

■ Come and Celebrate A.A.'s 80th Birthday in Atlanta, Georgia

Like Gladys Knight and the legendary Pips, get ready to board that midnight train — or bus, or car, or plane — and make your way to Atlanta, Georgia, home of the 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, to be held July 2–5, 2015. With a theme of “80 Years — Happy, Joyous and Free,” A.A.s from around the world will be converging in Atlanta to celebrate sobriety, and share experience, strength and hope in meetings, panels and workshops at the Georgia World Congress Center, the Georgia Dome and other locations throughout this friendly city at the heart of the New South.

While many already know Atlanta as home to the 1996 Olympics and headquarters for some of the most well-known corporations in America, not as many are familiar with its rolling, wooded expanse featuring magnolias, dogwoods, Southern pines and magnificent oaks, set among the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. With one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country — and over 1,100 A.A. meetings a week — Atlanta has become one of the best examples of the New South, a fast-paced modern city proud of its heritage, a city that began as a railroad town in the mid-1800s and has evolved into the primary transportation hub of the Southeastern United States.

Fittingly, for more than a century, Atlanta's official symbol has been the mythical phoenix rising from the ashes, a nod to the city's dramatic redevelopment after it was famously burned to the ground during the Civil War — a symbol many A.A.s can readily identify with, having risen themselves out of the ashes of active alcoholism.

Held every five years since 1950, International Conventions have been hosted in numerous United States and Canadian cities with cultures and personalities as varied as the alcoholics who travel to them for the celebration. In Atlanta many will celebrate not only their own sobriety and newfound lives, but also their ability to pass on this miracle — the message of recovery — to another suffering drunk.

The theme of the 2015 International Convention, “80 Years — Happy, Joyous and Free,” draws attention to the many benefits of sobriety and those present in Atlanta over the first weekend in July will greet one another in

gratitude as carriers of hope, good news and a simple solution for their alcohol problem. Varied meeting topics will excite many A.A.s who look forward to hearing the experience of members from other locales, and as Convention-goers partake in the many meetings and workshops scheduled for the weekend, more than a few will find their imaginations fired and their enthusiasm for carrying A.A.'s message renewed.

In between meetings, workshops and other events at the International Convention, scores of A.A.s will be on the lookout for unique settings to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded friends. Some will head for Centennial

Olympic Park, to hang out and enjoy the Fountain of Rings and the monument to Olympic athletes, while others will look for opportunities to experience the rich culture of this big city that never outgrew its small-town charm, visiting, perhaps, the Margaret Mitchell House where Mitchell wrote her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Gone With the Wind*. Still others will crave adventure and excitement, spreading out to Underground Atlanta, the subterranean entertainment district, or visiting the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site or Piedmont Park and the adjacent Atlanta Botanical Gardens, home to a 600-foot-long skywalk allowing visitors to tour one of the city's last remaining urban forests from above. But whichever attractions draw your interest, Atlanta offers something for everyone.

For many, the city's culinary scene,

which comprises a mix of urban establishments, ethnic restaurants serving cuisine from every corner of the world, and traditional eateries specializing in Southern dining, provides a highlight to the Convention experience. Since the turn of the 21st century, Atlanta has emerged as a terrific restaurant town, with many eateries reflecting a sophisticated Southern sensibility centered on the farm but experienced in the city. Visitors seeking to sample international Atlanta are directed to Buford Highway, the city's international corridor. There, the million-plus immigrants that make Atlanta home have established various authentic ethnic restaurants representing virtually every nationality on the globe.

A.A.s touring downtown Atlanta will discover a rich and diverse history, including the Atlanta Cyclorama &



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Civil War Museum, which houses a massive painting and diorama in-the-round, with a rotating central audience platform, depicting the Battle of Atlanta in the Civil War; the World of Coca-Cola, featuring the history of the world famous soft drink brand and its well-known advertising; and the Carter Center and Presidential Library, housing U.S. President Jimmy Carter's papers as well as other material relating to the Carter administration and the Carter family's life in Georgia.



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For A.A.s with a bent toward excitement, the Silver Comet Trail, just 11 miles northwest of Atlanta, is a network of abandoned railways converted into multi-use recreational trails. The trails span 37 miles for cyclists, skaters, runners and walkers through old rail tunnels. Additionally, the Chattahoochee Nature Center encompasses several acres with outdoor activities on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The center offers guided activities including canoe trips, wildlife and horticulture walks, and includes marshes, river wetlands, aviaries, greenhouses and indigenous gardens.

For Convention attendees with children in tow, a break from the Convention Center may include a stop at the Children's Museum of Atlanta, whose mission is to spark imagination and inspire discovery for all children through the power of play. Unlike traditional museums, the children's museum is hands-on and interactive, where kids can paint on the museum walls, experience a multi-sensory adventure, or collaborate with the museum's

troupe of professional actors to create a mini-musical. Or maybe a visit to Six Flags Over Georgia would be in order, the largest regional theme park in the Southeast, home to more than 40 rides and attractions. With 11 roller coasters, three children's areas, three water rides and award-winning shows, it can provide the thrill of a lifetime. And of course, kids of all ages can experience the excitement of the Georgia Aquarium, the largest collection of aquatic animals in America, where saying hello to the beluga whales, penguins and whale sharks, the largest fish on the planet, will plunge you into a one-of-a-kind aquatic experience. Or take a stroll through Zoo Atlanta, featuring more than 200 species of animals from the African plains and Asian forests, such as orangutans, tigers, giant pandas and gorillas.

Finally, if a visit to a new city means an opportunity to attend area sporting events, Convention attendees can make their way to Turner Field, one of the premier ballparks in America and home of the Atlanta Braves, to take in a baseball game, and maybe even bring home a souvenir.

So, come and celebrate 80 years of Alcoholics Anonymous! See for yourself the incredible growth we have experienced as A.A. has traveled literally around the globe, drawing alcoholics of all shapes, sizes and descriptions out of the darkness and into the light of sobriety. As it says in the Big Book, "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."

Call it planning — not projection — and set your sights on Atlanta, Georgia, in July 2015, where you might just meet a host of new lifelong friends. Watch *Box 4-5-9* for general and preregistration information. Or go to the A.A. Web site, www.aa.org, and click on "2015 International Convention."

Until then, as "A Vision for You" affirms, "Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."

■ And, In the Year 2025 It's Vancouver, British Columbia

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, has been selected by the General Service Board as the site for the International Convention celebrating A.A.'s 90th Anniversary, July 2025. Because of continued growth in attendance, it is necessary to reserve major meeting facilities and hotels this far in advance. The board made its decision following site inspection trips to Montreal, St. Louis and Vancouver, the three cities chosen for equal consideration by the 2013 General Service Conference.

■ General Service Conference to Focus on Three Legacies

Recovery, Unity and Service are the lifeblood of A.A. and the Three Legacies left to the Fellowship by its founders and early members. “By the first we recover from alcoholism,” wrote Bill W. in 1957 in *A.A. Comes of Age*. “By the second we stay together in unity; and by the third our society functions and serves its primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message to all who need it and want it.”

Underscoring the importance of A.A.’s Three Legacies — “the chief inheritances of the first twenty years of Alcoholics Anonymous,” according to Bill — the 64th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the U.S. and Canada will meet at the Hilton Westchester, Rye Town, New York, April 27-May 3, with the theme “Communicating Our Legacies — Vital in a Changing World.”

The Conference has focused on the Three Legacies before — indeed it would be hard to find an A.A. discussion that didn’t in some way touch on at least one of the Three — though it has been nearly twenty years since the Conference theme put the Legacies so directly in the spotlight. The 55th Conference in 2005 looked at the Legacies through the prism of the home group with the theme “Basics of Our Home Group — Recovery, Unity and Service,” but it was back in 1995 at the 45th General Service Conference that the Legacies were last addressed head on, with the Conference theme “Pass It On — Our Three Legacies.”

As David O., then trustee-at-large/Canada, said about the Three Legacies in the keynote address to the 45th Conference, “The future of A.A. depends on our ability to keep carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. In order to do that we try to follow a program of solid recovery, we try to keep our Fellowship united and keep ourselves focused on our primary objective.” Added Ray M., delegate of Alberta/N.W.T., in a presentation to that Conference, “I want this Fellowship for the future well-being of my own children and my friends. The strength of A.A. in the future depends upon our ability today to carry the message not just of recovery, but also of unity and service. I owe this program so very much. It has given me my life and a new way to live. I need to ensure that the

doors are open for those yet to come, as they were kept open for me.”

Such comments resonate today as well, when considering the impact of A.A.’s Legacies. The challenge, however, of the 64th General Service Conference will be to look at the Legacies in the context of today’s changing world. As one member of the 63rd Conference put it, “Our primary purpose hasn’t changed, but there are other things that are changing. Our self-support model has been shifting. The logistics of publishing, commerce, distribution and communication — these are changing. Significantly.

“We have choices that we need to make, to ensure that we use our precious A.A. resources prudently.”

With the 64th Conference just around the corner, preparations are now in full swing for the 93 area delegates from across the U.S. and Canada, along with the 21 trustees of the General Service Board, directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine, as well as the many support staff who assist throughout the week, to participate in A.A.’s annual business meeting. Delegates have been busy writing area service highlights to be presented to the full Conference and reading through the voluminous background material on the agenda items; the General Service Board, along with A.A.W.S., Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., have been preparing detailed reports on finance, publishing and other A.A. service activities that have taken place throughout the year; and G.S.O. has been finalizing details with the hotel, compiling materials for each of the thirteen Conference committees, and developing the Conference Manual that will organize all the necessary information to keep Conference members on the same page throughout the week.

From start to finish, the Conference is a collaborative effort, linking individual members, groups, districts, areas, regions and A.A.’s service boards and General Service Office together in search of the collective voice and vision that will guide the Fellowship. From the election of new delegates, to the deliberations of groups, districts and areas concerning items of interest throughout the Fellowship, to the percolation of agenda items and background material throughout the service structure, the



Conference process picks up steam throughout the year. Actively in session for just a single week, the Conference process connects the A.A. Fellowship through many months of hard work and communication across the U.S. and Canada, as each interconnected piece of the service structure does its part, building a bridge from individual group members and their G.S.R.s to area delegates and the Conference itself.

In addition to this year's Conference theme and the many agenda items submitted through the service structure, the 2014 Conference will also consider a series of inventory questions as stipulated by the 2012 Conference and begun in 2013, engaging Conference members in an inventory of the overall effectiveness of the Conference and the Conference process itself. This inventory will continue into 2015, as well, with additional input from the 65th General Service Conference.

With its work laid out ahead of it, the 64th General Service Conference will convene on April 27th for a week's worth of discussion, serious deliberation and a heartfelt search to find A.A.'s group conscience. Like each of the Conferences before it, the 64th and its 135 Conference members will be guided by the rich principles handed down to each new generation of A.A.s as an inheritance from the founders and early members: the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

■ Remembering Wayne P., Former G.S.O. General Manager

Wayne P., general manager of the General Service Office from 1988 through 1991, died on January 26, 2014 in Rogers, Arkansas at the age of 83. He is survived by his daughter, Karen, and, after 44 years of sobriety, leaves behind many years of dedicated service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

A longtime member of the Rogers Group in Arkansas throughout his sobriety, Wayne served the Fellowship in a number of positions over the years, both at the group level and beyond. Service work was "in his blood," as Wayne often noted, and he served successively as Arkansas area treasurer, chairperson and delegate (Panel 29). In 1983, he was elected Southwest regional trustee and in 1988 came to G.S.O. as general manager. Wayne was the first regional trustee to serve as general manager and brought a characteristic humility with him. Said Wayne of his appointment at G.S.O., "Throughout my A.A. life, it has been drilled into me, 'Do what you're asked, the best you can.' I'm just doing what so many other A.A.s have done before me. It's a privilege to serve."

Born an only child in Havana, Arkansas, Wayne held a B.S. in business administration, with a major in marketing and transportation. Before completing his studies, he saw action in Korea with the U.S. Marine Corps. Upon dis-

charge in 1952 he moved to northwest Arkansas where he met and married his wife Marcia. They were together until she preceded him in death in 2009. Together, they had a daughter, Karen, who was 13 years old when Wayne finally got sober.

"Wayne loved his family and the Southwest area where he got sober," remembers former G.S.O. staff member, Susan U. "I first met Wayne prior to his service as delegate to the General Service Conference in 1979. As a newer staff member in the mid-1970s I attended the Arkansas Area 4 Assembly for a service weekend as well as the State Convention and got to see Wayne in action. He extended his warm hospitality and put me at ease with his sense of humor."

"Wayne was a stalwart in service," remembers another G.S.O. employee, "always willing to 'talk A.A.' — whenever and wherever."

Professionally, before joining G.S.O., Wayne worked variously for Phillips Petroleum Company, Inc., Transcom Freight Lines, Inc., and J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc. He had also been general manager of the Moser Manufacturing and Sales Company, specializing in school equipment, and owner/operator of a contract and institutional sales firm. His background in administration, coupled with his extensive contact with school boards and institutions helped in his work at G.S.O., where one of his principal contributions was oversight of the negotiations that led to the most recent relocation of G.S.O. from midtown Manhattan to its current location on Riverside Drive in 1992.

"This was a well-thought-out move for the office and has proved to be an excellent home for G.S.O. and the Grapevine," says Susan.

Tom J., G.S.O.'s former services director, concurs, noting "Wayne had an intuitive skill with investments and could see right away this would be good for the General Service Office and good for A.A. It turned out that he knew a number of the vendors from his previous employment and was able to manage the details of the move quite well." In the end, says Tom, "We're still there — and probably will be for some time" — a recognition of Wayne's ability to put first things first while setting the wheels of progress in motion.

"Wayne P. was a kind and grateful member of our Fellowship," says Susan. And, speaking for many in the Fellowship, from New York to the Southwest — the region he so dearly loved — "He will be sorely missed."

■ New From G.S.O.

Alcoholics Anonymous — Large-print version of the abridged edition, containing all front matter, Prefaces, Forewords and Doctor's Opinion, text of pages 1-164, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, and Appendices. **B-24, \$6.00**

Birthday Contribution Envelopes (FR-5) have a new design, and a sample is enclosed with this issue. A convenient way for groups or members who wish to contribute to G.S.O. on their A.A. birthday. **No charge**

■ A Walk Through History: G.S.O.'s A.A. Archives

They come from as far as the Ukraine or as near as Brooklyn; in groups of twenty or as a single Loner; with enthusiastic willingness and sometimes honoring the gentle suggestion of a sponsor back home to visit "A.A. headquarters." In ever-increasing numbers they come, day in, day out, to G.S.O.'s offices on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Many visitors are surprised by the size of the space G.S.O. occupies and are equally impressed by the scope of work and the services undertaken at the Fellowship's offices on a daily basis. Many, too, are particularly interested in the lore and the history of A.A., and most visits to A.A.'s General Service Office start — and often end — with a moment or two spent in G.S.O.'s A.A. Archives.

Hungry for information about Bill W., Dr. Bob and the Fellowship's first members and early supporters, visitors are often excited by the large collection of A.A. literature, which includes every printing from every edition of the Big Book. Giving context to A.A.'s rich history, photographs dot the walls of the cofounders and other early friends of A.A., such as Father Ed Dowling, the Jesuit priest Bill W. considered one of his spiritual advisers, or John D. Rockefeller, whose example and perspective on finance paved the way for A.A.'s Tradition of self-support. Pictures of Lois W. and Anne S., wives of the cofounders, and their homes in Bedford Hills, New York and Akron, Ohio, respectively, offer a deeper look into the lives of the two men most responsible for A.A.

Visitors may also expect to find the Lasker Award, presented to A.A. by the American Medical Association in 1951; early and current Grapevines; scrapbooks of early newspaper clippings about A.A. from 1939 through the 1950s; and photographs of people, places and events in A.A. history. There is also an International display that features meeting places and foreign translations of A.A. literature. Some early translations of the Big Book on display include German (1952), Castilian (1952) and French (1963).

A few additional items of particular interest are

the actual typewriter used to write the manuscript of the Big Book; a framed copy of the letter written by Dr. Carl Jung to Bill W. in 1961, a correspondence published in *The Language of the Heart*, the Grapevine's collection of Bill W.'s writings; and the couch that was once owned by Bill W. and located at G.S.O. while Bill was still alive. Sitting on it in quiet contemplation, scanning the library with its many photographs and exhibits of early A.A. artifacts, visitors often describe a deep sense of gratitude and connectedness to A.A.'s extraordinary and improbable past.

An average day in the Archives is a busy one, as a principal function of the Archives is to research the approximately 1,600 requests for information and research that come from A.A. members, G.S.O. employees, and the general public each year. In addition, there is an ongoing effort in the Archives to catalog and store all new acquisitions and to appraise, arrange and organize other collections of materials. The Archives also maintains a number of archival exhibits and expends a fair amount of time digitizing important documents for its collections.

Some questions asked of the Archives are readily answered while others require extensive research. Some typical requests include: the origins and growth of the A.A. Steps and Traditions; group, area and international histories; old issues and versions of newsletters, pamphlets and literature; the growth of the service structure; and actions of the boards and of the General Service Conference since 1951.

Some major holdings of the Archives include the historic records of the Alcoholic Foundation, which was organized in the late 1930s to serve the needs of the fledgling A.A. movement and was the predecessor to today's General Service Board. This includes correspondence between G.S.O. and early members and groups from North America and around the world, detailing the many struggles of trial and error early A.A. was faced with. The Archives also maintains meeting minutes for the Board of Trustees, A.A.W.S., Inc., and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and



has an extensive audio collection, which includes interviews and recordings of A.A. events, such as each General Service Conference and International Convention. There is also a collection of literature produced by G.S.O. and other A.A. entities, as well as a considerable number of group records. Additionally, a large collection of newspaper clippings and a library of books, both pertaining to A.A. and to alcoholism, is housed in the Archives, allowing a glimpse into the growth of A.A. and the evolution of today's modern understanding of alcoholism as it developed through the years since A.A.'s founding.

Frequently, the Archives is asked for copies of Bill's letters that contain quotations published in *As Bill Sees It*. Such requests present a difficult challenge for Archives' staff, however, because, as Bill explained in the Foreword to *As Bill Sees It*, the quotations were lifted out of their original context for publication and it has been necessary in the interest of clarity to edit, and sometimes to rewrite, a number of them, making it hard to match up with their original source. Very rarely does the Archives staff manage to locate a letter and in such circumstances relevant excerpts are provided to the requestor and not a photocopy of the entire letter. In making these decisions, the Archives' staff is guided by the Photocopying Policy, which was established to protect the physical and intellectual integrity of the collection. In addition, the policy's purpose is to protect the anonymity and privacy of our members, and to comply with the U.S. Copyright Law as it affects the collection.

The Archives also welcomes a number of professional researchers every year who are interested in studying aspects of A.A. history. Some want to know about specific individuals significant to the Fellowship. Others are curious about the program of A.A. itself, including its philosophical, psychological or spiritual roots. Although the number varies from time to time, there are usually a dozen or so serious researchers every year, who must be approved by the trustees' Archives Committee before being given access to any unpublished holdings.

Regularly, the Archives receives email, correspondence or phone calls for assistance from local archivists or archives committees which may be starting to build a collection and need help on what to collect. To assist local archivists, the Archives provides the Archives Workbook, guidelines on preservation and digitization, an Oral Histories packet and other materials.

Three times a year, the Archives publishes an electronic newsletter, *Markings*, which features stories about different aspects of A.A.'s history, as well as articles about preserving and maintaining an archival repository. *Markings* is available in English, Spanish and French and is delivered directly via email by registering to subscribe at G.S.O.'s A.A. website, www.aa.org.

Oftentimes, A.A. visitors to the Archives are specifically interested in the history of individual groups and find themselves, at the end of their Archives tour sitting in the

Archives' library — perhaps even on Bill's couch — looking through old scrapbooks, old Grapevine articles, or old directories for information about their home group or the group they first got sober in. Filled with a deep curiosity about A.A. and its development, visitors also ask about A.A. literature, especially the Big Book, as well as the history of the slogans and early prayers. Some people inquire about the use of medallions and logos, and others want to know about practices and customs which develop at meetings.

Whatever the question, the dedicated Archives staff strives to provide answers to anyone seeking information about A.A. and its extraordinary history.

■ Behind the Walls in Area 81

Carrying the message inside correctional facilities in New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island (Area 81), has been a passion of Dave A., current Area 81 delegate, since early in his sobriety. There are four registered prison groups in the area, the eldest of which — the Dorchester Intramural Group — is the first registered active prison group in Canada, dating back to 1949, and happens to be Dave's home group.

"The group meets once a week on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.," says Dave. That same night there is a meeting of the Inuit Group and an hour prior to the regular Dorchester meeting, once a month, the local A.A. volunteers bring a meeting into the Shepody Healing Center. This is the Regional Mental Health Unit and meetings have been held there successfully for the past two and a half years at the inmates' request.

On the same property just next door is the Hilltop Group, which is a minimum security facility. They are an extremely active group in the area, says Dave, with about 35 inside members and sometimes a dozen or so outside members in attendance for support. Since they are a minimum security level, they have the unique opportunity to participate in many different outside A.A. meetings, functions or events throughout Area 81 — meetings, roundups, as well as area and district business functions.

This is accomplished through A.A.'s cooperation with Corrections Canada. A few select A.A. members are given enhanced security clearance which enables them to be citizen escorts for incarcerated A.A. members attending outside meetings and traveling in Corrections Canada vehicles. "The G.S.R. for the Hilltop Group is usually permitted to attend most district and area business meetings as a voting member," says Dave, "and currently, the District 3 Grapevine representative is a member of the Hilltop Group." There have been many different Big Book studies, roundups, workshops and even a few district meetings put on inside the facility at the Hilltop Group in past years,

with immense support from the outside groups.

Farther to the north is the Atlantic Institution, a maximum security facility, where a group which was inactive for a number of years has been revitalized and now meets once a month. Recently the group was registered with G.S.O. and the members decided to call it the Crossbar Group. Similar to the arrangement in the south, there is also a meeting prior to the regular meeting for the inmates on Unit 4, which is also a mental health unit.

“They really look forward to these meetings,” acknowledges Dave. “These men in particular are marginalized not only from society and family but even in the prison population. They are a true blessing to us as A.A. members. I realized just recently how much we had in common. I, too, was treating problems within myself with alcohol, not much different than these guys. We are all God’s children no matter where we are — physically or mentally. They have taught us plenty and it is a joy and privilege to serve in this way.”

Many volunteers are involved in carrying the message into Area 81’s correctional facilities and the support Dave and many others provide doesn’t just stop at the prison gates. “Many of the groups and volunteers extend their support to the guys upon release to the local halfway houses or upon full parole. This is primarily a result of the interaction prior to release. A comfort level has been achieved that eliminates preconceived notions of people who have been incarcerated.

“We have certainly experienced the power of Alcoholics Anonymous in both those who are released and in their gift back to us by their presence in our communities. We have seen some amazing successes,” says Dave.

■ Carrying the Message — One Alcoholic at a Time

In DuPage County, Illinois, a group of A.A.s have been carrying the message into a local detox unit, reaching out to those they find there, one alcoholic at a time.

Last spring, one of the local hospitals in DuPage County contacted the local A.A. community, asking for support of their new detox unit. Recognizing the service opportunity this could be, the district-wide DuPage C.P.C. committee agreed to help out, drew up a schedule of daily visits by A.A. members, and proceeded to show up, ready to carry the A.A. message of recovery and hope.

The hospital provided a group room for the meeting on the new locked unit and the A.A.s invited all patients, the willing and the able, for a meeting once a day. The meetings were well-received, yet the incoming A.A.s learned a couple of important lessons in the first few weeks: 1) that once a day was not enough for the truly interested patients, and 2) that many patients couldn’t come to the

meeting at all, as they were confined to their beds for medical reasons for the first couple of days before being allowed to get up and move around the unit.

Considering these issues, the A.A.s asked the hospital for more access and the opportunity to visit at the bedsides of those patients who couldn’t make it to the meeting. The hospital agreed, and by late April the committee was scheduling a male and a female volunteer on the detox unit two times per day: midday around noon and early evening around 6:00 p.m. The nursing staff would let the patients know that A.A. was on the unit and would ask if they would like a visit. Only a few patients declined, and the volunteers were very careful not to visit those patients, respecting their privacy. In general, they found that male patients were delighted to have a visitor of either sex, while the female patients wanted primarily to see only a female volunteer.

Cognizant of the cardinal rule in twelfth-stepping that you don’t go alone, this particular opportunity to carry the message was situated in a controlled environment on a locked ward, where two visitors could actually overwhelm a patient, so the volunteers agreed that it was better to go in alone.

Once with a patient, the volunteers would share their story, ask the patient how they came to be in the hospital, and start to create the bond that is so crucial to recovery — that of one alcoholic sharing with another. As part of the protocol, each alcoholic patient was given a DuPage meeting schedule and a Big Book, and the volunteers exchanged numbers and tried to follow up with patients after their discharge.

With wonderful support from the four districts in DuPage County, volunteers have been showing up reliably as scheduled every week. Each district has a volunteer coordinator that helps find new volunteers, introduces them to the detox unit and gets them started through the rigorous process to become a hospital volunteer. The detox uses about a case of Big Books a month and these are provided through the generosity of the groups in DuPage County.

There have been some remarkable recoveries and the readmittance rate for this population in the hospital is down. This is an important measure that the hospital watches carefully, citing that A.A. bears part of the success for the change. “We are blessed with this special opportunity to be welcomed onto the locked unit and to carry the message,” says volunteer Julia Anne G. of Naperville.

The work is quite a lot like Corrections, she notes, because it is in a controlled and highly disciplined environment. “We need to be on our best behavior at all times,” she says. “It is not for everyone, but for those of us who find a fit, it is wonderfully rewarding work. I currently sponsor a four-month sober female I met in the detox. What a privilege to carry the message from Bill and Dr. Bob in this way.”

■ Two New A.A.s Join G.S.O. Staff

The General Service Office recently welcomed two new staff members: Racy J., of Brooklyn, New York, and Clement C., of St. Louis, Missouri. Racy comes to G.S.O. with a background in education, where most recently she was teaching pre-K early education at a private school in New York City; Clement, also in the education field, comes to G.S.O. with a background in educational television, having worked as a producer, director and manager for the St. Louis Public Schools Television Station. Racy is currently serving on the Cooperation With the Professional Community assignment and Clement is handling the Corrections assignment.

A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Racy earned a B.F.A. in Acting, with an additional four years of voice, speech, movement and dance training at the Stella Adler Conservatory before shifting into the field of education once she came into the rooms and got sober in March 2002. "My original background was that of an actor," says Racy. "For many years, during my alcoholism, before A.A., I had a long stretch where I didn't work, and when I came into the rooms I had no skills. I started out doing odd jobs that people in A.A. would throw my way. When people say they learned everything they know in the rooms of A.A., I identify.

"At about two years sober I applied, at someone's suggestion, as a teaching assistant at a school for children with autism. It became a perfect fit and after four years I switched into working at a private school in Manhattan.

"This setting offered plenty of opportunities to practice patience on a daily basis, and the most valuable tool I learned was that A.A. principles can — and must — be applied outside of its rooms."

Getting involved in local service helped Racy settle into her early sobriety. "When I started out doing service," she says, "it created a sense of usefulness and esteem that I couldn't get anywhere else.

"One of the most valuable things I learned during those times, with service at and beyond the group level, was that just because it doesn't always 'feel' good, does not mean that it is not producing the same effect as when it does. The most important thing is being able to see what I am doing in those situations.

"It was always at those times of conflict that I felt propelled all the more to apply the Traditions. It is in that way that it works here at G.S.O., too," says Racy. "When a group feels foggy on a matter, I do not share suggestions on 'the world according to Racy.' I turn to the Traditions as guideposts to pass back to the Fellowship."

Every day has been full of surprises, notes Racy. "I can't believe the many hats that staff members wear," she says. "I love that I am constantly being given real situations to apply the A.A. Traditions to."

In terms of the difficulties she has faced in taking on this new challenge, she notes, "There really is no way to fully prepare for the vast learning that is needed for this position. One tries to find balance between their staff assignment, acting as secretary for the trustees and Conference committees, and answering questions of A.A. members."

Helping in this effort and in preparing her for this new experience are a few things Racy learned early on in her sober life: "I think what life in sobriety has taught me is that I really can't make any decisions about how life will turn out. If I keep my sobriety first and don't try to do it alone, I will never have to sell myself short again."

An independent movie buff, Racy also enjoys hiking, playing paddle ball, salsa dancing, travel and writing music on her guitar.

Clement C. comes to G.S.O. with a diverse background in A.A. general service, having gotten sober in St. Louis in September 1991. And, while the challenges of working for the Fellowship as a G.S.O. staff member are many, Clement says "My positions as a G.S.R., a district service chair, D.C.M., and area chair of Treatment, P.I. and C.P.C. have added to my preparation."

A graduate of Harvard University with a degree in Visual and Environmental Studies, while still drinking Clement moved to New York City in the mid-1970s to create documentaries on youth groups in the South Bronx. Moving back to St. Louis a few years later, he began work in the television industry, getting a job as the floor director for a local news program. Returning again to New York to take on work as a photographer for the LaMaMa theater, Clement ended up back in St. Louis where he was hired as a writer/producer for a company creating corporate motivation media.

After being introduced to A.A. by an old friend in 1986, Clement didn't get sober until 1991. "I came into A.A. screaming and fighting, 40 pounds underweight and suffering from many physical ailments. I left New York in 1984 in bad shape and moved back in with my mother in St. Louis. I thought New York was the problem. I went in and out and tried all the other therapies in an effort to avoid A.A. I was extremely angry and volatile. My wife joined Al-Anon and six months later left me. I returned to my mom's house."

After scraping along for a while longer, he finally made his way to an inpatient treatment program. "In the treatment center I had a moment of clarity. I met a hard nose sponsor who guided me into A.A. and instructed me to go to a meeting every day until I wanted to go every day."

With a little bit of sobriety, his interest in service grew, his wife decided to give him a second chance and he began a series of jobs in the alcoholism field before ultimately returning to the television industry, where he has worked for the past 13 years.

"A few months into my own recovery I began to volunteer at the treatment center where I had recovered. When I got a year, they hired me as a technical assistant. I began to work my way through the professional levels of substance abuse counseling for the next seven years, working

at several agencies in the city, receiving certification at every level, as necessary.” Three months prior to taking the examination for national certification, however, he was hired to manage the educational access television station for the St. Louis Public School system.

This most recent job experience, he believes, has been a good training ground for the complex responsibilities he will be taking over at G.S.O. “The last thirteen years managing an understaffed educational television access station forced me to multitask and evolve in ways I did not think possible. I was a director, camera person, editor, programmer, engineer and more over the years. The rigorous demands of the job forced me to develop confidence, focus and communication skills.”

In addition, Clement has been able to utilize his media skills in combination with his interest and commitment to service by producing a nine-part video for the 2005 Spiritual Homecoming in St. Louis celebrating the 50th anniversary of the adoption of A.A.’s general service structure.

Surprised only by the incredible level of support and encouragement of other G.S.O. staff members and employees as he takes up his responsibilities on the Corrections desk, reminiscent of A.A.’s slogan First Things First, Clement notes of his current assignment, “There is an African saying, ‘You eat an elephant one bite at a time.’” Needless to say, adds Clement, “This assignment is the elephant.”

When asked what experiences he feels have best prepared him for this new chapter of his sobriety, Clement responds with characteristic focus: “Learning to listen before I speak has helped me immensely. Gratitude for this gift of life keeps my expectations in check. And, lastly, keeping an open heart and an open mind.”

G.S.O. warmly welcomes its two newest staff members.

■ Ebooks

A.A. World Services, Inc. has initiated a new ebook publishing program that will make all their books available in digital formats for a variety of platforms and ereaders through third-party vendors. The Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Fourth Edition (English) and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (English) were published to online stores in January at a price of \$5.99. Shortly thereafter, the French Big Book and *Daily Reflections* became available at the same price.

Future publications will include the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve in Spanish and *Daily Reflections* in French and Spanish.

The 2013 General Service Conference passed an advisory action from the Conference Public Information Committee that recommended: “A.A. World Services be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as

but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of digital A.A. literature. The committee requested that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The committee requested that a status and financial report be submitted to the appropriate 2014 Conference Committee.”

The entire A.A.W.S. catalog of book titles (a total of 11 items in the three languages of the U.S./Canada Conference) will be published digitally through the major online retailers, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Apple iTunes. The titles will be published digitally in the three languages of the U.S./Canada Conference. The books will be released one at a time, with *Living Sober* to follow the first three titles.

The ebooks for the A.A. ereader app are no longer for sale. Customers who have purchased titles for the A.A. app will continue to receive support for those e-books until further notice.

The new digital books are published according to the third-party vendors’ formats, terms and requirements, as is generally required of any other publisher — and A.A.W.S. has the ability to remove our books from any retail site at their discretion.

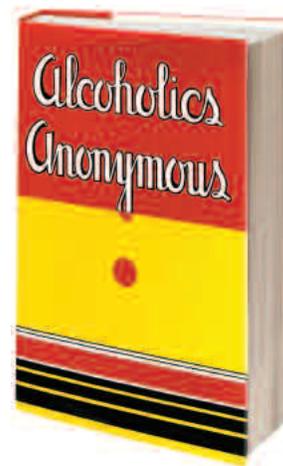
Members may access the current digital publications —and subsequent releases— through G.S.O.’s website, www.aa.org.

■ Happy 75th Birthday, Big Book!

It’s not “old news” quite yet . . . In fact, the 75th anniversary of the first printing of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the foundational text of the Fellowship that derived its name from the book, is April 10, 2014, based on the date of publication recorded by the United States Copyright Office.

In 2011, *Time* magazine placed the book on its list of the 100 best and most influential books written in English since 1923, and the following year, the Library of Congress designated it as one of 88 “Books that Shaped America.”

The 2014 A.A.W.S. literature catalog has information about ordering the 75th anniversary commemorative edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, or you may order your copy at our Online Store at <https://b2c.aaws.org/>



■ Sign of the Times

Over the past year or so, the Special Needs Committee in the St. Louis metropolitan area has been struggling with the question of how best to carry the message to deaf and hearing impaired alcoholics — a challenge faced not only in St. Louis, but across the U.S. and Canada, as A.A. members and service committees continually seek to ensure that the hand of A.A. “will always be there” when an alcoholic reaches out for help.

In November of 2013, Bill J., the Special Needs chair for District 51, Area 38, developed a presentation on this topic intended for all the districts in the St. Louis metropolitan area, in the hopes of raising awareness of this issue and presenting some possible courses of action. The presentation covered a number of considerations, from the desire — and responsibility, even — to provide deaf or hearing impaired alcoholics the same information and content that hearing attendees receive at meetings, to finding, working with, and — perhaps most importantly — paying for professional American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters at A.A. meetings.

Covering the expense of a professional translator can be a factor for many groups, yet there are other possibilities that can be explored. As suggested in G.S.O.’s A.A. Guidelines on Carrying the A.A. Message to the Deaf Alcoholic, “Sometimes an agency will take care of the expense. On occasion, local area committees, districts, and central/intergroup offices have authorized payment for interpreters. Professional interpreters who are also A.A. members sometimes are willing to volunteer their services. Occasionally advanced students of interpreting will do the job at no fee for the experience gained.” The Guidelines note, however, “Be careful of placing too much reliance on volunteers, as deaf members rely on these services and there should be stability in whether the meeting is interpreted or not.”

Questions have also arisen about nonalcoholic translators attending closed A.A. meetings or nonalcoholic interpreters offering to donate their services to a group on an ongoing basis. As described in the Guidelines, “Qualified interpreters are professional people who charge fees for their services. Experience suggests that most groups will agree to having a non-A.A. attend its closed meetings to act as interpreter for the deaf alcoholic. Professional ASL interpreters adhere to a strict code of ethics, which assures the confidentiality of the A.A. meeting.” And, regarding the donation of services by nonalcoholic translators, most groups view it as their responsibility to pay for such services at their group, and typically a payment,

agreeable to both parties, is arranged.

There are a number of resources available from G.S.O. for deaf or hard-of-hearing members and for groups or service committees like the one in St. Louis. G.S.O. has long provided audiovisual A.A. material for the deaf, including two books that are available in ASL: a DVD of the first 11 chapters and other portions of the Big Book; *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and the pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs” are also on DVD. But recognizing the pressing need for A.A. service material that ASL signers can accurately communicate to the deaf, G.S.O. has made available the following four pamphlets specifically “for signing purposes”: “Do You Think You’re Different?,” “This Is A.A.,” and “Is A.A. for You?,” to the already existing list of: “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous,” “A Newcomer Asks...” “How It Works,” “Is A.A. For Me,” “The Twelve Steps” and “The Twelve Traditions” (in both short and long forms) — all available from G.S.O. upon request. All were developed by hard-of-hearing members and ASL interpreters.

Nevertheless, as most A.A. members can attest, sitting in a meeting alongside other recovering alcoholics, sharing experience, strength and hope face-to-face is a critical aspect of recovery, and finding ways to provide ASL translation for deaf and hearing impaired members at meetings is the ongoing challenge of many Special Needs committees across the U.S. and Canada.

In St. Louis, as in other places, efforts are being made to establish a district or area fund to cover the costs of providing interpreters, and the Special Needs Committee has proposed a funding plan that would encompass the entire metro area. In southern Wisconsin, Area 75, a line item has been established in the area budget to pay for ASL interpretation upon request. In another area, both deaf and hearing members got together to select specific meetings in the area where ASL services would be offered in order to consolidate expenses and assure the best possible attendance for deaf members. Announcements reflecting this approach were made at meetings throughout the area, which helped to inform the group conscience of the broader membership when the Seventh Tradition basket was passed so that the costs could be spread out across the area’s entire membership.

Carrying the message to special needs populations, such as the deaf or hearing impaired, has always been a challenge — one A.A. members have always been willing to take on. And, in the end, as the Guidelines relate, “We must remember that our A.A. experience is the most important thing we have to share,” and “a smile, a handshake and a cup of coffee speak the ‘language of the heart,’ which we can all hear.”

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. **Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site.**

March

- 1-2—*Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.* 1^{er} Congrès Francophone en Floride. Ecrire: 920 SW 10 Ter, #R-22, Hallandale, FL 33009; congresaaflorida@yahoo.ca
- 1-2—*Atlanta, Georgia.* 22 Encuentro Hispano De Atlanta. Inf: Com. Org., 3609 Shallowford Rd., Doraville, GA 30340
- 7-9—*San Diego, California.* Pacific Region Svc Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 22658, San Diego, CA 92192-2658; www.praasa.org
- 7-9—*Albany, Georgia.* Flint River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 72007, Albany, GA 31708; www.flintriverroundup.org
- 7-9—*Rochester, New York.* Flower City Fellowship Conv. Write: Ch., 1000 Elmwood Ave., Greenhouse, Rochester, NY 14620; raacog@frontiernet.net
- 14-16—*Portland, Maine.* Northeast Fellowship of the Spirit. Write: Ch., 52 Chestnut St. Camden, ME 04843; www.nefots.org
- 14-16—*Aberdeen, North Carolina.* Area 51 Corrections Conf. Info: ffb@ec.rr.com
- 14-16—*Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* ON Regional Conf. Write: Ch., 237 King St. W., #PH3, Cambridge, ON N3H 5L2; orc@aatoronto.org
- 21-23—*Cherry Hill, New Jersey.* 50th Area 45 Gen. Svc Conv. Write: Ch., Box 336, Rio Grande, NJ 08242-0336; www.snjaaconvention.org
- 21-23—*Niagara Falls, New York.* Cataract City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2006, Niagara Falls, NY 14301; cataractcityconvention@gmail.com
- 21-23—*Tarrytown, New York.* 46th SENY Area 49 Conv. Write: Ch., 152 Gun Hill Rd, Box 1039, Bronx, NY 10469; www.aaseny.org
- 28-29—*Wichita, Kansas.* Wichita Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1814, Wichita, KS 67201; www.wichitaspringroundup.com
- 28-30—*Ames, Iowa.* Aim for Ames. Write: Ch., Box 2522, Ames, IA 50010; www.aimforames.org
- 28-30—*Lafayette, Louisiana.* Fellowship of the Spirit South. Write: Ch., Box 53312, Lafayette, LA 70505; www.fotssouth.com

- 28-30—*Tonopah, Nevada.* Area 42 Pre-Conf. Assembly. Info: www.nevadaarea42.org
- 28-30—*Morehead City, North Carolina.* Crystal City Roundup. Info: ccr@ec.rr.com
- 28-30—*Tulsa, Oklahoma.* 24th Trail of Hope Conf. Info: trailofhope@yahoo.com
- 28-30—*Salem, Oregon.* 11a Conv. Hispana Del Estado De Oregon. Inf: www.oregonaa.webs.com

April

- 3-6—*Redding, California.* ACYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 991394, Redding, CA 96099; www.2014.acypaa.org
- 4-6—*North Olmstead, Ohio.* 39th Northeast OH Mini Conf. Write: Ch., Box 16840, Rocky River, OH 44116; www.area54.org
- 4-6—*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* Area 60 Get Away Wknd. Info: www.wpaarea60.org
- 4-6—*Caguas, Puerto Rico.* 58^{va} Area 77 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 8805, Caguas, PR 00726; www.aa-pr.org
- 4-6—*Mitchell, South Dakota.* Area 63 Spring Conf. Info: www.area63aa.org
- 10-13—*Hendersonville, North Carolina.* Kanuga Lake Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27619; www.kanugalakeroundup.org
- 11-13—*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.* 26th Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 390727, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739; www.bigislandbash.com
- 11-13—*Nashua, New Hampshire.* 48th NH State Conv. Write: Ch., 1330 Hookset Rd., Hookset, NH 03106; www.nhaa.net
- 11-13—*Erie, Pennsylvania.* 39th Swing Into Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1357, Erie, PA 16512-1357; www.aeriepa.org

- 11-13—*Manchester, Vermont.* 51st Area 70 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 123, Bomoseen, VT 05732; area70convention@gmail.com
- 11-13—*Huntington, West Virginia.* Area 73 Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., 900 8th St., #303, Huntington, WV 25701; www.aawv.org
- 17-21—*Adelaide, South Australia.* Australia Nat'l Conv. Write: Ch., Box 536, Modbury, SA 5092; www.aaconventionadelaide2014.org
- 18-20—*Costa Mesa, California.* 29th Orange County Conv. Info: www.oacaac.org
- 18-21—*Mount Tremblant, Québec, Canada.* 41^{er} Congres des Laurentides. Info: www.aa-quebec.org/region90
- 25-27—*Chipley, Florida.* Country Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 677, Chipley, FL 32428; chipley_countryroundup@hotmail.com
- 25-27—*Sarasota, Florida.* 15th Spring Into Sobriety Women's Conf. Write: Ch., 21 Waterford Dr., Englewood, FL 34223; www.sisconference.com
- 25-27—*Omaha, Nebraska.* NCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 31325, Omaha, NE 68131; www.ncypaa.org
- 25-27—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.* Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-4th Ave. NW, Dauphin, MB R7N 1H9

May

- 1-4—*Alicante, Alicante, Spain.* III Conv. Internat'l. Info: convencion.int.area21@hotmail.com
- 2-3—*New Ulm, Minnesota.* 75th Big Book Birthday Party. Write: Ch., Box 123, Courtland, MN 56021; www.dist23.net

Planning a Future Event?

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

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to Editor: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or literature@aa.org

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 20____

Name of event: _____

Location: _____
CITY STATE OR PROVINCE

Address to list: _____
P.O. BOX (OR NUMBER AND STREET)

_____ CITY STATE OR PROVINCE ZIP CODE

Web site or E-mail: _____
(NO PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: _____
NAME PHONE # AND E-MAIL

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

2-4—*Ketchikan, Alaska*. 33rd Ketchikan Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9275, Ketchikan, AK 99901

2-4—*Grand Rapids, Minnesota*. 41st Iron Range Get Together. Write: Ch., 22109 State Hwy 65, Goodland, MN 55742

2-4—*Anaconda, Montana*. Area 40 Spring Roundup. Info: springroundupbutte14@yahoo.com

2-4—*Stillwater, New Jersey*. Garden State YPAA. Write: Ch., Box 219, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; www.gsy.com

2-4—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. NM American Indian Red Road Conv. Write: Ch., Box 20292, Albuquerque, NM 87154; www.nm-redroad.org

2-4—*Grants Pass, Oregon*. 39th Rogue Roundup. Info: www.rogueroundup.com

2-4—*Wayside, Texas*. Ceta Canyon Conf. Write: Ch., Box 54589, Oklahoma, OK 73154; www.cetacanyonconference.com

2-4—*Kennewick, Washington*. 34th Inland Empire Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1189, Richland, WA 99352; www.sunlightofthespiritroundup.com

2-4—*Niagara Fall, Ontario, Canada*. 49th Niagara Blossom Time Conv. Write: Ch., Box 831, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6V6; www.blossomtimeconvention.com

2-4—*Longueuil, Québec, Canada*. 32^e Grand Congrès de Longueuil, Rive-Sud. Écrire: Prés., 4050 Rue Tracy, Saint-Hubert, QC J3Y 6K9

2-4—*Notre-Dame-du-Nord, Québec, Canada*. Congrès du 90-10. Info: district06@aa90.org

15-18—*Guntersville, Alabama*. 34th Mtn Top Roundup. Write: Ch., 238 Tall Pine Rd, Hartselle, AL 35640; www.mountaintoproundup.com

15-18—*Laughlin, Nevada*. Tri-State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2850, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405; 86405; www.tristate-roundup.com

15-18—*Anavyssos, Attika, Greece*. 20th Internat'l Conv. Info: www.aa-greece.gr

16-18—*Crestview, Florida*. Sunshine Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1404, Crestview, FL 32536; www.sunshineconvention.org

16-18—*St. George, Utah*. Area 69 Post-Conf. Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 125, Hurricane, UT 84737; postconference2014@utahaa.org

16-18—*Port Angeles, Washington*. Olympic Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1081, Port Angeles, WA 98362; www.olympicroundup.org

16-18—*Racine, Wisconsin*. 63rd Area 75 Conf. Info: www.2014area75conference.eventbright.com

16-18—*Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada*. 43rd Rainbow Roundup. Info: rainbow.roundup@yahoo.ca

16-18—*Orford, Québec, Canada*. Townships' Roundup. Write: Ch., 8 rue Gagne, Sutton, QC J0E 2K0

17-18—*Anglet, France*. Aquitaine Conv. Info: www.alcooliques-anonymes-aquitaine.fr

23-25—*San Bernardino, California*. XXXIX Conv. Hispana de CA. Inf.: Com. Org., Box 926, Bloomington, CA 92316

23-25—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup XLI. Write: Ch., Box 390533, Minneapolis, MN 55439-2026; www.gopherstateroundup.com

23-25—*Irving, Texas*. LII Asamblea Estatal Hispana de TX. Inf: Com. Org., Box 227172, Dallas, TX 75222

23-26—*Temple, Texas*. Central TX Dist. 5 Campout. Info: www.texasdistrict5.com

24-25—*Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*. Area 85 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 10073, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6; area85roundup@gmail.com

29-1—*Maui, Hawaii*. MauiFest Internat'l Conv. Write: Ch., Box 893, Kihei, HI 96753; www.mauiifest.org

30-1—*Gillette, Wyoming*. Area 76 Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1034, Gillette, WY 82717-1034; www.aa-wyoming.org

June

6-8—*St. Petersburg, Florida*. Carry The Message. Write: Ch., Box 7056, St. Petersburg, FL 33734; www.soberinstpete.com

6-8—*Lincolnton, Maine*. Tanglewood Big Book Wknd. Write: Ch., 2453 Atlantic Hwy, Lincolnton, ME 04849; tanglewoodbigbookweekend@gmail.com

6-8—*Akron, Ohio*. 79th Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44310; foundersday@akronaa.org

12-15—*Hagerstown, Maryland*. 44th Area 29 State Conv. Info: www.marylandaa.org

13-14—*Joliette, Québec, Canada*. Congrès de Joliette et de Lanaudière Nord. Écrire: Prés., Box 81, Joliette, QC J6E 3Z3; www.aa-quebec.org

13-15—*Yreka, California*. 7th Sat. Night Live Father's Day Campout. Write: Ch., Box 991, Yreka, CA 96097; www.siskiyounyalcoholicsanonymous.wordpress.org

13-15—*Kenner, Louisiana*. 46th Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 638 Papworth Ave., Ste A, Metairie, LA 70005; www.bigdeepsouth.org

13-15—*Sparks, Nebraska*. 6th Campout/Riverfloat. Info: soberfloat@gmail.com

13-15—*Kenton, Oklahoma*. 38th Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 944, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

13-15—*Green Bay, Wisconsin*. 6th NE WI Tri-State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 22533, Green Bay, WI 54305-2533

14-15—*Richmond, Québec, Canada*. 32^e Congrès Cœur de l'Estrie. Écrire: Prés., 129 Watopéka St., #13, Windsor, QC J1S 1N3

20-21—*Peterborough, Ontario, Canada*. 53rd Kawartha Dist. Intergroup Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1233, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H5; www.peterboroughaa.org

20-22—*Storm Lake, Iowa*. Area 24 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 693, Storm Lake, IA 5058

20-22—*Hyannis, Massachusetts*. Cape Cod Pockets of Enthusiasm. Write: Ch., Box 773, Mashpee, MA 02649; www.capecodpockets.org

July

11-12—*Roanoke, Virginia*. Spring Into Action. Write: Ch., Box 8609, Roanoke, VA 24014; www.springintoactionroanoke.com

11-13—*Tehachapi, California*. 13th Tehachapi Mtn Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 800, Tehachapi, CA 93581; www.tehachapi.org

11-13—*Boise, Idaho*. Pacific Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org

18-20—*Carrabassett Valley, Maine*. 37th Area 28 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 368, Bath, ME 04530; www.roundup.area28aa.org

18-20—*Windsor, Ontario, Canada*. 39th Windsor/Essex County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 231, 401 Ouellette Ave., Windsor, ON N9A 6K1; www.windsoraa.org

August

1-3—*Hot Springs, Arkansas*. 74th Old Grandd AR State Conv. Write: Box 1185, West Memphis, AR 72303; www.arkansasaa.org

14-17—*Charleston, West Virginia*. 70th SE Reg. Conf. & 62nd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 11364, Charleston, WV 25339; 2014SEConference@aawv.org

15-17—*Laval, Québec, Canada*. Eastern Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org

21-24—*San Antonio, Texas*. ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 7437, Houston, TX 77248; www.56th.icypaa.org

22-24—*Lansing, Michigan*. 62nd MI State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 174, Weidman, MI 48893-0174; www.cmia32.org

22-24—*Reunion Flats, Wyoming*. 13th Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2905, La Grande, OR 97850; tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com

29-31—*Denver, Colorado*. 42 Conv. Hispana de E.U. y Canada. Inf.: Com. Org., Box 19332, Denver, CO 80219; www.42convencionhispanausaycanada.org