaanpo, Co. Weirtrim, Ireland
- 1-3—*Gulf Shores, Alabama.* Gulf Shores Jubilee. Write: Ch., Box 1183, Foley, AL 36536
- 1-3—*Collinsville, Illinois.* Southern Illinois Area Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 55, Brighton, IL 62012-0055
- 1-3—*Cleveland, Ohio.* 21st Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., 3378 Washington Blvd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
- 1-3—*Butler, Pennsylvania.* Getaway Weekend. Write: Ch., 1306 Superior Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212-2722
- 2-4—*Casper, Wyoming.* '96 West Central Region Service Conf. Write: Ch., 1340 Bretton Dr., Casper, WY 8269
- 8-10—*Brawley, California.* Imperial Valley Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 393, El Centro, CA 92244
- 8-10—*Monterey, California.* 49th Annual Spring Conf. Write: Tr. Box 1484, Rohnert Park, CA 94927-1484

## Discussion Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

February (page 27): Oldtimers and Young People in A.A.

March (page 25): Carrying the Message

- 8-10—*Southfield, Michigan.* Area 33 March Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 47011, Oak Park, MI 48237
  - 14-17—*Greenville, South Carolina.* 49th South Carolina State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 996, Taylors, SC 29687
  - 15-17—*Toledo, Ohio.* Area 55 Mini Conf. Write: Ch., Box 467, Bradner, OH 43406
  - 22-24—*Costa Mesa, California.* 11th Annual Orange County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4099, Costa Mesa, CA 92628
  - 29-31—*Rapid City, South Dakota.* 12th Annual Rushmore Round-Up Conf. Write: Ch., Box 594, Rapid City, SD 57709-0594
  - 29-31—*Charlottesville, Virginia.* Virginia Area Committee Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., 606 Shawnee Trail, Winchester, VA 22602
  - 29-31—*Tacoma, Washington.* Puget Sound Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 111948, Tacoma, WA 98411-1948
- ### April
- 4-7—*Franklin, Tennessee.* National Agape Weekend XVI. Write: Ch., 3313 SW 16th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312-3638
  - 4-8—*Canberra ACT, Australia.* 31st National Conv. Write: Secy., Box 1464, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

## Planning a Future 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 - for events on reverse side

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



5-7—*Scottsdale, Arizona*. Round-up (sponsored by gay & lesbian members) Conv. Write: Ch., Box 36366, Phoenix, AZ 85067-6366

5-7—*Jacksonville Beach, Florida*. Spring Break Round Up '96. Write: Ch., Box 51255, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240

5-7—*Indianapolis, Indiana*. GLRCYPAA VI. Write: Ch., Box 441524, Indianapolis, IN 46244-1524

5-7—*Metairie, Louisiana*. 28th Annual Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 4041 Tulane Ave., Ste. 301, New Orleans, LA 70119

6-7—*Lewiston, Idaho*. Fling in the Spring '96. Write: Ch., Box 52, Kendrick, ID 83537

12-14—*Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*. Southern Alberta Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 212, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Y5

12-14—*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii*. Eighth Annual Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 390727, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739

12-14—*Rockford, Illinois*. 1996 NIA Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4134, Rockford, IL 61110

12-14—*Fort Wayne, Indiana*. 16th Annual NE Indiana Conv. Write: Ch., 7531 Mill Run Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46819

12-14—*Buffalo, New York*. 1996 Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Box 501, Ransomville, NY 14131

12-14—*Tarrytown, New York*. SENY Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1688, Madison Sq. Sta., New York, NY 10159

12-14—*Grand Forks, North Dakota*. Northern Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 14121, Grand Forks, ND 58208-4121

18-21—*Island of Poros, Greece*. Second Convention. Write: Parthenon Conv. Group., 13, Eratosthenous St., Pangrati, Athens 11635 Greece

19-21—*Banff, Alberta, Canada*. 1996 Banff Round-up. Write: Ch., 128 Riverglen Dr., S.E., Calgary, AB T2C 4G2

19-21—*Eureka Springs, Arkansas*. Springtime in the Ozarks. Write: Tr., Box 1261, Rogers, AR 72757

19-21—*Fresno, California*. Northern CA Hospital & Instit. 24th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., 2812 N. Blackstone, Fresno, CA 93703

19-21—*Kansas City, Missouri*. 55 Years in the Heart of America. Write: Ch., KCMO #1, 311 W. 80 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114

19-21—*Erie, Pennsylvania*. Erie Area Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3833, Erie, PA 16508

19-21—*Superior, Wisconsin*. 51st Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 996, Superior, WI 54880

20-21—*Scottsbluff, Nebraska*. Panhandle Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 553, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

25-28—*Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland*. 1996 Jubilee All Ireland Conv. Write: Ch., G.S.O., 109 South Circular Rd., Leonard's Corner, Dublin 8, Ireland

26-28—*Chipley, Florida*. Country Roundup '96. Write: Ch., 2374 Suggs Rd., Chipley, FL 32428

26-28—*Lincoln, Nebraska*. Spring Fling. Write: Ch., Box 30785, Lincoln, NE 68503

26-28—*Tamiment Resort, Poconos, Pennsylvania*. 29th Annual Round-Up. Write: Ch., Intergroup Off., 1218 Chestnut St., Ste. 1004, Philadelphia, PA 19107

26-28—*Orangeburg, South Carolina*. District 40 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1974, Orangeburg, SC 29115

26-28—*Clarksburg, West Virginia*. 24th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302-0825

## May

3-5—*Greenville, Mississippi*. Fifth Annual Delta Roundup. Write: Ch., 308 Lakeview, Leland, MS 38756

3-5—*Laughlin, Nevada*. 12th Annual Tri-State Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 21809, Bullhead City, AZ 86439

3-5—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 45th Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., 60 Greenbrier, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

3-5—*Richmond, Virginia*. Fourth Annual Primary Purpose Spring Conf. Write: Ch., PPSC, Box 12475, Richmond, VA 23241-0475

3-5—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. 45th Annual Spring Conf. Write: Tr., Box 71322, Milwaukee, WI 53211

4-6—*Golden, British Columbia, Canada*. Golden 29th Annual Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1405, Golden, BC V0A 1H0

10-12—*San Antonio, Texas*. Weekend in SA. Write: Ch., Box 1996, San Antonio, TX 78216

17-19—*Comox, British Columbia, Canada*. 45th Annual Comox Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1337, Comox, BC V9N 7Z8

17-19—*Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*. 36th Annual Delaware Conv. Write: Ch., 379 Angola By The Bay, Lewes, DE 19958

17-19—*Clearwater, Florida*. Seventh Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2571, Pinellas Park, FL 34664-2571

17-19—*Daytona Beach, Florida*. Sixth Annual Spring to Sobriety Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 4911, S. Dayton, FL 32121

23-26—*Waycross, Georgia*. Okefenokee Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 403, Waycross, GA 31502

24-26—*Kerwood, Ontario, Canada*. Strathroy-Watford Camp-out. Write: Ch., Longhorn Ranch, RA3 - Strathroy, ON N7G 3H5

24-26—*Laval, Quebec, Canada*. 18th Congress of the Dist. of Laval and Surrounding. Write: Ch., C.P. 1502 Station, Chomedey, Laval, PQ H7V 1A0

24-26—*Renfrew, Scotland*. 40th Scottish Convention. Write: Scottish Service Office, Baltic Chambers, 50 Wellington St., Glasgow G2 6HJ Scotland

24-26—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165-0295

24-27—*Boston, Massachusetts*. Boston Roundup - B.G.L.R.U. Write: Ch., Box 1009-6MF, Boston, MA 02205

31-June 2—*Flagstaff, Arizona*. Flagstaff Round-up. Write: Ch., 46 Toho Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86001