

■ Carrying the A.A. Message Through Literature — From Twi to Konkani

“It’s a story I love to tell,” says David R., A.A.W.S. publishing director at the General Service Office, “not only because it’s filled with incident, but because it’s proof positive that the hand of A.A. is reaching folks all around the world—and in that hand is a life-saving item of literature.”

The story in question is the story of the translation of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, into Twi, a language spoken by seven million people in Ghana. With A.A. active in over 180 countries, a steady surge in requests is being made each year for G.S.O. to license translations of A.A. literature, from pamphlets and booklets to *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. These requests are directed to the translations and licensing department of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., the publishing arm of the General Service Board, which holds more than 1,300 copyrights for various A.A. writings, videos, audios, and the like. The requests generally come from a literature committee or General Service Board of the country in question, to whom G.S.O. issues licenses to translate and to print and distribute.

With the Twi Big Book, the process had its genesis in 2006, when a Ghanaian woman visited the U.S. and observed the use of A.A. literature in meetings and among the Fellowship. When she returned home, she set about undertaking a Twi translation of the Big Book.

“This is the way it so often happens,” says David, who first arrived at G.S.O. as licensing manager in 2014. “Folks in the Fellowship note a need for literature, and via group conscience may come to a shared expression of that need, and a translation is sought.”

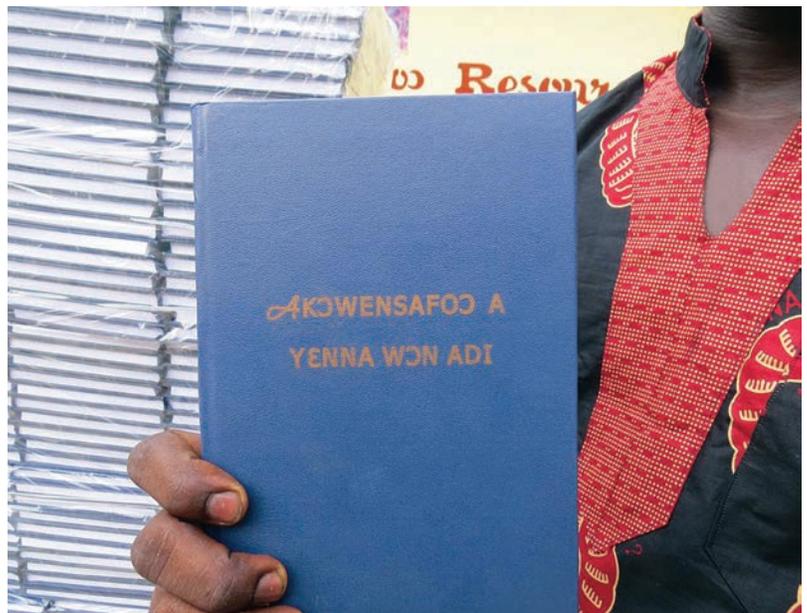
A.A.W.S. approved the Ghanaian request for a Twi Big Book, and over a five-year period, three large sections of the book were translated by three different Ghanaian women, and then submitted to G.S.O. for review.

“Translations are 99 percent of the time undertaken by local A.A.s, who come forward from the groups or the general service structure of each country,” David points out. “In the case of the Twi

Big Book, three individual translators, all women, set to work, and each translation they submitted received impeccable reviews from our independent translation-evaluation service. Each woman’s A.A. experience embodied a classic tale of how Alcoholics Anonymous works. They came into A.A., got their lives back (got married, had families, or established careers and so forth) and passed the baton to the next able helper to continue the work.”

By 2014, the text translation of the Twi Big Book was complete—the original 164 pages, fully translated and approved. In 2015, 1,200 copies of the book were printed locally in Ghana. But they needed book covers. What to do? Sewing circles of women in Ghana formed to hand-sew leather covers on each book—and these hand-crafted books were, at last, distributed to A.A. meetings throughout the region in early 2015.

The Twi Big Book story has its unique elements, but is only one inspiring translation story among many, says Rosa Rodriguez, G.S.O.’s nonalcoholic translations and licensing administrator. “In 2016, we have had a large increase in requests for licenses to translate A.A.-copyrighted literature over 2015. Several countries are working at a fast pace on translations and re-translations; notably but not limited to Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, India, and Ukraine. The Cook



After nine years of painstaking and diligent work by three local women translators, 1,200 copies of Alcoholics Anonymous, were printed locally in Twi, the language of Ghana. The book, with hand-sewn bindings, is now being used at A.A. meetings throughout the region.

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Islands Fellowship completed a Big Book translation into Rarotongan. And work continues on the audio translation of the Navajo Big Book.”

According to David and Rosa, translations of the Big Book present particular challenges for each country. The concept of higher-power, for example. Translation is an art, not a science, so sensitivity to maintaining the integrity of the original English as well as the vernacular of the local Fellowship must be bridged. The Fellowship of Goa, India, is working on a version in the style of a drama, which is the traditional form for communicating material of spiritual depth in the Konkani language. A Zulu audio version of the Big Book has been licensed. And in meetings in Jerusalem, A.A.s of three faiths come together to read the Big Book in one and the same meeting in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

“I personally have found it invaluable to meet face-to-face with trusted servants from other countries wherever and whenever I can, such as the International Convention in Atlanta in 2015, where I was able to meet with reps from more than 20 countries and at the 24th World Service Meeting in Rye Brook, New York, where Rosa and I met with dozens of countries’ delegates,” David says. He also attended the 2015 Asia-Oceania Service Meeting, a zonal meeting in Dubai, where connections with people from countries including Australia, Bali, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Japan, Mongolia, Thailand, and many Middle Eastern countries were made. “I look at our work serving the Fellowship of A.A. via literature in all its translations as one of the world’s great global publishing success stories — forging veritable publishing partnerships the world over, driven by our profound shared mission to help the suffering alcoholic and serve the needs of A.A.s everywhere.”

■ Save the Date

A Regional Forum may be coming to your neighborhood — or just a short distance away.

June 2–4 — Northeast, DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Cranberry Hotel, Mars, Pennsylvania.

September 8–10 — West Central, Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

■ P.I. Appointed Committee Member

The trustees’ Public Information Committee has an opening for an appointed committee member (ACM). We are searching for an appropriate individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations.

Some of the qualities most desirable for this appointed committee member opening are:

- Experience in A.A. service.
- Expertise in social media/networks and online communications to assist the committee with understanding of this medium and how it intersects with current and future Public Information projects.

- Availability for meetings of this trustees’ committee held during General Service Board weekends (usually the last weekend in January, July and October), as well as one meeting during the General Service Conference in April. Available time for participation in subcommittees of the trustees’ committee, as appointed.

- At least five years of continuous sobriety.
- The ability to work within the committee structure.

In seeking applications for all vacancies in A.A., the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file which reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. To obtain a résumé form please call the P.I. desk at G.S.O. (212) 870-3119, or email publicinfo@aa.org. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2017.

■ New Service Material Available

The General Service Office has developed two new service pieces that are now available to the Fellowship upon request (in English, French and Spanish). Service material differs from Conference-approved literature in that it has not come about through Conference Advisory Action. It is produced when there is a need for readily available information on a specific subject. Service material reflects A.A. group experience as well as specific and timely information that is subject to change.

The first new service piece is titled “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” and shares some of the experience groups have had in ensuring the safety of the group and its members. As noted in the opening of this service piece, “Safety is an important issue within A.A. — one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.”

The second service piece is an Accessibilities Checklist, designed for meetings and groups, to help determine how accessible a meeting place is and to help diminish the trials that people with access barriers may encounter. The checklist reflects the experience many groups have had in developing meeting spaces that are accessible to all alcoholics.

To obtain service material, please contact G.S.O.

■ A Century of Service

The recent spate of retirements from G.S.O. at the end of 2016 prove yet again that once people come to work at G.S.O., they love to stay— with just three of the recent retirees having over a century of service between them.

Andrea Brennan (nonalcoholic) walked into G.S.O. fresh out of high school in 1978, took one look at the sign that said A.A. World Services, Inc., and thought she had come to work for a travel agency. Growing up in Queens, she'd had little exposure to alcoholics, and no idea of what A.A. was. Her "temporary" clerk/typist job turned into a 34-year career, during the course of which she returned to school, got her degree in accounting, and went from typing address labels for literature mail orders to becoming the manager of the Order Entry department. She also made some great friends. "The place is not just a typical boring office," she says. "The people are great to work with and you form strong outside friendships—some of my best relationships have begun here."

After her retirement, Andrea plans to move to South Carolina to spend time with her two brothers, her stepson and her three grandsons. She won't miss the traffic in New York—once, during a snowstorm, it took her seven hours to drive from G.S.O. to her home on the Queens/Nassau border—but she will miss the people at the world's most alcoholic travel agency.

Eleanor W. arrived at the General Service Office on July 12, 1982, having spent her early career working in the publishing industry for a major reference and trade book publisher, as well as freelancing when her three children were young.

"I heard there was an opening for a copyeditor, which was not what I was; and at that time, you had to have five years of sobriety, and I only had three. Once I was hired, I waited for 90 days because I thought I was on trial and that somebody would come and tell me I had to go. Thirty-four years later, no one has told me anything."

Eleanor retired as managing editor of the Publishing department. At the time she arrived, she says, "there was no publishing department per se, just a production person and myself, and we did everything in-house." One of her favorite memories from the period is attending the 1985 50th Anniversary International Convention in Montreal, one of seven that she would attend during her tenure. "I felt really fortunate that I was able to mix my professional life with my A.A. life," she says.

The output of the Publishing department increased enormously in the mid-eighties, and Eleanor, working with freelancers, produced literature, pamphlets, G.S.O. publications like *Box 4-5-9*, *About A.A.*, and *Markings*, and the Fourth Edition of the Big Book — not to mention the yearly, ever-expanding Conference Reports and a miscellany of other projects. "I relied very strongly on freelance artists, writers and copyeditors, all A.A. members," she says.

Her favorite projects? "I'm very fond of *Experience, Strength & Hope*, which is a book of the stories that were

■ International Convention Information



2020 International Convention Theme

"Love and Tolerance Is Our Code" was selected as the theme for our international celebration of A.A.'s 85th Anniversary, July 2-5, 2020, in Detroit, Michigan.

Thank you for responding to the call; we received many suggestions from A.A. members. The trustees' International Convention Committee considered each suggestion carefully and the General Service Board approved their selection at their January meeting.

Big meetings will be held in the Ford Field Stadium, and other meetings will take place in the Cobo Center, both in downtown Detroit.

Other Convention Information

Notifications about the Convention, including housing and registration information, will be posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. website (www.aa.org) as we get closer to the Convention. Until then, watch for articles in *Box 4-5-9*, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and posted on the website.

In 2025 the International Convention will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Site selection for the 2030 International Convention will begin this fall, with a letter to all delegate areas to see which areas have an interest in hosting the Convention. The final decision will be made by the General Service Board after consideration by the General Service Conference.

We look forward to seeing you in Detroit — a day at a time!

dropped from the first three editions of the Big Book and isn't very well-known, for some reason. Also *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*." In terms of G.S.O. publications: "I love *LIM*, the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* bulletin, and *Sharing From Behind the Walls*, both of which reach directly to suffering alcoholics."

Which is what Eleanor is going to do, for at least part of her retirement. She lives in New York City and plans on answering phones "and doing anything else I can for New

York Intergroup.” And hopefully stopping by G.S.O., since her apartment is just a few blocks away from the upper Manhattan offices in Morningside Heights.

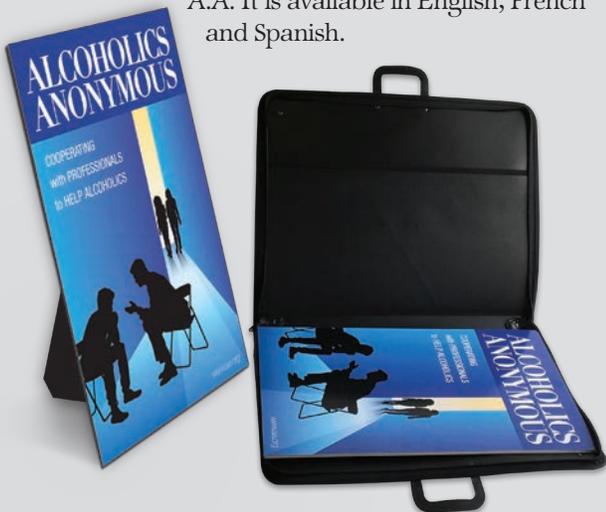
In 1987, nonalcoholic **Winsome Ricketts**, newly migrated to New York from Jamaica and fresh from secretarial school, walked into a temp agency on 42nd Street, looking for a job. The agency sent her to A.A. World Services, where she began working in the Contributions department as a clerk, a job she retained for almost 30 years. In Contributions, Winsome was part of a staff of five people tabulating group, individual, special or foreign contributions; making sure the money was credited properly; and then sending out thank-you acknowledgments, which could run to the thousands each month.

But it was the human element of the job that most interested Winsome. “When people called, they weren’t always calling about their donation—they sometimes wanted to talk. They needed encouragement. I would help them and it would become a different conversation. They would sometimes ask if I was in A.A., and I would say no, and even so they would tell me their life story. Sometimes it was heart-wrenching; sometimes they made me laugh. For me, personally, it was part of the job.”

Winsome is moving to Atlanta, where she will work for a nonprofit organization and spend time with her son and daughter. “It was a joy working at G.S.O.,” she says. “I made a lot of friends. Coming to A.A. to work over the years, you become a family. That’s the way it has always been and I am leaving it just the same.”

■ New C.P.C. Display Available

A new A.A. tabletop display poster is now available for use at conferences, conventions or workshops. The easel-back poster is made of sturdy material and can be purchased alone (M-74) or with a carrying case as a set (M-75). The poster is 15" x 24" with a striking design illustrating the essence of A.A. It is available in English, French and Spanish.



■ A New Arrival at G.S.O.

Albin Z. joined G.S.O. on October 28, 2016 as director of administration and services. He finds his new workplace more than amenable. “G.S.O. is a place filled with hugely talented people, with broad variety and wide-ranging backgrounds. It is a very healthy work environment.”

Albin, of Long Beach, New York, got sober in 1989, and became active quickly, serving as group literature chair and clean-up person and taking on a monthly commitment as chairperson of meetings at a New York City rehab and a local detox. His service continued on the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board (2006-08); as a nontrustee director on the Grapevine Board (2009-13); and as a Class B (alcoholic) trustee to the General Service Board (2013-2016).

Before arriving at G.S.O., Albin spent 30 years in the publishing industry, most recently as associate publisher of a newspaper company headquartered in New Rochelle, New York, where he managed a staff of 32 full-time and 14 part-time employees who put out four community weeklies, a Spanish-language daily, a New York City trade weekly and numerous other publications.

So, you might say he’s used to a busy and varied daily work schedule.

“My publishing background lends itself to my current position,” Albin says. “Lots of assignments, with many moving parts. I report to general manager Greg T. and am responsible for planning and managing G.S.O. staff, as well as functional oversight of Administrative Services.”

Albin is also part of a leadership team organized from different departments—Administration, Staff Services, Archives, Publishing, Finance, IT and Human Resources—whose task it is “to strategically take a step back and come up with ideas and plans which are actionable, initiatives that can be put into place for efficiencies which harmonize with our vision and primary purpose. I witnessed a great deal of change for the good in the cooperative spirit by the Boards, staff, and Conference. There is a healthy and cooperative atmosphere to it all.”

Despite the full day-to-day schedule, Albin feels that it is “critically important to see the bigger picture.” In terms of A.A.’s ability to extend its reach through its literature, he says, “we need to understand how to communicate in this digital world we live in. The Conference and its committees are wrestling with these opportunities and the challenges they bring. There is a constantly changing arena in communications and I think the delegates have an understanding of this in terms of where A.A. should find itself. For example, with eBooks, the evidence is overwhelming—you need vendors. *Grapevine* started the ball rolling [when it produced its first digital issue in 2011, and with its eBook formats]. A.A.W.S. has also made the format transition and is currently looking into the growing audio market to carry our message. Make no mistake, this is a challenge for us—but it is also an enormous opportunity, bringing with it unprecedented ways to help reach the still-suffering alcoholic, our members and our professional friends.”



'Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope Across Time' the National A.A. Archives Workshop

Since they first began in Akron, in 1996, the National A.A. Archives Workshops have been held in locations around the country—Helena, MT; Macon, GA; Murfreesboro, TN; Springfield, IL; Seattle, WA—just to name a few. (And 2017 sees the first National A.A. Archives Workshop to be held in Canada.) It's fitting that the workshops are scattered across the U.S.; every region of the country has its A.A. treasures and as A.A. history continues to be made it will become the provenance of the program's dedicated archivists.

The National A.A. Archives Workshops were established in order to create a level of support and community for A.A. archivists, as well as to give them training in archival techniques. The first workshop, held in Akron, was supposed to be a one-off deal, but it was so successful—bringing in archivists from 25 states and Canada—that it was decided to make it a yearly event. It is arguably one of A.A.'s most fascinating, and perhaps least known, annual gatherings. Typical Archives Workshops may include sessions on copyright law, preserving documents and electronic media, creating an area history book, and understanding the importance of classifying material in such a way as to render it accessible.

But there is also the human factor—the love of discovery, of focusing on under-explored areas of program history, of solving mysteries. Laura W., chair of the 20th National A.A. Archives Workshop, which was held in Concord, CA in September 2016, says that she feels that A.A.'s archives are a way of "sharing experience, strength and hope across time." Laura, a past Area 6 archivist, got started in archives as a way to stay involved in general service after serving as a G.S.R.

Unexpectedly, she says, "I fell in love with archives work. I have an amazing life because of A.A. and this was a way to pass that on and help ensure the future of A.A."

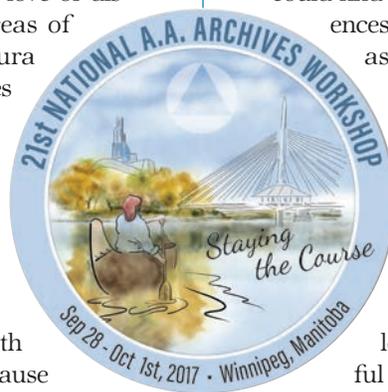
Laura and her husband and co-chair Richard W. began thinking about hosting the National A.A. Archives Workshop in the San Francisco Bay area in 2012 and in 2014 put in a successful bid for the 2016 workshop in Concord. Two years of planning ensued.

"We started outreach early and we really tried to reach more people than just the current archivists," Laura says. "We also wanted to find people who may have had contact with archivists or people who might become future archivists. We went out and talked about it everywhere, and we told people *why* we were talking about it—the importance of conserving our history and making it available."

The preparation paid off. With 476 attendees, the 2016 Archives Workshop was the best-attended in the 20-year history of the workshops. Laura says: "The idea was to make it feel like a cohesive workshop experience rather than just a selection of different presentations." Technique-focused presentations—cataloging and organizing digital archives; how to take an oral history; how to set up an ergonomic archival workstation to avoid the repetitive motion injuries archivists can be prone to—flowed seamlessly into a history of young people in A.A., the story of the women in the Big Book, and other historical topics. The presentations came to a close with the Pacific regional trustee, Joel C., reflecting on his experience at the workshop, and on our shared responsibility for the future of A.A.

G.S.O. general manager Greg T. attended the workshop and spoke at the culminating dinner on Saturday evening; G.S.O. archivist Michelle Mirza (nonalcoholic) was there as well. "We were very pleased and grateful to have both of them present," says Laura. Michelle, there to make a special presentation on archival principles, felt the audiences at the 2016 event were "decidedly cheerful, excited and enthusiastic. Throughout the weekend, you could find groups of archivists sharing their local experiences, sharing information about their collections, asking questions and forming a network for future communication." She has been to eight National A.A. Archives Workshops and estimates there are about 400 archivists listed with G.S.O., and even more who haven't listed. When new archivists contact G.S.O., Michelle says, "the typical questions are: 'Where do I begin? What do I do with all these boxes?' The workshops can be a great learning experience in this regard." (Also useful are the A.A. Guidelines for Archives, available on the aa.org website or from G.S.O.)

Surprises as well as learning emerge from Archives Workshops. At the 2012 workshop in Cocoa Beach, Florida, for instance, Michelle met a district archivist who showed her letters between an editor named Janet Blair (a nonalcoholic), formerly of Peekskill, New York, and Hank P., Bill W.'s business partner at Honor Dealers in Newark, New Jersey. Blair was an early editor of at least the first sections of the Big Book; her work earned her a letter of thanks from Bill himself, as well as a signed First Edition. The collection of letters to Janet Blair and the First Edition Big Book were graciously donated to G.S.O. Archives by the Area 15, District 7 Archives, but might not have received the attention they deserve had they not been



preserved by trained archivists who knew the importance of what they held in their hands.

The upcoming 2017 Archives Workshop will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The chair and event organizer is Jo-Anne L., a former trustee-at-large for Canada (2007-2011) and current Area 80 archivist who spoke on writing and collecting group histories at the 2016 workshop.

“I’ve always been interested in A.A. history,” Jo-Anne says. “I attended the 2005 spiritual homecoming in St. Louis, where we commemorated what happened in 1955 [at the Second International Convention the responsibility of A.A.’s general service functions passed from the co-founders to the General Service Conference and its delegates] and found the sense of living history mind-blowing. The first National A.A. Archives Workshop I attended was in Springfield, Illinois, in 2013; I loved learning about the Oxford Group and A.A., about preserving and repairing books, everything.

“But, you know, we have these repositories full of paper, and we certainly need to keep and preserve them, but every piece of paper, every picture, has a story behind it, a meaning to it. I was given a Twelfth Step ‘calling card’ by someone not long ago, from the 1950s. One side has a picture of an old dial phone with the slogan: ‘A telephone wire can be your lifeline, but phone before you take that first one.’ The reverse side has the A.A. member’s first name, last initial, and phone number, and reads: ‘A dime in time saves everything you value.’ And there is a dime still attached.”

Over half a century ago, someone took the time to reach out to another alcoholic (Jo-Anne received the card from a sober man whose father had received it) and now, that card reaches out to us, as a story about the continuity of service that lies at the heart of A.A. history. “When someone gives you something like that,” Jo-Anne says, “they trust you to look after it. And that is part of what doing service as an archivist is all about.”

The 2017 National A.A. Archives Workshop will take place September 28–October 1. Jo-Anne says: “The gates of Winnipeg are waiting and open for the rest of you to get here.” (Information about the 2017 workshop, can be found online at www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com.)

■ Group Effort Creates “A New Freedom”

Clement C. arrived at the General Service Office and started working on the Corrections desk in January 2014. Not long after, he was handed one of his most challenging assignments—producing an entirely new Corrections video to take the place of the 25-year-old video “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.” A 2014 General Service Conference Advisory Action had requested the new film, the making of which became a two-year long Twelfth Step saga involving A.A.s from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Well-suited for the task at hand, Clement’s last job before arriving at G.S.O. was as a producer, director and manager for the St. Louis Public Schools Television Station. Clement did a little of everything there—director, cameraman, editor, producer — gaining broad and valuable experience. After a series of internal meetings and a review of prior A.A. video projects, professional bids were solicited from various film production companies, finally settling on Unikron, a Toronto-based company that had filmed the anonymity-protected delayed telecast of the flag ceremonies from the last three International Conventions and had produced the video “A.A. in Correctional Facilities.” “We had a level of trust in Unikron because of their previous experience with A.A.,” Clement says.

Unikron’s initial idea was a scripted video, with actors portraying alcoholics, but “we didn’t feel scripted would work,” says Clement. “This was a documentary and we needed authentic sharing from sober alcoholics in prison—what comes from the heart goes to the heart.” So, Clement began working closely with Chris C., a freelance producer who often works with Unikron. “Instead of a script,” Clement says, “Chris and I decided on a series of questions that we would pose to inmates and ex-inmates.” The Conference wanted a video that touched on the Steps and Traditions, the Legacies, A.A. literature, the Corrections Correspondence Service, etc., and so the questions were carefully crafted to elicit responses on these topics. How did they find the courage to put down that last drink? Had the inmate had a spiritual awakening? Attended meetings in prison? Begun working the Steps?”

“It was a long list of questions,” Chris says. “But finally we managed to whittle it down to a manageable size.” Next, the questions were circulated to G.S.O. staffers and members of the trustees’ Corrections Committee for input. After that, permission had to be obtained from a selected group of prisons to record audio interviews, then film the documentary, which would be entitled “A New Freedom.” This was no easy task. “Our first attempts to gain entry into facilities happened in the summer of 2015, just around the time of a notorious escape of two prisoners from a prison in upstate New York,” Chris says. “It made things a lot more difficult.”

Eventually, the G.S.O. team got permission to enter



prisons in Missouri, New York, North Carolina, and western Ontario, as well as the Los Angeles County Jail. This could not have been accomplished without the help of the Corrections committees in the areas where the prisons were located, Clement says. "We got all kinds of assistance from the A.A. people who go into the prisons, and who have relationships with prison administration. They were the backbone of the entire project, they made the job easy. In Missouri, Harold L., former Corrections chair and then-current Corrections chair, John S., were instrumental. This is just to name two. When I wrote letters, people in the prisons basically opened the door for us. And that was because of the reputation of the local A.A. Corrections committees, in every location."

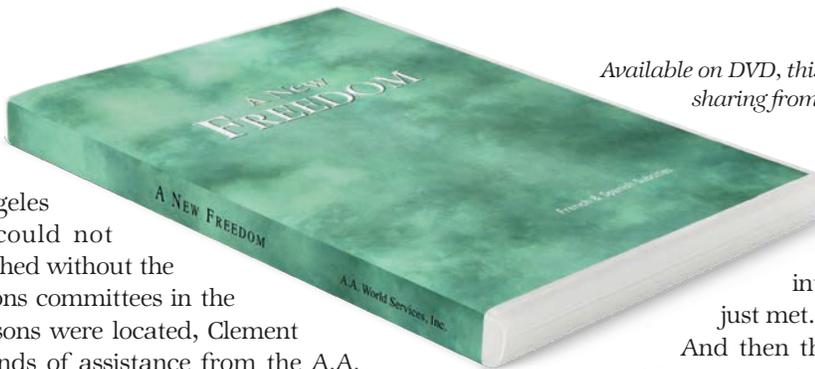
Audio interviews of inmates and former inmates were done first — boiled down and edited — with particularly moving or important quotes noted on index cards, laid out painstakingly on Chris' dining room table; there were so many he had to put in the table's extender. This process lasted four weeks, but when it was over, it only took an afternoon to put the index cards in order as the shape of the video became apparent: An introduction, followed by a section each on "what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now."

Filming of "A New Freedom" then began and a very rough cut of the video was assembled. Clement visited Toronto to work with Unikron's editors. "The people at Unikron were great," Clement says, "especially given our relatively low budget. They worked closely with me and were always willing to make revisions." After further editing, a rough cut was shown to the trustees' Corrections Committee at the Fall 2015 General Service Board meeting. After further edits were made, the trustees' Corrections Committee reviewed a final edit, as did G.S.O. staffers, who, Clement says, "were very supportive."

By this point, Jeff W. had arrived at G.S.O. to take over the Corrections assignment, although Clement would continue to follow the film project through to its completion. Jeff has a background as an advertising creative director and was impressed with what he saw. "Even in its rougher form, it was beautifully done," says Jeff.

The final cut of "A New Freedom," just over 30 minutes long, was screened at the 2016 General Service Conference. "Having to present something like this to the Conference, I had my concerns," Clement said. "But it was quite well-received."

"A New Freedom," like an A.A. meeting, is filled with tragedy, love, and humor. A woman talks about driving drunk, crashing her car, and killing her young daughter's friend. A Native American girl starts drinking at the age of 12, and is the youngest person in her detox — "my home away from home," she calls it. Another man writes an



Available on DVD, this 30-minute video features sharing from incarcerated members.

amends letter to the father he murdered. Released after 21 years in prison, he is astonished to be invited into the home of an A.A. he has just met.

And then there's the car salesman who looks idly out the window during a boring meeting one day, yearning for a drink. "Don't get into any trouble today," he sternly warns himself. Three hours later, drunk, he robs a bank with a handwritten note. Why rob the bank? "If I rob this bank," he thinks to himself, "then I'll have enough courage to jump off that bridge."

Only a fellow A.A. could find that story funny and yet completely relate to the man's thought process. "These situations could have happened to me numerous times," says Clement. "The prisoners and ex-prisoners in the video are sharing about the whole range of how alcoholism affects people. And they are also sharing about how they turned their lives around with the help of A.A."

"A New Freedom" (including versions with French and Spanish subtitles) has been enormously successful in spreading the word of A.A. The film only became available for DVD purchase in late August 2016 and, according to Jeff W., the year-end total of DVDs sold comes to 559 copies. A large order came from Area 7, California Northern Interior, where PI/CPC chair and alternate delegate Michael K. contacted a representative of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to get the DVD approved for use in the CDCR. To his astonishment, they replied that they wanted multiple copies for each facility, a total of 175 in all. (The copies were purchased by the Area 7 assembly and delivered to the CDCR two weeks after the request was made.) And in Texas, all four Texas Area Corrections chairs have met with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) with the aim of showing "A New Freedom" on closed circuit TV within TDCJ facilities.

"There's no telling how many inmates will be reached by these efforts just in California and Texas alone," Jeff says. "And word is spreading. 'A New Freedom' has been viewed by regional forums, assemblies, and corrections committees. Nancy McCarthy, a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee who has worked in the corrections field for 32 years, was able to screen it for a conference of influential corrections professionals. Don't forget, the film is also available on aa.org. By the end of 2016, almost 800,000 visitors to the website have clicked on the livestream version. It's pretty incredible."

"When I saw the final version," Chris says, "I thought, yes, this is going to help people. Not just prisoners, but alcoholics who have never seen the inside of a cell. Because the stories of the prisoners in 'A New Freedom' are the stories of A.A.s everywhere."

■ Being a Loner Sponsor



On Day 91 of his sobriety, back in July 1986, Chuck W.'s sponsor suggested that he send a letter to the Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM) desk at G.S.O. asking if he could become a Loner Sponsor. He did so, and that single letter would set him on a road to travel the world — without ever leaving home. After 30 years of sobriety, Chuck has sponsored Loners who live in the U.K., Australia, South Africa, Tanzania, Italy, India, Uganda, South Korea, the Philippines, Russia, China, as well as the U.S. and Canada.

He has sponsored a missionary in a leper colony in Africa, an American of Iranian descent who started a meeting in Tehran in 1992 — a place where alcoholics could be imprisoned or executed if the regime found out they drank — and a Russian journalist who helped start the first meetings in that country back in the 1980s.

For a would-be sponsor like Chuck, it all starts with a simple note — in the old days, a postcard placed inside an envelope, but now, for the most part, he reaches out via email. The men and women he contacts fall into three categories: Loners — A.A.'s who are unable to attend meetings regularly because there is no meeting near where they live; Homers — A.A.'s who are unable to attend meetings because of health; and Internationalists — sailors on vessels for lengthy periods of time. (A G.S.O. staffer coordinates the Loners, Homers and Internationalists correspondence service.)

“It’s obviously different than sponsoring someone face-to-face,” Chuck says, “but the principle is the same: sharing your experience, strength and hope to help another person stay sober. You’re writing to someone who had that moment of clarity: ‘I need help.’ Just like you. So you say: ‘If you would like some help with your recovery process, please contact me.’ The act of putting your thoughts on paper or emailing takes your recovery and transfers it to another person.”

Chuck’s first step after making LIM contact is to ask if the person has a mailing address and would want Chuck to send him or her a copy of the A.A. brochure on sponsorship. “It’s not as easy as it sounds, because many peo-

ple have to travel a long way to pick up mail.” Anonymity needs to be carefully maintained. Many Loners can also use the Internet to access A.A. material at www.aa.org, including digital files of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

“If they are at the point in their recovery where they are going to do the Steps, I work with them on that,” Chuck says. “I help them with Fourth Step lists, etc. Sometimes, it’s more making contact, being a sounding board.” Chuck also shares with Loners through the confidential bimonthly LIM bulletin, which contains excerpts from LIM letters that are sent to G.S.O. (Since the bulletin contains full names and addresses it is distributed only to Loners, Homers and Internationalists, and their sponsors.)

Chuck has had some memorable experiences as a Loner Sponsor. “For several years I corresponded with people in a Havana, Cuba meeting at an old Baptist church, a meeting actually cleared by the government. I would correspond and they would respond back to me. It was just beginning in Cuba. They were reaching out to the outside for help to strengthen what was beginning to happen there with A.A. When I sponsored the Russian journalist, he didn’t speak English and I didn’t speak Russian, so he would have someone translate my letters and I would do the same for his. And the beauty of corresponding with people in foreign countries is you share pictures, and they send pictures — of their area, the geography, and you do get to know them, just as you do in any sponsorship. I still have some beautiful pictures of Western Australia, where one of my formerponsees lived.”

Ultimately, being a Loner Sponsor has helped define Chuck’s sobriety. He has had four sponsors in his 30 years in the program, but still remembers what his first sponsor told him, back in 1986. “It is great to help those at meetings around you, but how do you help alcoholics in remote areas, far from regular meetings?” Chuck feels that “without the Loners, Internationalists and Homers who have worked our Twelve Steps, this recovering alcoholic would not be where I am today in recovery.”

■ Have Literature, Will Travel

Sue C. has been office manager of Rhode Island Intergroup's Central Service Office for the last ten years. It's a place that hums with service work. Sue is the only paid A.A. employee in Rhode Island; the rest of the office (in East Providence) is staffed by volunteers. Among their jobs: "We service groups in Rhode Island and Eastern Massachusetts to make sure meeting lists are updated and printed; we update our website; we have our own newsletter; we keep an updated list of A.A.'s willing to make Twelfth Step calls; and we have a bookstore onsite," says Sue.

In addition, the Central Service Office provides 24-hour phone service to aid suffering alcoholics; joins with Area 61 to provide speakers at treatment centers; and helps send commitments to the DUI classes the state holds at local community colleges—some 30 classes a semester—where sober A.A.s speak to first and second-time offenders and pass out meeting books. The office also sponsors fellowship events like golf tournaments, whale watching excursions, and sober dances, as well as holding a weekly open discussion meeting.

But Sue, with 30 years of sobriety, is still thinking of new ways to do service. One day about five years ago, she stood on a street corner and watched a library book-mobile drive by. And she had an idea. "Even though we are a tiny state, there are a lot of people who don't want to drive to East Providence to buy their literature. So, I thought: why not bring the literature to them?"

Naturally, Rhode Island Intergroup doesn't have a fancy book van, but Sue does have a truck. And some plastic bins. And some volunteers with strong backs. And, thus, the Traveling Bookstore was born. Meetings request this bookstore on wheels well in advance; Sue puts the date in the newsletter, and, twice a month, she and her volunteers load books, pamphlets, Grapevines and other material into the truck and hit the road.

"We get to a meeting an hour before it starts and we set up a bookstore three or four tables long. We're open before the meeting, during the break, and after the meeting. Since the group knows we're coming in advance, they can also put in special orders for members."

Sue sells the Big Book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *Daily Reflections*, and other A.A. literature, but finds that those shopping her tables like to find material they are not quite as familiar with. "We give them a wider exposure," she says. "They may know Grapevine, the magazine, but not the whole spectrum of books and CDs Grapevine puts out. Same with some of the large print versions of the Big Book or *Daily Reflections*. And they'll say: 'I had no idea you had this.'"

To this end, Sue also brings the Traveling Bookstore to special events, like Area 61's "Joy of Service" meetings, held at various groups throughout the year. And she spreads the word to other Intergroup office managers she meets: "They are doing a similar service in Nashville now," she says. "And I think in Texas."

Beyond the books she sells, the Traveling Bookstore has an added value, according to Sue. "It's a good service for the group and also makes people familiar with Intergroup and the Central Service Office. It gets us out to a lot of different meetings, lets people see our faces, and helps get them involved."

■ Keeping Crosstalk at Bay

A.A. has often been referred to as a "benign anarchy" — a world in which autonomy from group to group can seem like an invitation to chaos. Yet, unruly as some groups appear, when guided by the need for unity that underlies all A.A. activity and shaped by the recognition that the Fellowship is built on the connection that happens when one alcoholic shares his or her experience with another, a kind of order takes hold of almost every A.A. meeting.

As Bill W. notes in the introduction to the long form of the Traditions in the Big Book, "We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone."

One thing many groups have discovered that can test that unity within meetings, however, is crosstalk — sharing that is often considered intrusive and generally disruptive.

Crosstalk can mean different things to different people. Some groups define any comments, negative or positive, about another person's sharing beyond "Thank you for your share" as crosstalk or interference. Some outline crosstalk as engaging directly in conversation with another alcoholic during the meeting or providing commentary or feedback on what another has shared.

The Washington Heights Group in Upper Manhattan has a statement, born of the group conscience, which is read at every Thursday evening meeting: "Feedback and crosstalk are discouraged here. Crosstalk is giving advice to others who have already shared, speaking directly to another person rather than to the group and questioning or interrupting the person speaking at the time. If crosstalk occurs, the chair will remind you of this policy."

Of course, there can be a fine line between sharing and intrusion, as many groups have discovered, and what works in one location may not work in another. The main thing most groups can agree on, however, is that all sharing needs to be nonjudgmental. "From the very beginning, one drunk talking to another has made the A.A. program go round," says Anne T., of Rome, New York. "When someone shares in response to something I've said, that's okay, but only so long as there's not even a hint of censure, belittlement, scolding or preaching, all under the guise of sharing. Knowing there's no risk of judgment makes me feel safe."

J. P., of Spokane, Washington, has also found that crosstalk of a giving nature is "sort of a language of the heart. It occurs with familiarity and can be very helpful. If members know one another well, as they tend to in small

groups, they feel comfortable about saying, 'I'd like to add something to what Jane said....' To me the key is comfort and the hope that sharing one's experience in recovery will help another alcoholic to stay sober and face life's challenges with greater ease."

Noting of crosstalk that "until the 1990s the word wasn't even in A.A. vocabulary," Susan U. of the 79th Street Workshop in New York City cautions against setting up too many rules and regulations in response to what — and how — people share in meetings: "There are no rules in A.A., just customs and the conscience of each autonomous group, and experience shows that for most groups attempts to control don't work very well. On the other hand, the nonjudgmental sharing we receive at meetings in response to something we have said can be beneficial to our recovery. It's how we learn to live sober, productive lives, and that's what sharing our experience and strength is about."

In general, then, when it comes to crosstalk, giving advice or disruptive sharing in meetings, keeping the focus on A.A. unity — and on our own personal experiences as they may be helpful to another recovering alcoholic — can provide a useful guideline to keep group sharing on track and resentments from creeping in.

As many groups have found, however, from time to time it may require a loving reminder from the group's chair.

■ 'The Twelve *What?*'

From the vantage point of more than 80 years, it can be hard for present-day A.A.s to imagine how tenuous the Fellowship's existence was in its early days. Co-founder Bill W. often referred to A.A. as "a flickering candle," one that might at any minute "be snuffed out." Yet, despite the initial challenges, the Fellowship proved durable and, with the help of its many friends and supporters, began to take root and grow.

Today, the foundation of A.A. is strong, built on the principles and wisdom of A.A.'s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, as represented by the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. "The Twelve *what?*" one might ask upon hearing that last set of twelve.

Often considered the arcane province of A.A.'s "service-minded folk," the Concepts can be a bit of a mystery throughout the Fellowship.

Written by Bill W. to foster and strengthen the Legacy of Service, the Concepts stand as an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through the Fellowship's early history and experience. As Bill articulated to the 1960 General Service Conference, "Just as it was vital to codify in Twelve Steps the spiritual side of our program, to codify in Twelve Traditional principles the forces and ideas that would make for unity and discourage disunity, so may it now be necessary to codify those princi-

ples and relationships upon which our world service function rests, from the group right up through the trustees of the General Service Board... a stated set of principles and relationships by which we may understand each other, the tasks to be done and the principles for doing them."

As noted in the introduction to the Concepts, published in *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, "These Concepts... aim to record the 'why' of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost."

At the 1970 International Convention in Miami Beach, the late Bernard Smith, a nonalcoholic trustee who played a critical role in creating A.A.'s service structure, spoke on the topic of "Unity and Continuity." He talked of unity as a totality of related parts. "Our Fellowship is composed of all the groups of A.A., the separate areas of the General Service Board and all of its related service organizations, and the Conference... and so the whole of the parts becomes one — the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous."

As the Fellowship flourished and its structure continued to evolve, Bill set about putting onto paper the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the best summary he was able to make of the Fellowship's more than twenty years' experience in the creation of the service structure and in the conduct of A.A.'s world affairs.

"Well knowing our own propensities for power driving," wrote Bill in the introduction to the Concepts, "it is natural and even imperative that our service concepts be based on the system of 'checks and balances.' We have had to face the fact that we usually try to enlarge our own authority and prestige when we are in the saddle. But when we are not, we strenuously resist a heavy-handed management wherein someone else holds the reins. I'm the more sure of this because I possess these traits myself.

"Consequently, ideas like the following pervade the Concepts: 'No group or individual should be set in *unqualified* authority over another,' 'Large, active and *dissimilar* operations should be separately incorporated and managed, each with its own staff, equipment and working capital,' 'We ought to avoid undue concentration of money or personal influence in any service group or entity,' 'At each level of service, authority should be equal to responsibility,' 'Double-headed executive direction should be avoided.' These and other similar provisions define working relations that can be friendly and yet efficient. They would especially restrain our tendency to concentrate money and power, this being nearly always the underlying (though not always the conscious) motivation of our recurrent passion for the 'consolidation' of world service entities."

Adopted by the General Service Conference in 1962, the Concepts have been a consistent resource in guiding the Fellowship to its present level of growth. With over 117,000 A.A. groups worldwide, an A.A. presence can be found today in approximately 180 nations, with worldwide membership estimated at over two million.

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

3-4—*Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.* 65th Regina Roundup. Write: Ch., #107-845 Broad St., Regina, SK S4R 8G9; www.aaregina.com

3-5—*Gulf Shores, Alabama.* Jubilee Conv. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 724, Gulf Shores, AL 36542; www.gulfcoastaa.org

3-5—*Sacramento, California.* PRAASA. Write: Ch., Box 1843, Murphys, CA 95247-9998; www.praasa.org

3-5—*Rochester, New York.* Flower City Fellowship Conv. Write: Ch., 1000 Elmwood Ave., Greenhouse, Rochester, NY 14620; www.rochester-ny-aa.org

3-5—*Cheyenne, Wyoming.* West Central Reg. Svc. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4164, Cheyenne, WY 82003; wcraasc2017@aa-wyoming.org

10-12—*Foster City, California.* NCCAA Spring Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 293586, Sacramento, CA 95829; www.norcalaa.org

10-12—*Albany, Georgia.* Flint River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 72007, Albany, GA 31708; www.flintriverroundup.org

10-12—*Aberdeen, North Carolina.* Area 51 Corrections Conf. Info: corrections@aanorthcarolina.org

10-12—*Spokane Valley, Washington.* NW Pockets of Enthusiasm Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 8143, Spokane, WA 99203; nwpockets.org

10-12—*Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* 74th ON Reg. Conf. Info: aaorc.ca

11-12—*Laval, Québec, Canada.* Congrès Laval Banlieue. Écrire: 1876 Boulevard des Laurentides, Laval, QC, H7M 2P6 Canada

17-19—*Niagara Falls, New York.* Cataract City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3051, Niagara Falls, NY 14304; cataractcityconv@gmail.com

17-19—*KS Hengelo, Netherlands.* Women's Recovery Weekend. Info: aa.womens.weekend@hotmail.com

17-19—*Bucklands Beach, Auckland, New Zealand.* NZ Internat'l Speakers Rally. Write: 2/27 Macleans Road, Bucklands Beach, Auckland, NZ 2014; nzrally.org

24-26—*Lafayette, Louisiana.* Fellowship of the Spirit South. Write: Ch., Box 53312, Lafayette, LA 70505; www.fotssouth.com

24-26—*Morehead City, North Carolina.* Crystal Coast Roundup. Info: ccr@ec.rr.com

24-26—*West Harrison, New York.* 49th SENY Conv. Write: Ch., Box 904, Carmel, NY 10512-0904; aasenyo.org

24-26—*Fort Worth, Texas.* 3er Foro Estatal Hispano de Oficinas Intergrupales e Intergrupos del estado de Texas. Para Inf.: 3244 W. Seminary Dr., Ste # B, Fort Worth, TX 76133; oficinaintergrupales@hotmail.com

24-26—*Qawra, Malta.* Malta's 11th Annual International Conv. Info: www.aamalta.org.mt/convention

25-26—*Harmony Hall, St. Michael, Barbados.* Barbados 55th Conv. Write: Ch., Box 858E, Eagle Hall, Barbados BB12000; aabarbados.org

30-2—*San Ramon, California.* 45th ACYPAA Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5131, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; http://2017.acypaa.org/

31-2—*Osage Beach, Missouri.* Circle of Unity Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1338, Osage Beach, MO 65065; www.circleofunityconference.org

31-1—*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* Area 60 Getaway Wknd. Info: altdelegate@wpaarea60.org

31-2—*Inverness, Scotland.* 51st Highland Gathering. Write: Ch., 2A Duff St., Inverness, Scotland IV3 5JA, UK

April

1-2—*Shawinigan, Quebec, Canada.* 48ième Congrès. Écrire: 2263 Avenue du Collège, Shawinigan, QC G9N 6V8

7-9—*La Mirada, California.* 36th Annual H&PI Conference. Write: 14299 Firestone Blvd. La Mirada, CA 90638; socialhandi.org

7-9—*Erie, Pennsylvania.* 42nd Swing into Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1357, Erie, PA 16512-1357; www.aeriepa.org

7-9—*Manchester, Vermont.* VT State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 228, Huntington, VT 05495; www.aavt.org

8-9—*Couva, Trinidad & Tobago.* 61st Nat'l Conv. Write: Ch., LP #52 Rivulet Rd, Couva, T&T; aagsott@gmail.com

13-16—*San Diego, California.* SD Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 12186, La Jolla, CA 92039; www.sandiegospringroundup.com

14-16—*Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* 46th North Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91086, West Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7V 3N3; www.northshoreroundup.com

21-23—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.* Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-4th Ave. NW, Dauphin, MB R7N 1H9

21-23—*Mount Tremblant, Québec, Canada.* 44e Congrès des Laurentides. Écrire: CP 4372, Mount Tremblant, QC, J8E 1A0 Canada

21-23—*Galway, Ireland.* 60th All Ireland Conv. Info: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

28-30—*Fort Wayne, Indiana.* 37th NE Indiana Conv. Write: Ch., 2118 Inwood Dr., Ste 112, Ft. Wayne, IN 46815; www.aafwayne.org

28-30—*Chipley, Florida.* Country Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 677, Chipley, FL 32428; chipley_countryroundup@hotmail.com

28-30—*Salem, Oregon.* Soberfest 2017. Write: Ch., 687 Cottage St. NE, Salem, OR 97301; www.aa-salem.com

May

5-7—*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.* 29th Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 370727, Kailua Kona, HI 96739; www.bigislandbash.com

5-7—*Grants Pass, Oregon.* Rogue Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1741, Josephine, OR 97528; rogueroundup.com

Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the *Box 4-5-9* Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. four 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 email: _____ (NO PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: _____ NAME _____ PHONE # AND EMAIL _____

5-7—*San Juan, Puerto Rico*. 61ma Area 77 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 361692, San Juan, PR 00936-1692; convencionarea77@gmail.com

6-7—*Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada*. Area 85 Roundup. Write: Ch., 516 E. Victoria Ave. Ste #4, Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1A7; area85roundup@gmail.com

12-13—*Nampa, Idaho*. Area 18 Spring Assembly & Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1408, Caldwell, ID 83606; idahoarea18aa.org

12-14—*Metairie, Louisiana*. 49th Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 638 Papworth Ave., Ste. A, Metairie, LA 70005; www.bigdeepsouth.org

12-14—*Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada*. Area 81 Spring Assembly and Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-442 Main St., Shediac, E4P 2G7; www.area81aa.ca

18-21—*Eretria, Evia, Greece*. 23rd Internat'l Conv. In Greece. Info: parthenongr.ana@gmail.com

19-21—*Defuniak Springs, Florida*. Sunshine Conv. Write: Ch., Box 456, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435

19-21—*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*. OK State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 8064, Edmond, OK 73083; www.aaoklahoma.org

19-21—*Little Current, Ontario, Canada*. Rainbow Roundup. Write: Ch. Box 921, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0 Canada; www.rainbowroundup.ca

19-21—*Port Angeles, Washington*. Olympic Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1081, Port Angeles, WA 98362; www.olympicroundup.org

25-28—*Dallas, Texas*. 31st Gathering of Eagles. Write: Ch., Box 35865, Dallas, TX 75235; www.dallasgatheringofeagles.org

26-28—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 390533, Minneapolis, MN 55439-2026; www.gopherstateroundup.org

26-28—*Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada*. All Atlantic Conv. of YPAA. Info: nlyoungaa@gmail.com

June

1-4—*Lahaina, Hawaii*. MauiFest. Write: Ch., Box 893, Kihei, HI 96753; www.mauifest.org

2-4—*Columbus, Nebraska*. Area 41 Conf. Write: Box 403, Columbus, NE 68602; 2017reunion@aadistrict24.org

2-4—*Mars, Pennsylvania*. Northeast Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org

2-4—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. River City Summer Conf. Write: 1856 Portage Ave, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3J-0G9; rivercitysummerconference.com

9-10—*Notre-Dame-du-Nord, Québec, Canada*. Congrès du 90-10. Write: Ch., 12 Rue Therrien, Lorrainville, QC J0Z 2R0 Canada district06@aa90.org

9-10—*Taipei, Taiwan*. 2nd Lighthouse Taiwan Roundup. Write: Ch., No. 248, 7F Zhongshan N. Rd., Sec.6, Taipei, Taiwan; <http://www.aataiwan/lighthouse-group/>

9-11—*Springfield, Missouri*. Heart of the Ozarks Roundup. Info: aacentralofficeofswmo.org

9-11—*Kenton, Oklahoma*. Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 944, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

23-25—*Iowa City, Iowa*. IYPAA. Write: Ch., 308 Burlington St #403, Iowa City, IA 52240; www.iaypaa.org

30-2—*Lincoln, Nebraska*. NCYPAA IV. Info: www.ncypaa.org

30-2—*Eugene, Oregon*. Summerfest. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97401; www.aa-summerfest.org

July

13-16—*Raleigh, North Carolina*. 70th NC State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 41451, Raleigh, NC 27629; www.aanconvention.com

August

11-13—*Austin, Texas*. Capital of TX Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4946, Austin, TX 78765; www.capitaloftexasconference.org

25-27—*Suffolk, Virginia*. VAC Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3766, Portsmouth, VA 23701-0766; www.2017vacconvention.org

25-27—*Reunion Flat, Wyoming*. 16h Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2905, La Grande, OR 97850; tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com