

BOX 4|5|9

News and Notes From the General Service Office of A.A.[®] VOL. 31, NO. 5 / OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1986

1990 Convention: Seattle, Here We Come!

"Often a bridesmaid but never the bride" when a site was chosen for A.A.'s International Convention, Seattle, Washington, the cultural and financial hub of the Northwest, has now grabbed the gold ring. At its August meeting in New York City's Roosevelt Hotel, the General Service Board selected Seattle to host the Fellowship's next International Convention in July 1990.

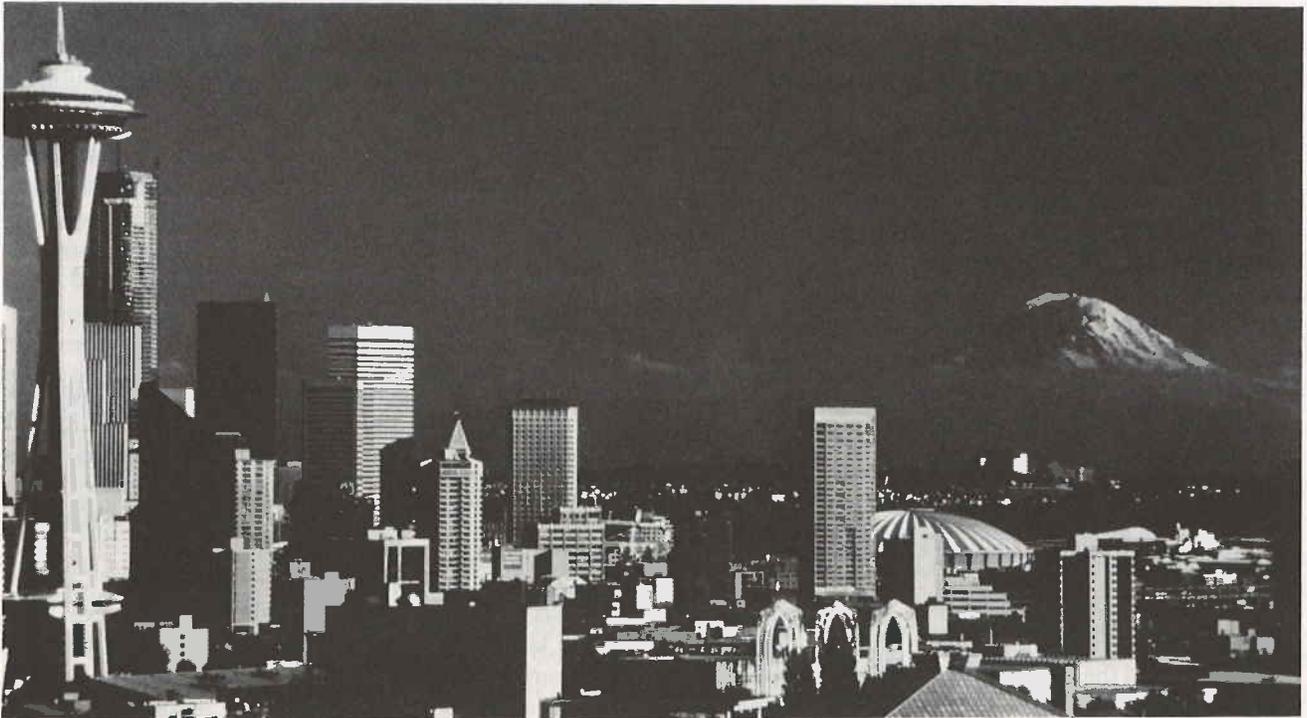
Competition was stiff. The 12 cities that had submitted bids were narrowed to three—Houston, Vancouver, and Seattle. These cities were visited by members of the Convention Planning Committee which includes Class B (alcoholic) trustee Dan B., chairperson of the trustees' International Convention Committee; Ed Gordon, G.S.O.'s director of finance; Curtis M., G.S.O. staff coordinator of the 1990 International Convention and our outside Convention consultant. The committee inspected meeting, hotel and transportation facilities, and made recommendations to the board.

More than 45,000 A.A.s and Al-Anons converged on

Montreal for the 1985 International Convention celebrating the Fellowship's 50th anniversary. Almost as many people are expected to attend the 1990 Convention and, fortunately, Seattle can accommodate them all. More than 5,000 first-class hotel rooms are located downtown, within short walking distance of the new, 370,000 square-foot Washington State Convention Center, scheduled to open in 1988, and the Seattle Center. Another 12,000-plus hotel rooms are available in the greater metropolitan area.

Seattle is built on six hills overlooking the long arm of Puget Sound and two fresh-water lakes. Beyond, on either side, rise the snow-capped Cascades and Olympics. These scenic assets, coupled with a mild marine climate, make Seattle a year-round playground for campers and the sports-minded.

The city is famous for its fresh seafood—Dungeness crab, oysters, mussels, salmon—and its 2,000 restaurants offer ethnic dining that ranges from continental



Seattle-King County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Photographer: Bob Peterson

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Index

C.P.C.	8
Correctional Facilities	9
P.I.	7
Treatment Facilities	10

to Creole, Italian to Thai, Moroccan to Middle Eastern. For entertainment, there are the Seattle Symphony, Opera, and a rich theatrical scene. Professional jazz and modern dance groups offer a full schedule of performances year-round.

As Convention plans go forward, *Box 4-5-9* will bring you up-to-the-minute information about registration, hotel reservations, transportation and much more.

Literature Chairpersons Make a Big Difference

In an effort to strengthen our network of "literature representatives"—the people who ensure that A.A. literature is available at meetings, along with catalog order forms for books and tape cassettes that A.A.s and visitors are likely to want—the 1986 General Service Conference recommended that groups appoint literature chairpersons, or coordinators.

Many groups already have literature chairpersons. Comments New York City A.A. Lynne B., "They really make a difference. At group meetings where there is such a chairperson, I invariably find a large variety of A.A. literature available. It's a great help, especially in sponsorship work."

The General Service Office offers guidelines for new literature chairpersons:

- Understand the terminology "Conference-approved literature." The Conference-approved seal (a triangle inside a circle and the words "General Service Confer-

ence") assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of A.A.s from all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production.

All "A.A. literature" does not have to be Conference-approved (this *Box 4-5-9* and local meeting lists, for example).

- Become familiar with all categories of our literature, such as recovery, service, public information, etc. The categories are listed and described further on the literature order form, available from G.S.O.

Portable Edition of the Big Book

A survey to establish the need for publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in alternative formats, conducted as a result of a 1986 General Service Conference Advisory Action, has turned out to be the most extensive in A.A. history.

Of some 55,000 A.A. members surveyed, 80% indicated a need for a soft-cover portable edition of the Big Book. As a result, the General Service Board (as authorized by the 1986 Conference) has directed the A.A. World Services Board to proceed with the publication of that book.

A lesser percentage, 63%, indicated a need for a publication of the first eleven chapters of the Big Book, and the General Service Board decided to defer publication of that version.

New Trustees Contribute Wide-Ranging Expertise

The 1986 General Service Conference elected six new trustees at its April 1986 meeting in New York City. All bring strong records of experience and service in a variety of fields—social work, corrections, public health and communications—to the work of the U.S./Canada General Service Board.

The board consists of 21 members: seven Class A (nonalcoholic) and 14 Class B (alcoholic) trustees. Four of the latter are general service trustees; they have not necessarily "come up" through the General Service structure, but all must have served as directors on the boards of either A.A. World Services or the A.A. Grape-

vine. Their appointment to those boards is based on strong business or professional experience, as well as sobriety.

The Conference also approved three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees. The two regional trustees are Ruth J., of Las Vegas, Nevada (Panel 29 delegate) replacing Natalie S. from the Pacific Region, and Tom H. (Panel 33 delegate) from Eastern Ontario, who is replacing outgoing Eastern Canada trustee Ken D. The new general service trustee is Bill C., who replaces Tom J. (now services director of the General Service Office); Bill is also an A.A.W.S. director.

The three Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, succeeding Michael Alexander, James Estelle Jr. and Dr. Kenneth Williams, are:

- John Eugene King is "interested and happy" to be a trustee. "The way I look at it," he says, "A.A.s comprise the immediate family. We nonalcoholic trustees are first cousins, or closer." In his own family, John notes, "some people have been helped to stay sober in A.A. I am especially excited about working with the C.P.C. committee to effect clear exchange of information and ideas between A.A. and professionals who work with alcoholics. They are in a position to carry the A.A. message and often want to, but many of them don't quite know how. It's up to us to help them."

Originally an ordained priest, the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, John resigned from active ministry in 1970 to earn his M.S.W. from Tulane University. Today he is associated with the Social Work Program of the University of Arkansas, where he has served as a social work consultant to numerous hospitals and juvenile courts throughout Arkansas. He also has worked with U.S. Army personnel in treating alcohol- and drug-related problems.

- Amos Reed retired in July as secretary, the Washington Department of Corrections at Olympia. He has held top administrative posts in the North Carolina, Florida and Oregon departments of corrections. "I am interested in everything that involves corrections," he says, "but I am especially concerned with anything that has to do with the Northwest."

Amos, who has devoted much of his time to working with young people, is a past president of the National Association of Training Schools and Juvenile Agencies and has been honored for his work with Boy Scouts of America. A past president of the American Correctional Association, he holds membership on numerous government councils and commissions.

- Dr. John Hartley Smith, in his position as assistant deputy minister, the British Columbia Ministry of Health, Vancouver Bureau, acts as a consultant to industry in developing public health programs. "We have 39,000 government employees in British Columbia," he points out, "and alcoholism is a major problem."

Born in Northern Ireland, John graduated from Queen's University Medical School in Belfast and served his residency at nearby Victoria Hospital. He completed further graduate work in public health at the London School of Hygiene and the University of Toronto, and has worked in the field for some 30 years. As a trustee, he hopes to be especially involved in the work of two committees: treatment facilities and C.P.C.

Resumes Due for Electing Three New Class B Trustees

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees—two regional trustees from the Northeast and Southwest U.S. and one trustee-at-large, Canada—will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 1987.

Resumes must be received at G.S.O. *before* January 1, 1987. There would be insufficient time to circulate later arrivals for full consideration before the Conference.

The new Northeast U.S. trustee will succeed Garrett T. of Washington, D.C.; the new Southwest U.S. trustee will replace Wayne P. of Rogers, Arkansas. The new trustee-at-large, Canada, will fill the post presently held by Helen H. of Melita, Manitoba.

Area assemblies in each of the regions concerned will make the initial nominations of the trustee candidates. In selecting a trustee-at-large, Canada, all of that country's area assemblies will have a voice.

At the 1987 Conference (see *The A.A. Service Manual* for procedures), the areas' candidates will be narrowed down; the candidates chosen by the Conference will be elected by the General Service Board at its meeting immediately following the Conference.

New from G.S.O.

- The 1986-87 edition of the *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* is now available from G.S.O., \$2.00.

- The pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" has been revised, in accordance with an Advisory Action of the General Service Conference, so that the personal stories will better represent contemporary women. The bright yellow cover remains unchanged, with the word REVISED in the lower right-hand corner.

- For other literature and special items available from G.S.O. see the new Conference-approved Literature catalog.



RAIN OR SHINE — Each year, 700-800 happy A.A.s and their friends visit the General Service and *Grapevine* Offices (468 Park Ave. So.) on Open House Day. We hope to see you among this year's visitors, Saturday, Nov. 15, 1986—9:00-3:00. Guided tours of the offices and archives, coffee and cookies—9:00-12:00. Presentations of staff and *Grapevine* assignments, question and answer period—1:00-3:00.

Young People in A.A. Celebrate 'Sunlight of the Spirit'

"I came, I saw, I was conquered," said Gordon Patrick, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and chairperson of the General Service Board. With little else to go on but the enthusiasm of two regional trustees who had been to the 28th International Conference of Young People in A.A., in Denver, Colorado, Gordon set out for the 29th ICYPAA in Miami, Florida "to see for myself what the young people were up to."

"What did I find? An impressive demonstration of A.A.'s language of the heart at its very best — more than 2,400 young people sharing in an extremely attractive way how they carried the message to other young alcoholics. They worked hard and they played hard, but always in the forefront was A.A.'s primary purpose, and careful adherence to the Traditions."

With temperatures in the high 80s and low 90s, "Sunlight of the Spirit" was an appropriate theme. Yet, in a subtler way, the theme symbolized the emergence of this young people's conference, which, over the years, has been steadily progressing into the sunlight of the spirit and the full body of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thursday morning, May 22, saw the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel filled with a vibrant crowd of A.A.s — young people, old people, veterans of previous conferences, those attending for the first time, and older

participants bringing their newly-sober sponsees. Greetings were shouted across the sunlit lobby and old friends from faraway places came together with open arms.

Registration figures reached 2,450 for the four-day event, with representatives from 46 states, three provinces of Canada, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Venezuela, Ireland, and Saudi Arabia. A great effort was made by the planning committee to adhere to the Traditions, and they were helped in this effort by the ICYPAA Advisory Council, which serves as "the custodian of the conference experience." Made up of fifteen members, three from each city which has hosted ICYPAA in the past five years, with three supplemental members from the current host city elected during the conference itself, the Advisory Council is responsible for the final site selection each year. In addition, the Advisory Council serves as a "clearing-house" of information and "shall offer, to anyone who requests it, information regarding young people and young people's groups as pertaining to recovery in the A.A. program." A pamphlet, "Facts, Aims, and Purposes," may be obtained by writing to ICYPAA Advisory Council, Box 19312, Eastgate Station, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Offering a program of meetings anchored in the Steps and Traditions and running around the clock, the 29th ICYPAA had something for everyone. With a total of 118 different meetings for the four-day event, there were frequently three meetings running concurrently in three separate rooms. In the space of one hour on Friday afternoon it would have been possible to sample a

meeting on the Fifth Tradition, a meeting on sponsorship (in Spanish), and a "Red Ball" meeting.

Topics such as "How to Get Involved," "How to Start a Young People's Group," and "Principles vs. Personalities" offered the opportunity for a practical sort of sharing. Other topics, such as "Change Your Behavior," "Kick the Worry Habit," and "Alcoholics and Sexual Abuse" lent themselves to more emotional and often heartrending sharing. There were meetings in Spanish, meetings for bikers, meetings for gays, for women, for men, and, of course, for the entire conference. At 3:00 a.m. on Sunday, and followed by five one-hour, back-to-back Big Book discussion meetings, was a one-hour "Hug Break."

One of the highpoints of the conference was the bidding session on Saturday morning for the 30th ICYPAA. Held in the Hyatt's auditorium, it reflected both the thoughtful intensity and the explosive enthusiasm which characterized the conference.

With ten formal bids to consider, the Advisory Council listened carefully to the presentations. While banners, buttons, bumperstickers, and slogans had been passed around on the first day of the conference, it was finally facts, figures, and "need" which guided the workings of the Advisory Council's group conscience. That inevitable point where money and spirituality must mix had finally arrived. One member of the Advisory Council put it this way: "We prayed a lot, and then prayed some more."

Following the bidding session, which ran for six and a half hours, with the final selection to be announced at the Saturday evening banquet, two special service meetings were offered. In an hour-long informational meeting, the first of its kind at an ICYPAA, the associate editor and the art director of the *Grapevine* led an informal session designed to open the doors of communication, answer questions, and highlight some of the history and hopes of the *Grapevine*.

For the second year in a row, there was a General Service trustees workshop, led by Wayne P., regional trustee from Arkansas, and Natalie S., past Pacific regional trustee. An overwhelming majority of those attending the workshop were past or present G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s, and after a spirited discussion, Wayne P. ended the workshop with a statement affixing responsibility for the future of A.A. just where it ought to be: "If A.A. goes to hell, it'll be your fault, not mine."

One of the fringe benefits of this year's site was unlimited tanning. Snorkeling trips and boat rides came and went, and ad hoc groups formed in front of the Hyatt as people piled onto buses and into cars and headed for the beach. And, as luck would have it, the Hyatt had scheduled a whiskey tasting for the opening night of the conference, in one of the larger meeting rooms adjacent to a topic meeting "We Do Recover." No figures were available concerning any possible cross-

over between these two events!

One fellow did in fact "get the A.A. message" in a rather dramatic way, as late in the evening he fell — spilling his drink on the way — headlong onto the patio outside the lower lobby. A group of A.A.s who had gathered outside were immediately on the scene, among them — by "coincidence" — two registered nurses who stayed with him until the Miami paramedics arrived. Before they carried him off, still unconscious, someone ripped off the cover of a May *Grapevine*, with the Twelve Steps printed on the inside, and stuck it in his pocket.

By the time the Saturday night banquet rolled around, the excitement and enthusiasm were nearing a peak, and pool-side bathers returned to their rooms only to emerge moments later dressed in evening gowns, jackets and ties.

After dinner, Larry Y., chairperson of the ICYPAA Advisory Council, took the microphone. To thunderous applause, he called Gordon Patrick and the two regional trustees to the podium. As has been done in the past, and in accordance with the Seventh Tradition, Larry presented Gordon with a check, payable to the General Service Office, in the amount of \$7,300.

Then Larry extracted another envelope from his coat pocket, signaling that the 1987 site selection was about to be announced. The banquet hall erupted into a chaos of enthusiasm and, when the final selection was named, nearly a quarter of the audience leapt to its feet, shouting out the slogan of the Boston bid committee.

"SOBAH! SOBAH! SOBAH!"

At the end of the speaker meeting on Sunday morning, after the Lord's Prayer, the conference officially ended as hundreds of A.A.s, Al-Anons, and Alateens linked arms and, swaying as one, joined together in a rendition of "Amazing Grace."

The Spirit of A.A. Has a Ripple Effect

Brooklyn A.A. Charlie M. recently received a call from Brooklyn Intergroup: Would he please contact "Joe," who had just phoned in with an urgent plea for help.

Says Charlie: "Joe was deeply addicted to cocaine. He was in serious trouble. His therapist had advised him that if he 'picked up' and wanted help, he should get in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous."

Charlie is sober 20 years and has done a lot of twelfth-stepping. He thought about A.A.'s singleness of purpose. He also thought about our tradition of cooperation without affiliation with other organizations. Then, he

relates, "I carefully informed Joe that A.A. is really for people in trouble with alcohol but, if he were willing, I would call Narcotics Anonymous for him. In the event N.A. failed to get back to him, I assured Joe, I would take him directly to an N.A. meeting or else provide him with the address of a conveniently located N.A. meeting taking place that day."

When Charlie contacted N.A., the response was immediate and warm — "they would be happy to help any addicts I could direct to them." Furthermore, Charlie reports, "I was asked if I would, in the spirit of A.A./N.A. cooperation, tell any other drug addicts I might meet that N.A. is available and eager to help them."

Some weeks after steering him to N.A., Charlie heard from Joe: "He thanked me for my help and said he was far more comfortable in N.A. than he thought he would have been in A.A. He was getting a great deal out of being able to identify clearly with the N.A. meetings."

Narcotics Anonymous, based in Van Nuys, California, is extremely active, with regularly scheduled meetings in all 50 states and most of the Canadian provinces. The organization, which is similar to A.A. in format, is well established in Europe and Australia and has made beginnings in Asia, Africa and South America.

A.A.'s source of strength lies in our singleness of purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Consequently, we welcome the opportunity to share our principles and methods with other self-help groups — but only they can provide the ingredient essential for success: their members' common bond.

Time for Directory Update: Special Note to G.S.R.s

Areas around the United States and Canada are correcting and updating printouts of the current A.A. *Directories: Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and Canadian* so that our discreet computer can produce next year's edition. The final deadline for receipt of this information at G.S.O. is January 15, 1987.

In accordance with an Advisory Action of the 1985 General Service Conference, the format of the directories has been changed to a three-column format that does not include general service representatives' addresses, zip codes and membership figures. So, a special reminder to all G.S.R.s: Please be sure to list your phone numbers, since that is the only way you will be able to be contacted by A.A. travelers in your areas who rely on the directories as a lifeline.

Reminder About Literature Discount

On May 1, 1986, the price of literature to A.A. central offices and intergroups, as well as to groups ordering more than \$25.00 worth of literature at a time, was raised by the elimination of the 6% discount—the first price increase of any kind since 1975. This was announced in the April/May issue of *Box* 4-5-9.

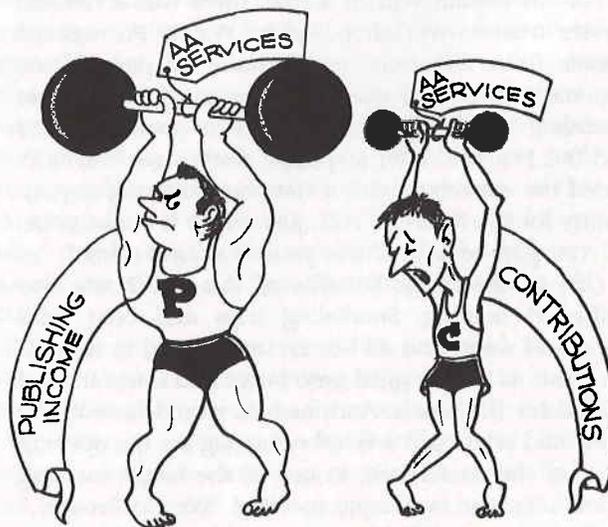
However, some of the old order forms are still around, and the G.S.O. accounting department is receiving orders where the purchaser is still taking the 6% discount. Please use the new (grass green) order form.

'The Power of the Purse'

Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and our bills paid.

—Bill W., A.A. Grapevine, November 1957

The figures tell the story. Last year, at G.S.O., sales for A.A. publishing totaled \$6,953,000. Expenses (cost of products, preparation and distribution) totaled \$5,617,000 for a net publishing income of \$1,336,000. About 45% of that income was from sales to non-A.A. entities.



On the one hand, in 1985, \$3,238,000 was spent for and on behalf of our 38,000 groups ("group services"), and for other expenses of the General Service Board (e.g., trustees' meetings, World Service Meeting, Regional Forums, etc.). On the other hand, \$2,379,000 was received in group contributions that year. Thus, we had a shortfall — the difference between what was spent for the groups and the board, and the amount the groups contributed — of \$827,000. And, each year the shortfall has been increasing at an alarming rate.

The 1985 shortfall (\$827,000) had to be paid out of net publishing income (\$1,336,000). But, one might ask, as long as A.A. is paying its bills and providing services, what difference does it make whether support comes from the groups or A.A. publishing income? According to Concept 1, "the final authority and ultimate responsibility" in A.A. rests with the groups. If the groups are interested in keeping it that way, their power to guide and direct the General Service Board and the General Service Office is through contributions — "the power of the purse." If the percentage of income from contributions continues to decline while income from literature sales increase, then the groups are giving up control and relinquishing responsibility.

What's more, the primary purpose of A.A. literature is to carry our message — not to make money.

To make matters worse, if net publishing income was used to pay the shortfall of \$827,000; and if about 45% of net publishing income was obtained from non-A.A. sources, then \$380,000 of non-A.A. money was used in support of group services last year.

Tradition Seven states, "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." Can our Fellowship claim to be self-supporting if 45% of our support for centralized group services

came from non-A.A. entities? An additional contribution of about \$1.25 *per year* per A.A. member would have completely eliminated the need for outside support or excess publishing income. Please discuss this matter at your next business meeting and let us know what the members of your group think about this issue. And look at the support of your local service activities, too — intergroups and central offices and your area and district service committees.

'As Bill Sees It'

In October 1964, when A.A.'s late co-founder Bill W. was celebrating 30 years of sobriety, he received a letter from Rene P., secretary of the Santa Cecilia Group in Guatemala City.

"With God's help," Rene wrote, "we will celebrate the second anniversary of our group, in the wonderful world of A.A., with a public open meeting at the Venecia movie theater. Some members feel that the usual collection should not be made, because we would not comply with our Seventh Tradition, but others feel that it can be done. Please tell us what we should do."

Replied Bill: "Concerning the collection to be (or not to be) taken at your second anniversary meeting, an occasion for which I send my congratulations, I think it would be best left to your own judgment. However, it is the custom here in the United States never to take collections at a public meeting, because, as you say, this would be inconsistent with A.A.'s policy of self-support."

Bill never did believe in telling people what to do.

P.I.

From Around P.I.

Public Information committees across the United States and Canada are busy carrying the message at health fairs, schools, churches, libraries and through the printed word and public appearances on radio and television. A sampling:

Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. "We staffed an A.A. booth at a public awareness fair," reports the P.I. committee chairperson, "and received a very positive response from educators, nurses and people from the judiciary." The committee is developing a "speaker bank" to handle requests from schools; members re-

cently met with the local school board to facilitate cooperation and help.

Little Rock, Arkansas. The P.I. committee recently received a certificate of appreciation for the efforts of young A.A.s who carried the message to approximately 50 health classes. Committee members also conducted a panel discussion for the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers. Letters about the A.A. program have been mailed out to companies in the area employing 200 to 2,500 people; other letters have been sent out to area schools.

Connecticut State Public Information Committee. Growth is occurring as a result of improved communication and cooperation with area D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s. There has been an increase in school commitments, public information workshops and TV/radio activity, the committee reports.

Albuquerque, New Mexico. "We have a successful 'Open to the Public' meeting," the P.I. committee chairperson reports, "and recently the *Albuquerque Journal and Tribune* printed the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We also have had good exposure of our public service announcements on radio and TV. We put the Big Book into high school and mid-school libraries; and we have participated in several health fairs at schools, hospitals and malls when invited to do so. We have come a long way but there still is much to do and many suffering alcoholics to reach."

Seattle, Washington. In one month, the P.I. committee received more than 20 requests for speakers. A.A. tables were staffed at several Seattle University Saturday seminars; and the Big Book has been placed in local school libraries and counseling centers.

Five Public Service Spots Available On One TV Cassette

A.A. World Services has prepared a new Conference-approved three-quarter inch video tape cassette for television that combines five public service announcements. Three visuals, all different, are designed for identification by a broad viewing audience. One pictures a suburban house—upstairs a distressed wife and downstairs her husband, who is passed out (30/20 seconds). Another shows a husband passed out on a commuter train; at home, his wife gives up waiting for him (30 and 20 seconds). The third spotlights two drinkers—a skid row type swaying on the street and an executive nipping at her desk (both 10 and 20 seconds).

The new five-in-one TV cassette (TV-26) is available at a cost of \$12.50 per cassette and can be ordered from G.S.O.

C.P.C.

C.P.C. Exhibit Goes to a Convention

A.A.'s professional literature exhibit was a popular attraction at the 1986 convention of the American Association of Retired Persons (A.A.R.P.), which convened in Anaheim, California. A.A.R.P. has 22 million members; 24,000 of them were at the convention.

The A.A. exhibit was conveniently positioned directly across from the Nescafé lounge area where coffee flowed free of charge, and diagonally across from a Mocha-Mix booth that dispensed complimentary, cholesterol-free ice cream.

There was a constant flow of people stopping to look at the A.A. literature and to talk to the volunteers who staffed the booths. More than 100 of them requested copies of the C.P.C. bulletin, *About A.A.*, and additional information. A good many were open about their concerns; others expressed gratitude or openly asked for help:

"Our neighbor's husband died last year and we know she's in there drinking herself to death. How can we help her?"

"My daughter received her 60-day pin at a meeting last week. I'm so proud of her and just wanted to stop by and say thank you."

"My son's been in trouble with booze for years. He is in his late 20s now. Is there a way we can help him?"

"I have a friend, and does she ever need you. . . ."

"Where's the meeting nearest to this convention?"

One visitor at the booth was Pauline B., chairperson of the Southern California C.P.C. subcommittee on reaching the older alcoholic. Pauline is developing a list of professionals who provide different services to the elderly with a view to sending them an adaptation of a guide letter in the C.P.C. Workbook. She is also developing a list of older A.A. members who are willing to do twelfth-step work in connection with the mailing.

The booth volunteers were mainly members of the Mid-Southern California C.P.C. Committee; one was a member of the Southern California C.P.C. Committee. "They were nothing short of wonderful," says G.S.O. staff member Betty L., who has the C.P.C. desk. "No matter how tired, they welcomed every visitor with warmth and genuine interest."

Professionals Speak Out at C.P.C. Workshop in Tacoma

Ten professionals, all of them non-A.A.s and representing a broad cross-section of occupations, participated in the second annual workshop hosted by the Tacoma, Washington C.P.C. Committee in May.

Reports Walt T., C.P.C. chairperson: "Within their allotted 20 minutes, the professionals devoted more time to praising A.A. than they did to anything else. However, we were able to gain a greater understanding of their problems and priorities — even though some of those priorities are not necessarily ours."

Two professionals, a social worker and a county official, both urged that A.A. extend efforts to reach out to the low-income people who have nowhere else to turn. A district court judge said that "the most visible tool our court system has is A.A. We ask that you continue to aid the court-referred individual." And a labor union representative spoke of the need to inform the labor force of what A.A. is all about. Toward this end, he suggested that A.A.s participate in union-sponsored workshops.

Walt notes that information gathered at the workshop has been passed on to the G.S.R.s and other committees for action where indicated.

Correctional Facilities

Inmates Communicate in Language of the Heart

Juanito and John are friends who help each other stay sober at the Wyoming Correctional Facility in Attica, New York. Juanito speaks only Spanish, John speaks only English. They communicate in the language of the heart.



Some time ago, John wrote to G.S.O., requesting Spanish translations of A.A. literature and the Big Book for his friend. "Juanito was always faithful about attending our Wednesday night meetings at the facility," John explains, "even though he couldn't understand what was said. Now he comes with his Spanish Big Book and reads it during the meetings. He seems to get a lot more out of them.

"I feel good about helping Juanito to obtain these few things that help him to learn about our A.A. program. Isn't that what it's all about? Assisting others to achieve sobriety. I couldn't have done it myself without the support of others."

Another heartwarming report comes from Karen N., corrections chairperson, Southern Wisconsin area. "At our recent corrections workshop," she writes, "we were lucky to have three of the inmates from the Women's Correction Center speak on the morning panel. They did a fantastic job. At noon, we all went out for food—one of the women hadn't been in a restaurant for three years. A highlight of my day was watching her choose her lunch, then eat it! Maybe it was the highlight of her day, too."

From Asheboro, North Carolina, Fletcher D. writes that the corrections committee has established an information booth for the visitors of inmates. "Our project is proving 100 percent successful," he says. "Even the children and young adults are expressing interest. We hear such statements as, 'I have a friend who needs to read this literature,' and we are reaching many people in addition to those who come to visit a relative or loved one. Our unit superintendent is impressed with our project and has given us his full endorsement."

Fletcher is hopeful that the project "will help to reunite families and prevent others from having to spend time in prison" as a result of their drinking. "I have less than a year prior to my own release," he notes. "I'm a very grateful recovering alcoholic, and very thankful for the program of A.A.!"

Two other A.A.s have recently expressed their gratitude for the Fellowship. Writing from the Warwick, New York facility after receiving literature from G.S.O., John F. says, "I feel as though thousands and thousands of people were reaching out to help me. One day I want to make someone else feel as good as I do now by reaching out myself." And Rick K., who was released from the Anderson, Indiana correctional facility on May 30, 1986, sends this message:

"I am grateful you have seen it in your hearts to help me out with the books I have received—the Big Book, *As Bill Sees It*, *Living Sober* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. When I get back on my feet, I will repay this kindness by purchasing these same books from A.A. groups to pass on to a fellow alcoholic who cannot afford them."

Treatment Facilities

Are We There For the Alcoholic Released from Treatment?

In a memo to the Fellowship in Montana, Robert D., chairperson of the treatment facilities committee in Helena, asks some questions: Are there sufficient contacts in the community the patient is returning to? Is there sufficient communication between the district treatment facilities committee chairpersons? Does every district have a treatment facilities person? Are treatment facilities committees communicating the "primary purpose" of A.A. to the facilities' administration and not affiliating A.A. with other recovery groups dealing with narcotics, overeating, gambling, etc.?

All these questions, he stresses, "rest on an even more important issue: Has the knowledge of the contacts, chairpersons, and other important information gotten out to the facilities—or does it just sit on a dressing table or in someone's briefcase?"

As Robert sees it, "there will be no productive work done in the area of cooperation with treatment facilities unless districts take upon themselves the responsibility of starting, funding and continuing a viable committee dedicated to the purpose of carrying the message of A.A. to treatment facilities' patients—not only while they're inside but when they come out. Ultimately this work will fail unless it emanates from the groups themselves."

"Remember," he concludes, "as long as people are out there dying from this disease, we are responsible. If we fail to reach out the hand of A.A. to those individuals coming out of treatment, what will happen to them? Think about it!"

How Great Falls Brought A.A. to Treatment Centers

During its first eight years, the district treatment facilities program in Great Falls, Montana moved slowly. Chairperson Don B. says, "Meetings were sporadic, there were no regular schedules, there was no plan. It was eight years of headaches and heartache. But things

kept getting better and now the program is working."

Getting groups, let alone individuals, to go into treatment centers was difficult, Don relates. But the determination of a few to bring A.A. into these facilities won out. This, even though "we were tossed out of one center. Some A.A.s, well-intentioned but undiplomatic in their zeal had arbitrarily limited meetings to 'pure' alcoholics only, and they alienated the director."

The Great Falls district population is about 60,000, Don explains. "Eight years ago, there were four centers for the treatment of alcohol and drug abuse. Today there are two, which makes developing and maintaining a program much easier. When problems arise, we try to talk them out quickly. One of the most important things we have learned is to keep communication lines open, not only between A.A. and the centers, but within A.A. itself."

Group members who participate in the treatment facilities' meetings find that they get back in comfortable sobriety much more than they give, Don says, noting that "our nucleus of concerned individuals has grown considerably, though we still need to involve more groups and their members."

Like A.A., he adds, "we have had a coming of age. We are no longer plowing in the dark. We have much past experience to guide us, and we now have what our area delegate calls 'the best thing since sliced bread'—the new *Treatment Facilities Workbook* from G.S.O. This and the pamphlet "A.A. in Treatment Centers" can be of invaluable help to any A.A. community that wants to bring the Fellowship inside treatment facilities. We wish we'd had them eight years ago."

Notes from the T.F. Desk

- An Advisory Action of the 1986 General Service Conference recommends that: Each area treatment facilities committee conduct workshops, as frequently as needed, to effectively utilize the *Treatment Facilities Workbook*.

- Service sponsors needed! From time to time, new treatment facilities chairpersons contact the Treatment Facilities Desk asking to be put in touch with chairpersons who would be willing to serve as sponsors and share their experience, strength and hope during the early days of a new committee. Any chairperson who would like to be a sponsor or have a sponsor, please let us know.

- We encourage all A.A. members who are carrying the message into treatment facilities to please write and share their experience, problems, questions and solutions with us. We, in turn, will share your experience, either by letter or in the pages of *Box 4-5-9*.

Calendar of Events

October

- 3-5 — *Spokane, Washington*. Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209
- 3-5 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 3-5 — *Cody, Wyoming*. State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1092, Cody, WY 82414
- 3-5 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. Skid Row Roundup. Write: Ch., 10224 - 113th St., Apt. 10, Edmonton, Alta. TSK 1P4
- 3-5 — *San Diego, California*. 35th So. Calif. Conv. Write: Ch., 1518 Euclid, #3, Santa Monica, CA 90404
- 3-5 — *Taos, New Mexico*. Third Annual Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 1209, Taos, NM 87571
- 3-5 — *Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada*. Seventh Madawaska Valley Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 175, Barry's Bay, Ontario, K0J 1B0
- 3-5 — *Duluth, Minnesota*. 41st Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816-0771
- 3-5 — *Invermere, British Columbia, Canada*. Second Annual Valley Roundup. Write: Box 2174, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0
- 3-5 — *Trinity, Texas*. Spirit of the Pines. Write: Finance Comm., Rt. 1, Box 120 A, Angleton, TX 77515
- 3-5 — *Rochester, New York*. Sixth Annual Conv. Write: Ch., 183 E. Main St., #1035, Rochester, NY 14604
- 4 — *Goshen, Indiana*. 14th State Conf. Write: Ch., 18 Fairfield Park, Goshen, IN 46526
- 9-11 — *Des Moines, Iowa*. State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 15172, Des Moines, IA 50315
- 10-12 — *Buffalo, New York*. 45th Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 618, Buffalo, NY 14215
- 10-12 — *Prince George, British Columbia, Canada*. 30th Annual Northern Lites Roundup. Write: Ch., 2540 Ewert Cres., Prince George, B.C. V2M 2R9
- 10-12 — *Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada*. Gate Way Group Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 436, Creighton, Sask. S0P 0A0
- 10-12 — *Geneva Park - Lake Couchiching, Ontario, Canada*. 21st Anniv. of the Georgian Bay Dist. Conv. Write: Host Comm., Box 75, Gravenhurst, Ont. P0C 1G0
- 10-12 — *Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies*. Fourth Annual Discovery Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 138, Reading, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 10-12 — *Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. 31st Annual Northeast Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 702, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. P6A 5N2
- 10-12 — *Schreiber, Ontario, Canada*. Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 201, Schreiber, Ont. P0T 2S0

- 10-12 — *Little Rock, Arkansas*. Conf. of Young People, ARKYPAA IV, Write: 303 S. Thayer, Little Rock, AR 72205
- 10-12 — *Hope, British Columbia, Canada*. Tenth Annual Thanksgiving Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 391, Hope, B.C. VOX 1L0
- 10-12 — *Redding, California*. NCC Conf. Write: Ch., 1046 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122
- 10-12 — *Columbus, Indiana*. Fourth Annual Columbus Men's Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 644, Columbus, IN 47202-0644
- 10-12 — *Lafayette, Louisiana*. Third Annual Cajun Country Conf. Write: Ch., 207 Woodward, Lafayette, LA 70508
- 10-12 — *Brainard, Minnesota*. Second Minnesota Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 103, Wayzata, MN 55391
- 10-12 — *Great Falls, Montana*. State Fall Roundup. Write: Box 3303, Great Falls, MT 59403
- 10-12 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. Gratitude '86. Write: Ch., 565 Sherbourne St., P.H.8, Toronto, Ont. M4X 1W7
- 10-12 — *Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*. N.S., Nfld., Lbdr. Assembly. Write: Ch., 7 Laurier St., Dartmouth, N.S. B3A 2G6
- 10-12 — *Grenada, Mississippi*. North MS Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2025, Big Creek, MS 38914
- 11-12 — *Orlando, Florida*. N. Florida Assembly — 4th Qtr. Write: Secy., 2052 Euclid St., Jacksonville, FL 32210
- 11-12 — *Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada*. 14th Annual Roundup. Write: Box 126, Fort Frances, Ont. P9A 3B2
- 16-19 — *Pompano Beach, Florida*. Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 333, Pompano Beach, FL 33061
- 17-19 — *Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada*. Spruce Grove-Stony Plain Unity Roundup. Write: Ch., 19 Belleville Ave., Spruce Grove, Alta. T0E 2C0
- 17-19 — *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. 35th Annual S. Wisc. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Secy., 1324 S. 73rd St., West Allis, WI 53214

Planning a December, January or February Event?

Please be sure to send your information on December, January or February events in time to reach G.S.O. by *October 10*. This is the calendar deadline for the Holiday issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed November 15).

Naturally, G.S.O. cannot check on all the information submitted. We must rely on local A.A.s to describe the events accurately.

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

October (page 34): Modern times; "You Can Take It With You"; Are You Awake?; Step Eight.

November (page 18): A.A. archives; no limits; negative thinking; fear.

- 17-19 — *Albany, New York*. HMB Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13292, Albany, NY 12212
- 17-19 — *Claresholm, Alberta, Canada*. 14th "Joy of Living" Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 45, Claresholm, Alta. T0L 0T0
- 17-19 — *Merritt, British Columbia, Canada*. 14th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1779, Merritt, B.C. V0K 2B0
- 17-19 — *Lunteren, Holland*. Dutch National Conv. Write: #C'86, Postbus 40, 5800 AA Venray, The Netherlands
- 17-19 — *Idaho Falls, Idaho*. State Area Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 443, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
- 17-19 — *St. Louis, Missouri*. Third Annual Woman-to-Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., 311 Carson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63135
- 17-19 — *Fallon, Nevada*. Second Annual Lahontan Valley Round-up. Write: Lahontan Valley Intergroup, Box 606, Fallon, NV 89406
- 17-19 — *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*. Fifth Annual Freedom Roundup (gay men and women of Delaware Valley). Write: Box 15978, Philadelphia, PA 19103
- 17-19 — *Montreal, Quebec, Canada*. 27 Montreal Bilingual Conv. Write: 5789 d'Iberville, Montreal, Que. H2G 2B8
- 18-19 — *Broken Bow, Oklahoma*. Beavers Bend Round Robin. Write: Ch., Box 144, Hatfield, AR 71945
- 19 — *Topeka, Kansas*. 15th Annual Dist. #8 Banquet Party. Write: Asst. Ch., 1407 W. 5th St., Topeka, KS 66606
- 24-26 — *Whitney, Texas*. Ninth Annual Brazos Riverside Conf. Write: MPO Box 1309, Whitney, TX 76692
- 24-26 — *Casa Grande, Arizona*. 33rd Sahuaro Agape Weekend. Write: Secy., Box 43096, Tucson, AZ 85733
- 24-26 — *Thief River Falls, Minnesota*. 11th Northwestern Harvest Festival. Write: Ch., Box 219, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 24-26 — *Arkansas City, Kansas*. First New Horizons Conf. Write: Ch., 1519 Evanston, Wichita, KS 67219
- 24-26 — *Kansas City, Missouri*. Soberfest II, Write: Ch., Box 22539, Kansas City, MO 64113-2539
- 25 — *Indianapolis, Indiana*. 46th Anniv. Banquet. Write: Intergroup, 136 E. Market St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Flip up this end of page — many more events listed on reverse side

- 25-26 — *Laguna Beach, California*. 25th Anniv. Canyon Club. Write: Ch., 255 Cypress, #1, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- 25-26 — *San Cristobal, Tachira, Venezuela*. V1 International Encounter. Write: Grupo El Aire, Apdo. 737, San Cristobal, Tachira, Venezuela
- 25-26 — *Kingston, Ontario, Canada*. Eastern Ont. Area Fall Serv. Conf. & Fall Assembly. Write: Sec., 72 Mayabourne Av., Scarborough, Ont. M1L 2V9
- 30-Nov. 2 — *Memphis, Tennessee*. 12th Annual Bluff City Fellowship Conv. Write: Reg., Box 240831, Memphis, TN 38124-0831
- 31-Nov. 2 — *Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Round-up. Write: Secy., Box 931, Lillooet, B.C. V0K 1V0
- 31-Nov. 2 — *Cahokia, Illinois*. 26th Annual Tri State Conv. Write: Box 1758, Cahokia, IL 62206
- 31-Nov. 2 — *London, Ontario, Canada*. 33rd Annual W. Ont. Conv. Write: Box 725, London, Ont. N6A 4Y8
- 31-Nov. 2 — *Rogersville, Alabama*. Riverside Roundup III. Write: Roundup, 300 Spring Valley Ct., Huntsville, AL 35802
- 31-Nov. 2 — *Ocean City, Maryland*. State Conf. of Young People. Write: Ch., 3110 Remington Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211

November

- 1 — *New York, New York*. Intergroup Bill W. Dinner-Dance. Write: Dinner Comm., 175 5th Av., #219, New York, NY 10010
- 1-2 — *Grand Rapids, Minnesota*. 11th Annual Service Workshop. Write: Ch., 209 S. 1st St. West, Aurora, MN 55705
- 7-9 — *Wetaskwin, Alberta, Canada*. Fourth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6033, Wetaskwin, Alta. T9A 2E8
- 7-9 — *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada*. Eighth Annual Lighthouse Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 542, Yarmouth, N.S. B5A 4B3

- 7-9 — *Everett, Washington*. Everett Conf. Write: Reg., Box 1758, Everett, WA 98206
- 7-9 — *Brandon, Florida*. Third Big Book Weekend. Write: Ch., 8440 Evergreen St., New Port Richey, FL 33552
- 7-9 — *Wilmington, Delaware*. 16th N.E. Reg. Conv. Write: Secy., 3407 N. Rockfield Dr., Wilmington, DE 19810
- 7-9 — *Lincoln, Montana*. 20th Wilderness Agape Weekend. Write: Coord., 23 Konley, Kalispell, MT 59901
- 7-9 — *Yosemite, California*. Third Annual Summit Conf. Write: Ch., 5720 Creel Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338
- 7-9 — *St. Cloud, Minnesota*. Fourth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302
- 7-9 — *St. Thomas, Virgin Islands*. Intergroup Roundup. Write: Box 10708, St. Thomas, V.I. 00801
- 7-9 — *Shreveport, Louisiana*. Tri State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 495, Shreveport, LA 71101
- 14-16 — *Margate, Florida*. S. Fl. Young People Conf. Write: Ch., Box 63-6229, Margate, FL 33063-6229
- 14-16 — *Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Third Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 821 5th Av. N.W., Moosejaw, Sask. S0H 1J0
- 14-16 — *Ardmore, Oklahoma*. Third Annual Red River Valley Rally. Write: Ch., 802 P St. S.W., Ardmore, OK 73401
- 14-16 — *Lamar, Colorado*. Fall Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 186, Lamar, CO 81052
- 14-16 — *Okoboji, Iowa*. N.W. IA Third Pre-Winter Rally. Write: Ch., Box 454, Okoboji, IA 51331
- 14-16 — *Houston, Texas*. Second Annual "Spirit of Houston" Conf. Write: Trea., Box 7727, The Woodlands, TX 77387
- 15 — *Sarnia, Ontario, Canada*. 40th Anniversary One Day Round-Up. Write: Ch., 109 Norman St., Sarnia, Ont. N7T 6V5
- 15-16 — *Fort Smith, Arkansas*. Second Annual Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 5415, Fort Smith, AR 72913
- 15-16 — *Albuquerque, New Mexico*. First Annual Brown Baggers Sobriety Bash. Write: Ch., 5012 San Pedro Ct., N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109

- 16-19 — *Helen, Georgia*. Seventh Chattahoochee Forest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 363, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 21-23 — *Hyannis, Massachusetts*. 23rd Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., 497 Elm St., W. Springfield, MA 01089
- 21-23 — *Enid, Oklahoma*. N.W. State Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., 2021 W. Walnut Ave., Enid, OK 73203
- 21-23 — *Wichita, Kansas*. Third Annual Fall Round-Up. Write: Box 48153, Wichita, KS 67201
- 27-30 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. 28th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 43177, Las Vegas, NV 89118
- 27-30 — *Houston, Texas*. Fifth Annual Roundup. Write: Box 27703, Suite 339, Houston, TX 77027
- 28-30 — *Southampton, Bermuda*. Bermuda/N.C. Reg. Conv. Write: Secy., 27 Hilltop Apts., Tribe Rd., #3, Southampton, Bermuda
- 28-30 — *Southfield, Minnesota*. Eighth Conv. of Young People. Write: Ch., Box 141, Sterling Heights, MI 48311
- 28-30 — *Omaha, Nebraska*. Fourth Annual Great Plains Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 31306, Omaha, NE 68123-0306

December

- 5-6 — *Sikeston, Missouri*. Sixth Annual Five Corners Conv. Write: Ch., 1930 N. 15th St., Belleville, IL 62223
- 5-7 — *Del Rio, Texas*. Border Conf. Write: Ch., Box 395, Del Rio, TX 78841-0395
- 5-7 — *Montgomery, Alabama*. Southeast Regional Forum. Write: Reg. Forum Coord., Box 459, New York, NY 10163
- 6-13 — *New Orleans, Louisiana*. Cruise Without Booze. Write: Ch., Box 9183, Tulsa, OK 74157
- 27-28 — *Neosho, Missouri*. Winter Holiday #6. Write: Box 195, Cassville, MO 65625