

## ■ A.A. Zhengzhou Convention: Slow Train to Sobriety

The 2017 A.A. Zhengzhou Convention took place over three days in October 2017 in the city of Zhengzhou, in China's central Henan Province. The convention was held in a large conference room on the fifth floor of Zhengzhou No. 9 People's Hospital, a mental institution. This meant that every window the attendees looked out of was barred. Yet "people came from all over the country," says Alex L., one of the organizers. "Some traveled 24 hours on slow trains just to be there."

This isn't unusual, Alex adds. "There are people who live in cities without A.A. who travel hundreds of miles just to get to a meeting, let alone a convention. It just shows you how much they want Alcoholics Anonymous."

Alex was born in mainland China, but left for Hong Kong with his family when he was ten. He spent 12 years in the United States, attending college and working in both Minneapolis and Seattle, and it was in the latter city that he first became concerned about his drinking. When he moved to Beijing for a job opportunity in 2006, his drinking increased to such an extent that he realized he needed to seek help; in 2008, with the aid of a counselor, he found A.A. in Beijing. Looking back, he realizes how lucky he was. "The Chinese community keeps a list of meeting places and times that are known to us. That list has about 30 locations in the whole of China, including English-language ex-pat meetings. Beijing has four meetings. Shanghai has two or three. Everywhere else, it's hit or miss. I happened to be in the right place to get help."

Sober, Alex returned to Hong Kong to work in a family business, but he was haunted by the pressing need for A.A. in China. Although there had been English-language A.A. meetings in China for years, A.A. wasn't really introduced to the country until 2000, when American addiction specialist Dr. David Powell, with the assistance of the U.S./Canada General Service Office, invited four Chinese doctors to act as observers at the International Convention in Minneapolis. Convinced that the program could work for the Chinese, they brought it back to their

country. On July 25, 2000, the first official meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in China in Mandarin occurred. (Sober 17 years, Mr. C., Chinese A.A. Number One, would attend the Zhengzhou Convention.)

Despite the prevalence of popular meetings held via Skype, Alex knew that the Chinese hungered for personal contact with other alcoholics. In 2015, he met a sober Chinese alcoholic named Mr. G.Y. at the A.A. Convention in Hong Kong, which Alex had helped to organize. Mr. G.Y. asked him one question: "Why can't we have a convention like this in China?"

"It was classic," Alex says. "A couple of drunks get together and say, 'I think the Chinese community could really benefit from an A.A. convention.'"

And so they organized the 2016 Kunming Convention, which drew about 50 attendees. Wanting to spread the word further for the 2017 Zhengzhou Convention, Alex contacted Father John B., a sober American priest he had met in Hong Kong, and asked if he would come to Zhengzhou. Father John agreed and brought with him two other Americans: his sponsee, Terry M., and Terry's wife, Donna. Terry has been sober since 1991; Donna is an Al-Anon member.

"It was fitting that the convention took place in a men-

*There are 1.43 billion people in China, with estimates that perhaps 300-400 of them are sober in A.A. The 2017 A.A. Zhengzhou Convention pictured here was held on the fifth floor of a mental hospital, with 132 people in attendance.*



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**Note on anonymity:** From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of G.S.O. employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

tal hospital,” Terry says. His experience at the Zhengzhou Convention reminded him of early A.A. in the U.S. “Before Alcoholics Anonymous, it was jails, institutions, or death.” Alex points out that having the convention in a mental hospital was a lucky accident, from the Chinese point of view. “We had planned to have it in a hotel, but it turned out to be too expensive. A couple of doctors who had been impressed by the Kunming Convention invited us to the No. 9 People’s Hospital.” This made it a quasi-official “hospital event” and kept the police and the press from sniffing around. (A.A. sometimes arouses suspicion in officials and ordinary people alike. Refusing a drink in China, Alex L. points out, is generally not considered the usual thing to do. “In China, business dinners often begin around lunchtime and they feature 120 proof alcohol. It’s common to see people fall flat on their faces and no one really takes it all that seriously.”)

One hundred and thirty-two people attended the Zhengzhou Convention. Of these, Alex estimates, perhaps 30 were Al-Anons, and another 12 were ex-pats or visiting Americans like Father John, Terry and Donna. Over two days, the convention unfolded along the lines of any A.A. convention. There was an opening ceremony and meetings — meditation meetings, Step meetings. There were panels — on sponsorship, on understanding God’s will. There was a sobriety countdown. And there were two extraordinary moments that demonstrated the hunger of the Chinese people for recovery.

“On Saturday morning,” Terry says, “Alex asked that anyone who was here for the Al-Anon program go to the first floor with my wife Donna. Four hours later, they were still talking with Donna. ‘My husband won’t stop drinking, he won’t go A.A. What do we do?’ These family members made this long journey because they knew here, at least, there was hope.”

And on Sunday afternoon, they put on the Traditions Play (available upon request from G.S.O.). The way it came about is this: In July 2017, Alex was the delegate representing Hong Kong (their first Chinese-speaking delegate) at the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. There he met Greg T., G.S.O. general manager, and Mary C., G.S.O.’s staff member on the International assignment. As a result of this meeting, Mary sent the Traditions Play to Alex in time to have him translate it into Chinese before the convention began.

“This is one example of where G.S.O. can help so much,” Alex says. “The problems we often run into are personality issues, which the Traditions address. By interacting with someone from G.S.O. who has had a lot of experience with these things, we were able to put on this play. It wasn’t *us* trying to translate the Traditions into action — it was A.A. experience from the very beginning of the program. The entire room watched the play for one full hour. In pin-drop silence. When was the last time that happened in A.A.?”

Americans like Terry, watching the performance, did not need to have it translated back to English for them. “The people portrayed in the Traditions Play are people we all recognize, no matter what the language. The play broke through to the challenges the Chinese are having with the Traditions. It lightened up the whole room. Everyone was laughing. It made people realize that we are all trying to do the same thing; to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic, many of whom we could see through the bars in the alcoholic wards in that hospital.”

There are 1.43 billion people in China; Alex estimates that perhaps 300-400 of them are sober in A.A. In order to carry out their mission of helping alcoholics, Chinese A.A. needs help. “We have literature translated into Mandarin and we could always use more,” Alex says. “But what I personally feel is that what we are most desperate for is simply the personal experience of recovery brought by a someone who has lived it. Chinese A.A. is really young. What I see as the area of support most needed is to have more experienced A.A.s visit China. They don’t have to have 20 or 30 years. It’s not how long you’ve been sober; it is how you have lived your program and how it has changed you. And Chinese alcoholics need to hear this.”

2017 A.A. 郑州大会  
2017 A.A. Zhengzhou Convention  
2017年10月27—29日  
Oct. 27-29, 2017  
郑州郑东新区医院  
河南省郑州市金水区农业路与沙口路向北二百米路东  
联系人: 简华  
电话: 15637102870

主题: 互成计划是怎样奏效的  
Theme: How It Works

10月27日 • 星期五 (Friday, Oct. 27)

18:00 — 19:00	签到 Sign in		
19:00 — 19:50	“迷路”的故事 Story: I was still drunk on my way to the last convention		
19:50 — 20:00	休息 Break		
20:00 — 20:50	AA meeting		

10月28日 • 星期六 (Saturday, Oct. 28)

	主会场	中会场	小会场
08:30 — 09:00	开幕式及院方致词 Opening Ceremony		
09:00 — 10:00	第一步 Step 1		
10:00 — 10:10	休息 Break		
10:10 — 11:00	什么是“上帝的意愿”? Panel: What is God's will?		
11:00 — 12:00	中文故事 Speaker's Meeting - Chinese		

## ■ The Hand of A.A. Reaches Around the World

Facilitated at least in part by the spread of the Internet to almost all corners of the world, A.A. continues to make an impact internationally. As Mary C. on G.S.O.'s International assignment puts it, "It is absolutely thrilling to have a front row seat to the development of A.A. around the world."

In March 2017, Greg T. became the General Service Office's first general manager to visit **Cuba**. He was accompanied by Scott H., trustee-at-large, Canada; and Hernán M., former La Viña editor, who acted as translator. The purpose of the trip was to respond to an invitation from the Cuban General Service Board to attend their 18th General Service Conference, which was held March 23-26 in the town of Caibarién. "Despite some of the roadblocks facing them," Greg says, "people in Cuba are truly passionate about A.A." (Cuba celebrated 25 years of AA at their National Convention which took place January 19-21, 2018, in Santa Clara, Cuba.)

The All India Alcoholics Anonymous Women's Convention was held in **New Delhi**, December 9-10, 2017. Organized by New Delhi's all-women group, Shakti, this was the country's first all-women convention, bringing together sober alcoholics as well as addiction workers. Heather H., chair of the Asia-Oceania Service Meeting, attended. "As chair of the AOSM — of which India is part — I was delighted that they have started what could be the beginning of many women's conventions," says Heather. "There are numerous countries where culture hinders recovery for women, and by talking one to one — as well as listening to stories and presentations from each other in conventions such as this — we will hopefully see a huge growth of women no longer dying from alcoholism."

A.A. continues to spread in **Iran** as the Iranian government, faced with a rise in alcoholism and drug abuse, has tolerated the open growth of more and more A.A. meetings. Iranian World Service Meeting delegate Masood F. writes, "A few years ago it was a ridiculous dream to share about alcoholism in an Islamic country like Iran. Now, the good news is that anyone who suffers from alcoholism in Iran should be able to find a meeting and speak about his or her problem." Masood estimates that there are roughly 400 A.A. groups in the country, at least a quarter of them linked to Iran's General Service Office. "Contact with other countries, especially with the U.S./Canada General Service Office, has been beneficial and even vital to us," he adds.

Finally, an email sent to the Online Intergroup ([www.aa-intergroup.org](http://www.aa-intergroup.org)) in 2016 and forwarded to G.S.O. began, "Hi, my name is Gulianna and I am in Alcoholics Anonymous. My recovery began with the Strogino Group in Moscow in 2014. In December of 2016, I returned

to my homeland, and there we opened A.A. groups in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**... It is not easy to start a group, but God leads. I see it and feel it always and everywhere." Gulianna's note is G.S.O.'s first contact with A.A.s in Uzbekistan since 2014. Mary C. replied, offering to send Russian language A.A. literature (there is currently no literature available in Uzbek) and to list the meetings in G.S.O.'s International Directory.

A.A. works — one person, one meeting at a time.



## ■ After the Storm, the Best Way to Help

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, which is charged with keeping track of and evaluating extreme climate events, in 2017 the United States experienced "a historic year" of weather and climate disasters. These natural disasters cost billions for rescue and recovery and an enormous toll in human suffering.

Another casualty of such disasters are the connections that are the lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous — meeting rooms are flooded, literature is destroyed by fire or water, digital and other types of communication are severed. When Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria struck in 2017, and when wildfires engulfed California, A.A.s all over the country sought to help.

"People almost immediately began sending checks to G.S.O. earmarked 'for disaster relief,'" says Racy J., coordinator of Group Services at G.S.O. "But G.S.O. does not accept A.A. funds that are earmarked for any specific project. And, given their situation, some groups are simply unable to use literature right away, since they may not have electricity, a meeting place, or anywhere safe to store materials."

Although it may seem counter-intuitive, one of the best ways for A.A.s anxious to help their fellow members is

simply to wait and see where the need lies. Often, it takes time — days, weeks, or, in some cases, months — for the local A.A. community to determine precisely what is needed so that A.A. groups can get back on their feet. (Although on a personal level, as private citizens and individuals, many A.A. members choose to support non-A.A. relief organizations in the wake of particular disasters.)

Four months after Puerto Rico was ravaged by two epic hurricanes, Irma and Maria, the island — and its A.A. community — was just beginning to recover. Gilberto V., former Area 77 delegate, says of the storms, “Everything went down — telephone poles, electric towers, everything.” A.A.s in San Juan, where Gilberto lives, were unable to connect with any groups outside the city. “So, we started with the area, since we could not do the districts,” Gilberto says. “Anyone who could get here to San Juan. We had meetings in daylight, since the electricity was out, or sporadic. We had an area office, but no lights or phone or mail.”

As soon as there was some connectivity, offers of help began pouring in from the mainland U.S. “The Second Legacy is Unity,” says Gilberto, “and that’s what we saw. We didn’t need literature right away — no place to put it. But the moral support meant a lot.”

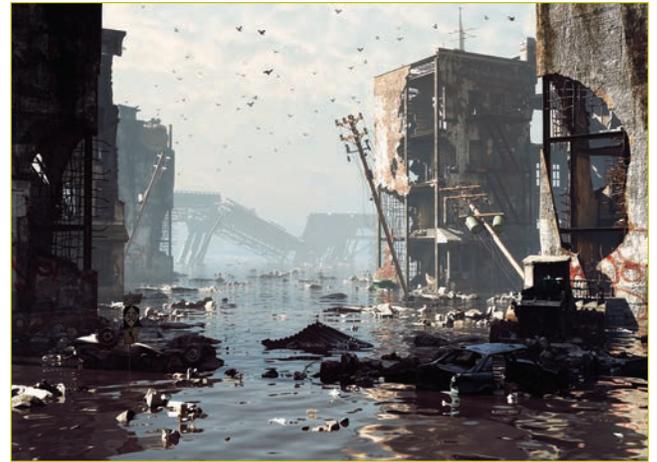
Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys on September 10, 2017, leaving almost three million Floridians without power. Annie C., Panel 67, Area 15 delegate, says that reports immediately began pouring in of damage to the Keys. “Plus, a lot of our fellow A.A.s live on St. Thomas, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, and Antigua, which are a part of Area 15 [as well as the Bahamas, St Maarten and the Cayman Islands] and they were really hit hard.”

Because of its South Florida location, Area 15 has had quite a bit of experience with hurricanes. “We know that humanitarian aid, which we don’t provide, has to come first,” she says. Help and advice did come into Area 15 from groups around the country. “But,” Annie says, “we were also able to say: ‘Give us a couple of weeks and we’ll figure out what we need.’ That way, we didn’t get overwhelmed. Posting [the G.S.O service piece] ‘Responding to Disasters: How Can We Help?’ on our website also helped people understand what to do.”

When they were ready to receive literature, Annie contacted Sandra W. on the literature assignment at G.S.O. “When we started accepting literature donations, we couldn’t figure out how to get them to the Virgin Islands; usually shipments go through Puerto Rico, but they were having their own problems, of course. Sandra and the G.S.O. shipping department were really helpful, both in finding out what literature was needed — Big Books, but also *Daily Reflections* and *Grapevines*, small books people could put in their back pockets — as well as in getting the literature where it needed to go. The way it worked out was this: a lot of these meeting places — including their tables, chairs, literature, archival material — were completely destroyed. So, we said: ‘Let us help you with the

literature. And you can use your group funds to get your meeting place up to a comfortable level.”

When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston on August 18, an incredible two feet of rain fell in the first 24 hours. Kelli R., office manager of Houston Intergroup, says the first thing she and other A.A. volunteers did was to call



*There was no shortage of natural disasters in 2017, forcing A.A. members to find new places to meet and ways of coping with the losses suffered by numerous groups.*

the groups they had phone numbers for to see if they were still holding meetings. “We weren’t able to reach all of the 500 meetings in the Houston area, but we got through to a lot of them, especially our big clubhouses, which hold numerous meetings. Our phone line was open 24/7 and we were able to direct callers to the meetings that were open.”

After the storm hit initially, Kelli put a notice on the Houston Intergroup website saying that Houston Intergroup was setting up a distribution center to coordinate help and replacement literature for those groups and members who had lost A.A. materials during the flooding. However, the donations turned out to be more than Kelli could use; on reflection, her advice now to any intergroup in a similar situation is to “wait and assess what your needs are going to be, and then ask for help.” Still, the response of A.A.s was heartwarming. “I was especially grateful to the delegates I had met at the General Service Conference, who emailed me, sometimes called me, with offers of help for the area,” says Ron C., Area 67 delegate. “A.A. groups were also great when it came to offering up their meeting places to groups who had lost their own due to the storm.”

And, as 2017 wasn’t finished yet, wildfires swept through California, first in Sonoma County, in October, destroying structures and taking lives. The Thomas Fire — the largest wildfire in modern California history — then struck Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Matthew C., office manager of the Ventura County Central Office (VCCO), says that when the fire hit, the Ventura County Fairgrounds — which has numerous large buildings — was turned into a shelter for people who had been evac-

uated. “Central Office did not set up any meetings on the fairgrounds, because people in the community reacted quickly and did so themselves, but we supported them by making free Big Books and ‘Twelve and Twelves’ available. We also fielded calls from first responders and Red Cross workers who really needed to talk, and we would connect them with A.A.s from the community.”

Literature was not as pressing a need for VCCO. “Most of the literature that was lost was because a group literature person was keeping it in his or her home, and the homes burned in the fire. What was needed we were able to replace.”

As can be seen from these stories of disaster — and recovery — the real answer to helping A.A.s in areas stricken by disasters may be staying local. Peter C. former vice-chair of the Houston Intergroup board of directors, is at work on a disaster plan that will coordinate local efforts and could stand as a model for intergroup/central offices around the country (see below). Racy J. suggests reading the G.S.O. service piece “Responding to Disasters: How Can We Help?” which says, in part: “If your group decides to offer help to an affected A.A. office, you may wish to contact them directly to determine the *current* need.” And, of course, supporting your local intergroup/central office at all times of the year is important, she says, so that they have funds that can be directed toward disaster situations, if needed.

But sometimes, says Annie C. of Area 15, it’s the small things that count. “What a lot of groups across the country did was write notes and send them to groups in the Florida Keys. Words of encouragement: ‘We’re with you. Come visit us if you like.’ You have to remember, these disaster situations can go on for a long time, once they stop being in the news. People get tired and discouraged. And that can lead to a drink.”

## ■ Planning ahead

The potential for more of the severe weather events that so plagued the United States and elsewhere in 2017 continues to exist, which is why Peter C., until recently vice-chair of the Houston Intergroup board of directors, thinks that having a plan in place for the future is a good idea.

Peter has been sober since 1984, the same year he began answering phones at Intergroup. When Harvey hit Houston, he, like Kelli R., was frustrated at A.A.’s inability to bring meetings into the larger shelters.

“What we need is a disaster plan that will do two complementary things,” Peter says. “One of the issues facing us during Harvey was that we were unable to get into the emergency long-term shelters run by the county government, because they simply didn’t know who we were.” Peter’s plan calls for making contact ahead of time with the people in charge of the shelters run by the county. “That way,” he says, “they’ll know who we are and what we do, so when a disaster hits we can work

together to get meetings into the places they need to go.” Aside from the county, Peter’s plan would call for making contact with Catholic Relief Services, the Houston Council on Recovery, and churches of all faiths — which open their doors as temporary shelters — and National Guard bases, since the National Guard are often first responders in large disaster situations.

The second part of the plan is that Houston Intergroup, which is armed with the ability to go into shelters and is in contact with county government and churches, would know when a shelter is opening in a certain district and would then reach out to DCMs. “They’d say, ‘Hey, they’re opening up a shelter over there — do you have anyone to take in a meeting?’” says Peter.

Two things recommend the plan. One is that it can be set up ahead of time, so that when hurricane warnings begin, calls can go out and people will know exactly what to do. Secondly, it isn’t just for Houston.

“This plan can be adapted to any intergroup/central office anywhere,” Peter says.

## ■ Appointed Committee Member for C.P.C.

The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities 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 are:

- A background in the Armed Forces (United States or Canada).
- A firm understanding of communication channels within the military.
- Experience in A.A. service, especially involving military veterans and/or those currently serving.
- Ability to strategize about how to more effectively carry the A.A. message to members and to professionals.
- Familiarity with the Veteran’s Administration.
- Strong writing/editing skills.
- 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. Also, available time for participation in subcommittees which often involves work on projects and participation in conference calls.
- The ability to work within the committee structure.
- At least five years of continuous sobriety.

In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons which reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.

To obtain a resume form for this opening please call the C.P.C. desk at G.S.O. (212) 870-3107; or email [cpc@aa.org](mailto:cpc@aa.org). Deadline for submitting applications is May 15, 2018.

## ■ “The Gateway City” Hosts the First National Corrections Conference



“Firsts” — the first time something occurs or is brought about — can be so monumental as to earn a historical footnote or a spot on an organization timeline. Most of us can recount at least a few firsts in our lives: first love, first car, first job or first apartment.

For A.A.s, other “firsts” hold a place of importance in our stories: our first drink, first drunk, first DUI, first hospital stay or first jail time. By a certain grace, other “firsts” often follow these: first meeting, first sponsor, First Step — and, hopefully, our first year sober.

Aside from the individual, A.A. history is marked with important firsts, too: the first A.A. group, the first printing of the Big Book, the first General Service Conference and the first A.A. “headquarters” office. These and other landmark firsts are noted throughout A.A. literature. They become part of the history we learn, build upon and then pass on to others.

To some nostalgic A.A.s it may seem that all the groundbreaking and exciting firsts in A.A. history have already occurred — before social media became an institution, before video calls became a common way to communicate, and before “live-tweeting” and “selfies” became part of our lexicon. But know this: exciting and momentous first-ever occurrences — history-making events — are happening all the time.

This past November, in St. Louis, Missouri, the first-ever National Corrections Conference for North America arrived at “the Gateway to the West,” with 384 attendees ready to make sure that when an alcoholic reaches out for help from behind the walls, the hand of A.A. is there to meet it.

As the event flyer stated, the purpose of the weekend was for “A.A. members involved in corrections work behind the walls to come together, share experience, exchange information, and hear from corrections professionals, former inmates, and other trusted servants throughout the U.S. and Canada.” It was also hoped that

the event might attract new people to corrections service and inspire them to get active.

Reflecting on how the conference got its start, Bob L., from eastern Missouri, Area 38, past corrections chair and one of the conference organizers, related how, during the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, some G.S.O. staff members were approached by people who thought having a national or international corrections conference to focus solely on corrections work was a good idea. Was there an interest in it?

Finding out if there was any interest fell to Jeff W., who at the time was on the Corrections assignment at the General Service Office. Jeff sent corrections and H&I committee chairs a questionnaire asking if they saw a need for an annual North American corrections conference. “The response,” he said, “was a very strong ‘yes.’” Jeff related how, at the end of the survey, a question was slipped in: “Would your committee consider hosting the event?” Jeff was uncertain if people would actually answer “yes” to that. “And they didn’t,” he said. “They answered, ‘You *bet* we’d consider it!’ and ‘Absolutely!’ and ‘We’d be honored!’”

Jeff continued, “So the trustees’ committee on Corrections asked me to connect those who were interested. We ended up with seven people on a conference call. I thought we’d bat around a few ideas for a few months to see if anybody really wanted to try this, but on that first phone call we laid out the optimal time (early November) and the optimal place (someplace centrally located with a major airport nearby, with an active corrections community and members with some experience putting on events).” This group became the advisory council for the first National Corrections Conference.

John S., Area 38 corrections chair and the soon-to-be National Corrections Conference chair, was on that phone call. Involved with corrections in Missouri since 2002, his enthusiasm for corrections work and the A.A.s

involved in Missouri's very active corrections community, as well as his utter certainty that Area 38 could handle a national conference, propelled him forward to offer a bid to have the first National Corrections Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

With the bid accepted, John moved forward to create a committee. He contacted past area corrections chairs and any A.A.s in Area 38 who were involved in service and corrections, past and present. He contacted a past delegate who was involved in corrections work at the General Service Conference. "The first six meetings were at a pancake house," John said. "Then we outgrew it, so we had to move to our central service office." As the committee grew, so did the registration for the event. John said, "I kept going back to the hotel and increasing the number and size of the rooms we needed for all the registrations. By the spring of 2016, we were getting registrations almost daily. At first we were afraid we wouldn't get many people, but as the date for the conference drew nearer, we were wondering if there was going to be enough room at the hotel. We also had a banquet planned, and I had to keep increasing the numbers we expected for the banquet. Finally, we capped out at 200 for the banquet — we sold out. All told, there were 384 people registered for the event — and only a third of them were from Missouri."

As chairperson, John S. put the committee to work organizing what was still just an idea. John said, "I thought it was important to bring speakers who really knew what they were talking about — speakers who had some real experience with corrections. And we wanted to make sure it wasn't just Missouri A.A.s at the conference. We wanted it to be truly national, so that everyone could share their own experience and hear the experience of others, since correctional facilities and their rules regarding A.A. and outside visitors vary widely between states and areas. In the end, we had 14 panels and three speakers, and between moderators, speakers, and other Conference participants, we had a good geographic diversity."

Good geographic diversity was combined with good experiential diversity, as one workshop, "Bottom Raisers," featured three speakers (including two Class A trustees on the General Service Board) from the judiciary, probation and parole, and incarceration management fields. Some other panel topics were "View of A.A. from the Inside Out," for which a panel of former inmates discussed how A.A. is viewed from within by the institution's population, and "A.A. in Prisons in the Silicon Age," which discussed making use of technology such as Skype to bring meetings inside a facility. In addition, panels addressed other practical topics including "Inside Sponsorship: How Inmates Can Help Each Other Work the Steps." After hundreds of registrations were submitted, all banquet tickets sold, and all speakers, panels and topics selected, the first National Corrections Conference was ready for action 16 months after the initial phone call of the advisory council. So, from November 10 through 12, 2017, the host committee threw

down their welcome mat for attendees from 33 different U.S. states, four Canadian provinces and Puerto Rico. At 384, the attendance surpassed expectations and hopes, and proved, once again, that A.A.s really understand that "half-measures avail us nothing." When asked about how so many people had heard about the conference, John described how he employed a very old-fashioned method dear to A.A.s: "If an area website had a phone number for a corrections chair, we called it, and told them about the Conference. We'd call almost every day."

At many A.A. events, members come away with stories of spiritual awakenings, new realizations, and many "aha" moments. Other times, the simple interaction with each other constitutes a miracle in itself. When asked for a moment or incident during the Conference that stood out, John S., chairperson of the event, unhesitatingly described the enthusiasm and excitement of the attendees. Diana L., currently serving on the Corrections assignment at G.S.O., described not only the excitement and enthusiasm of the attendees, but also the fact that the entire conference came about organically — that is, it grew from a desire by A.A.s at many local levels to see one conference where those involved in corrections all over the U.S. and Canada could meet and share their experience and their solutions.

Indeed, as the Big Book says, "this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it." And so, if you missed the first and don't want to miss another, head to Portland, Maine, November 2-4, 2018, for the second National Corrections Conference.

## ■ A.A. and the Armed Services

Alcoholics Anonymous has had a close relationship with the armed services almost since its inception in 1935. The Grapevine, A.A.'s monthly magazine — known as "A.A.'s meeting in print" — was first published in June 1944, in part to help connect alcoholics on the world's far-flung battlefields. In a regular feature titled "Mail Call for All AAs in the Armed Forces," the Grapevine kept alcoholics close to A.A., no matter where they were, sharing stories of staying sober and working the program under difficult circumstances. And, later, in the 1970s, came publication of "A.A. and the Armed Services," a pamphlet of stories from men and women staying sober while in the military. The pamphlet was most recently updated in 2012 and has now been translated into French and Spanish. Available from the General Service Office, it is an essential tool as A.A.s across the U.S. and Canada work with the armed forces.



So, how are active duty A.A.s and veterans faring these days? And how can A.A. continue reaching out to them?

Roger W. has 28 years on active duty in the Army and is currently a Human Resources officer. "I got sober before I went into the military [he now has 34 years in A.A.] and then joined the Army for the G.I. Bill. But I decided to stay."

Even though all branches of the military are more enlightened than they were pre-1970s, when it comes to treating the disease of alcoholism, Roger says, there are still issues. On some army bases, the unit commander is a member of the treatment team. "A professional might recommend extensive outpatient treatment for a soldier, but a commander can say no to that. The army substance abuse program is really a manpower conservation program that wants to make sure you can come to work — so it is all about that. Sometimes, there is little tolerance for relapse."

Roger was deployed to the Middle East for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and benefited immensely from A.A.'s *Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM)*, which reaches out via a bimonthly bulletin and correspondence to alcoholics who may not be able to get to a meeting. "I had the beautiful experience of being on that list and receiving cards and letter and speaker tapes from sober alcoholics all over the U.S. I collected 150 names and addresses. One day alone, I got 32 letters." These days, Roger says, alcoholics overseas can connect via Skype or email, but the effect is the same: contact with another alcoholic is essential for soldiers, just as it is for civilian alcoholics.

Current active duty Second Lieutenant Christin S. agrees. Getting sober midway through college helped her understand that she wanted to become an officer in the Marine Corps. But while being sober helped her face the challenges of Officer's Candidate School (OCS), she kept her sobriety secret at first. "Drinking is part of the Marine Corps culture," she says. "There's a lot of pressure to have a couple of beers and relax after a 10-hour day." There were no meetings on base, and while she could have gone to one off-base, she found excuses not to. "In the Marines, if you're an officer, you're not supposed to have problems because you're in a position of authority. So, I tried to handle it myself and got close to a relapse."

What helped her was going to an International Convention of Young People in A.A. (ICYPAA) in nearby Washington, D.C. "I got a big recharge there," she says. "Since then, I've been able to connect with other Marine and Naval Academy officers who are sober." Christin now meets regularly with fellow Marines having trouble with their drinking and passes out Big Books and other A.A. literature to them: while her base has a Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center (CSACC), it is not A.A.-specific, and thus A.A. literature is not handed out, although referrals are provided. "I am not writing A.A. on my forehead," Christin says, "but I don't forget that I am a sober member of A.A. I am here to serve my country and I can't do that if I drink."

After a car accident that occurred while he was drunk over two and a half years ago, Active Duty Chief Matt K. was sent by the Navy to the Starlight Military Treatment

Program at the Stonington Institute in Connecticut. "I had been drinking for years and hadn't gotten into trouble, but after the wreck it was mandatory that I go. I started to get sober there — they teach you about destructive drinking and open the door to A.A., but that's all. It's up to you." Matt found A.A. by going to local meetings near the base, but thinks other sailors could benefit by receiving more information on-base about A.A. It's almost impossible to bring a meeting into one of the submarine bases where he serves, since security is tight, so he knows that is a challenge. "But there is a substance abuse office on every installation," he says, "and reaching out to them might allow C.P.C. to make on-base presentations. Or even just to provide pamphlets."

It is also essential, Matt feels, to try to reach suffering alcoholics in the armed forces, especially those recently returned from combat zones. "During the course of the rehab I was in, there were something like 20 active duty veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan who didn't want to tell the stories about what happened to them over there to people who weren't there. But those who couldn't open up had a hard time staying sober."

Veteran Thomas S. was a frontline infantryman in Vietnam for a year beginning in 1966 and knows how difficult it is for veterans to get sober. "You need the reinforcement of drinking or using some other substance to face combat. Being a sane sober man and going out to kill or be killed are not compatible." Now 30 years sober, he serves on the Veterans Education and Transformation subcommittee at the Department of Veterans Affairs, helping advise them on ways to improve veterans' health. "I am trying to get them to recognize the devastation of alcoholism that strikes so many vets that return from getting shot at, as well as the efficacy of the A.A. recovery program. The story of A.A. needs to be illuminated for higher-ups at the Department of Defense and at Veterans Affairs. It's uphill going sometimes."

"I have been sober and attending A.A. my entire military career," says Major J.D. of the Minnesota National Guard, who recently celebrated 39 years of sobriety. Major J.D. sobered up when he was 15 and joined the army seven years later. He kept his sober alcoholic status to himself, but when he was sent to Germany in 1986, he began to attend meetings off-base. "I began running into other A.A.s, some of them of senior rank. There was a captain who attended our A.A. group. Seeing these people live a sober life encouraged me to be more open."

Gradually, Major J.D. began working with other alcoholics on the base. He talked to the director of the community counseling center, told him he was a recovering alcoholic, and asked if there was anything he could do to carry the message of A.A. to soldiers in the counseling program. "We started out with one English-speaking group a week off-base, and through Twelfth Step work we ended up with seven meetings a week on-base."

Major J.D. eventually served with peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and did two tours of duty in Iraq. While in

Iraq, he and a few other sober soldiers started the first-ever A.A. meeting in the city of Basra, and he was able to attend A.A. meetings in Tallil and Balad. Going to an A.A. meeting in a combat zone was a different experience — Major J.D. came under rocket fire on his way to a meeting one day and was disappointed he had to seek shelter and couldn't make it. "Isn't it ironic," he says, "that not very long ago many soldiers would have thought, 'I don't want to go through a war without getting drunk.' Now I and hundreds of others like me think, 'I don't want to go through a war without attending an A.A. meeting.'"

Major J.D. has done service within the A.A. structure as both C.P.C. chair and public information (P.I.) chair, District 13, Area 35. He says: "Unlike A.A., the military is a hierarchical organization. Chain of command is everything, so A.A.s can utilize that to help carry the message.

The person they should talk to is the commanding officer of the base or the medical unit, or the Chief of Chaplains. If they can get buy-in from that person, then bringing the message in should be easy. And it's great to remember that military types love PowerPoint! Request 10 minutes for a desk-side meeting with your contact in the chain of command, show a PowerPoint, and you'll be speaking the language of the military."

Major J.D. also recommends reaching out to the organization Joining Community Forces, which brings together local community groups set up to help the military community under one umbrella. "For someone doing C.P.C. work, it would be worthwhile to touch base with JCF and ask, 'Is there anything we can do to help?'" — eight words that can sum up the essence of A.A.'s Twelfth Step work with active duty military and veterans alike.



## ■ Airing the Message

***I never had problems with alcohol but when John lost his job and we had less money coming in, we started to fight. I started drinking just to deal with the stress. Without my realizing it, alcohol took over my life...***

So starts a compelling Public Service Announcement (PSA) on A.A.'s website ([aa.org/#video-player](http://aa.org/#video-player)) that carries a message of hope to those suffering in silence with the disease of alcoholism. Clay R., Public Information coordinator at G.S.O. defines a PSA as a short video or audio presentation (15 seconds to 2 minutes) whose purpose is to inform the public about what A.A. is, what it does and how to contact the Fellowship. PSAs are designed to give enough information to the active alcoholic, or to those who know one amongst their family, friends or coworkers, to let them know that help may be found in A.A.

How do PSAs sync with A.A.'s policy of "attraction, not promotion"? Although word of mouth, from one alcoholic to another, is still the best way of sharing A.A.'s message without conflicting with the non-promotional dictates of

our Traditions, there is a downside — it takes a very long time. To hear the message the prospect would most likely have to attend a meeting or approach an A.A. member, something most don't know about or are loathe to do out of fear or shame. The realization that countless lives were being lost before word reached those who were hitting bottom, encouraged our founders to expand the method of getting the word out.

When Bill W. first suggested drafting a book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*) it was met with substantial opposition. Early members were against any kind of publicity or printed material. But Bill and Bob persisted, and by the "barest majority of one vote" proceeded. Happily, the Big Book has turned out to be a most powerful tool and one of the greatest factors in A.A.'s program of recovery, giving readers an accurate picture of who we are, how the program works, and what concrete steps one may take in order walk out of an alcoholic prison free men and women.

***Drinking was more important than anything else... My journey in A.A. started years ago when I reached the outside limits of my desperation. I really want to quit drinking, I just couldn't stop on my own...***

Though by no means new, PSAs, in today's cable and cyber world, have the potential of carrying the message farther and faster than ever, and A.A. PSAs are now available for immediate download from [aa.org](http://aa.org) and will soon be acces-

sible on YouTube. Following the direction of the General Service Conference and the trustees' committee on Public Information, Clay R. hopes the YouTube site will launch in late Spring or Summer of 2018, but stressed that it is a work in progress, that in true A.A. fashion it will take a little more time than usual. Teddy W., PI/CPC chair of the California Northern Coastal area explains that not only does there need to be consensus (a fellowship-wide group conscience) for approval of the undertaking, but that strict safety measures must be observed in setting up the links to, as well as the layout of the actual site. He explains that our Fellowship requires that, "the utmost care must be taken in preserving the spirit and practice of the Traditions."

Clay R. acknowledges that other videos available from G.S.O. are more easily distributable for they do not require such stringent safety mandates, as they are intended for "friends of A.A." – health care, legal, correctional, and human resource professionals who recommend A.A. as a resource to their clients. Still other videos are developed to inform the Fellowship about service opportunities such as correctional and accessibilities committee work. These videos are not meant to be broadcast to the public and are geared to a specific audience which may or may not include nonalcoholics.

PSAs that *are* made for the public are very carefully produced in the spirit of attraction rather than promotion. Everyday words spoken by regular people (in many cases portrayed by professional actors) make the process of identification easier for the prospect as he or she listens in the privacy of a living or work space, on a car radio, or on earphones just about anywhere. Since our experience shows that most alcoholics rarely talk about their drinking problems, PSAs, like A.A. literature, are a way of reaching those who are isolated and isolating from their families and communities. They are a non-invasive and effective way for problem drinkers to learn that they are not alone.

***I'm in control of my world... my world is the same everyday... every minute my world seems to get a little smaller... my world is driving me crazy... my world... what world?***

Putting PSAs out into the public arena has its challenges. There are a host of nonprofit organizations who create PSAs for their own purposes and getting them aired is very competitive. A.A. Public Information Committees throughout North America regularly contact local broadcasters to offer PSAs to their stations. The creation of A.A.'s download page has certainly made the final process easier, but getting the PSA physically on the air is where the challenge lies. Teddy W. has found it easier when district committees have some crossover with the professional community, like a personal contact at the station. ("It's who you know.") When that connection is not there, A.A.'s PSA requests often land in a stack along with countless others. As luck or providence would have it, there is sometimes a recovering alcoholic working at the broadcast site who may be able to help nudge A.A.'s request toward the top of the

pile, but doing that without breaking anonymity requires great resourcefulness and delicacy. However, persistence, tact, the desire to help, and trust in the greater good continue to bring about positive results.

Most published PSAs are developed by G.S.O. and all are approved by the General Service Conference prior to distribution. If a member, group, or area has an idea for a PSA, they should send that idea to the Public Information assignment at G.S.O., something Clay R. welcomes enthusiastically: "We are always looking for new ideas... and if a group or community would like to create a PSA for local use, they are free to do so... and while G.S.O. stands ready to share A.A. experience with local committees, their group conscience can determine the type and content of a local PSA." The General Service Board's policy of not showing an actor's full face is used for G.S.O.'s videos and many local entities follow this guidance, too. The only other guidelines are those contained in the Steps and Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and G.S.O.'s mission to share consistent and accurate information on A.A.

***I felt something inside of me tell me that I could go to A.A.... these people, you know, just gathered around me, that was the fellowship in action in my life...***

Teddy W., and others in Public Information, make PSAs available to A.A. groups, conventions, luncheons, and public meetings to show what is in our inventory and to get opinions and responses from the Fellowship. PSAs are also used at events where A.A. has a presence — professional conventions, school health fairs, and other sympathetic organizations. Teddy points out that there is a real interest in the creation and distribution of PSAs right now, that there is no shortage of service opportunities available in this area and, "how great it would be to have more people involved in Public Information service."

Currently G.S.O. has three video and twenty-two audio PSAs available. Each year both the Trustee and Conference Committees on Public Information review existing PSAs to assure that they are useful and relevant. When PSAs no longer meet those standards (such as not being available in HD) they are retired from further distribution.

Although A.A. literature and PSAs are undoubtedly vital instruments in carrying A.A.'s message, there is an adage that echoes throughout the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous that, "We may be the only copy of the Big Book some sick and suffering alcoholic sees." One might say we could be the only Public Service Announcement they may witness as well. Attending meetings regularly, putting out our hands, trying to be helpful and inclusive, and practicing the Steps and Traditions are, in a simple and direct way, our own personal PSAs.

***...if your world is controlled by alcohol, there is hope. We're A.A., alcoholics helping other alcoholics get sober for more than 70 years. You'll find us in the phone book, your local newspaper or on the web, aa.org.***

# box 459 BULLETIN BOARD

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

Spring 2018

## 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

2-4—*Dearborn, Michigan.* March Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 390, Southfield, MI 48037-0390; [www.march-roundup.org](http://www.march-roundup.org)

2-4—*Sparks, Nevada.* PRAASA. Write: Ch., Box 27251, Las Vegas, NV 89126; [www.praasa2018.com](http://www.praasa2018.com)

2-4—*Perrysburg, Ohio.* 36<sup>th</sup> Area 55 Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 401, Toledo, OH 43697 [www.area55aa.org](http://www.area55aa.org)

9-11—*Albany, Georgia.* Flint River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 72007, Albany, GA 31708; [www.flintriverroundup.org](http://www.flintriverroundup.org)

9-11—*Lake Charles, Louisiana.* Lake Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 113, Lake Charles, LA 70602; [www.aa-swla.org](http://www.aa-swla.org)

9-11—*Portland, Maine.* NE Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., 60 Western Ave, Ste. 3 #211, Augusta, ME 04344; [www.nefots.org](http://www.nefots.org)

9-11—*Spokane, Washington.* NW Pockets of Enthusiasm Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 8143, Spokane, WA 99203; [www.nwpockets.org](http://www.nwpockets.org)

9-11—*Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 36<sup>th</sup> Mid-Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., 866 Grand Lake Road, Sydney, NS B1P 5T9; [d9roundup36@yahoo.com](mailto:d9roundup36@yahoo.com)

16-18—*Osage Beach, Missouri.* Circle of Unity Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1338, Osage Beach, MO 65065; [www.circleofunityconference.org](http://www.circleofunityconference.org)

16-18—*Niagara Falls, New York.* Cataract City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 734, Niagara Falls, NY 14304; [www.niagaraintergroup.net](http://www.niagaraintergroup.net)

22-25—*Hendersonville, North Carolina.* Kanuga Lake Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27619; [www.kanugalakeroundup.org](http://www.kanugalakeroundup.org)

23-25—*Lafayette, Louisiana.* Fellowship of the Spirit South. Write: Ch., Box 53312, Lafayette, LA 70505; [www.fotssouth.com](http://www.fotssouth.com)

23-25—*Westchester, New York.* SENY Conv. Write: Ch., 199 Lincoln Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454; [aaseny.org](http://aaseny.org)

23-25—*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* Area 60 Pre-Conf. Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 1496, Washington, PA 15301; [www.wpaarea60.org](http://www.wpaarea60.org)

23-25—*Charleston, West Virginia.* WV Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., 112 Courtney Dr., Lewisburg, WV 24901; [www.aawv.org](http://www.aawv.org)

23-25—*Qawra, Malta.* Malta's 12th EN Speaking Internat'l Conv. Info: [www.aamalta.org.mt](http://www.aamalta.org.mt)

30-1—*Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* North Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91086, West Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7V 3N3; [www.northshoreroundup.com](http://www.northshoreroundup.com)

### April

6-8—*Watertown, South Dakota.* Area 63 Spring Conf. Write: Box 714, Brookings, SD 57006; [www.area63aa.org](http://www.area63aa.org)

6-8—*Provo, Utah.* Area 69 Pre-Conf. Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 1021, Spanish Fork, UT 84660; [2018preconference@gmail.com](mailto:2018preconference@gmail.com)

13-15—*Cottonwood, Arizona.* Verde Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 781, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

13-15—*Morehead City, North Carolina.* Crystal Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 113, Morehead City, NC 28557; [ccr@ec.rr.com](mailto:ccr@ec.rr.com)

13-15—*Manchester, Vermont.* Area 70 VT Conv. Write: Ch., Box 24, Shelburne, VT 05482; [area70convention@aavt.org](mailto:area70convention@aavt.org)

19-22—*Eureka Springs, Arkansas.* 42nd Springtime in the Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 788, Eureka Springs, AR 72632; [www.springtimeintheozarks.com](http://www.springtimeintheozarks.com)

20-22—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.* Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-4th Ave. NW, Dauphin, MB R7N 1H9

20-21—*Taipei, Taiwan.* 3<sup>rd</sup> Lighthouse Taiwan Roundup. Write: Ch., No. 248, 7F Zhongshan N. Rd., Sec.6, Taipei City, Taiwan; [www.aataiwan.com](http://www.aataiwan.com)

20-22—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada.* Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-4th Ave. NW, Dauphin, MB R7N 1H9

21-22—*San Fernando, Trinidad & Tobago.* 62<sup>nd</sup> Nat'l Conv. Write: Ch., LP #52 Rivulet Rd, Couva, T&T; [aagsott@gmail.com](mailto:aagsott@gmail.com)

27-29—*Chipley, Florida.* Country Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 677, Chipley, FL 32428; [chipley\\_countryroundup@hotmail.com](mailto:chipley_countryroundup@hotmail.com)

27-29—*Scottsbluff, Nebraska.* Panhandle Jamboree. Write: Box 1301, Scottsbluff, NE 69363

27-29—*Weston, West Virginia.* Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302; [www.jacksonsmillroundup.com](http://www.jacksonsmillroundup.com)

28-29—*Shawinigan, Quebec, Canada.* 49e Congrès. Info:[aa89.org](http://aa89.org)

### May

4-5—*Bloomington, Illinois.* BNAA Roundup Conf. Write: Ch., Box 5063, Bloomington, IL 61702-1384; [www.aadistrict10.org](http://www.aadistrict10.org)

4-6—*Ketchikan, Alaska.* 36<sup>th</sup> First City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 9275, Ketchikan, AK 99901

4-6—*Hibbing, Minnesota.* Iron Range Get Together. Write: Ch., Box 855, Hibbing, MN 55742

4-6—*Gulfport, Mississippi.* Gulf Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 334 Long Beach, MS 39560; [aasteplovers@gmail.com](mailto:aasteplovers@gmail.com)

4-6—*Great Falls, Montana.* Area 40 Roundup. Info: [aaroundup2018@gmail.com](mailto:aaroundup2018@gmail.com)

4-6—*Albuquerque, New Mexico.* Red Road Conv. Write: Ch., Box 35604, Albuquerque, NM 87176; [www.nmredroad.org](http://www.nmredroad.org)

4-6—*Grants Pass, Oregon.* Rogue Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1741, Grants Pass, OR 97528; [rogueroundup.com](http://rogueroundup.com)

4-6—*São Paulo, Brasil.* Colcha de Retalhos Brasil. Write: Ch., Rue Albion 210 São Paulo, Brasil, 05077-130; [colchabrasil@gmail.com](mailto:colchabrasil@gmail.com)

5-6—*Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.* Area 85 Roundup. Write: Ch., NW ON Gen. Service, Box 10073, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6; [area85roundup@gmail.com](mailto:area85roundup@gmail.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](mailto: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 EMAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # AND EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

11-13—*Pasco, Washington*. 38th Inland Empire Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1189, Richland, WA 99352; [www.inlandempireroundup.org](http://www.inlandempireroundup.org)

18-19—*Orford, Quebec, Canada*. 36e Congrès du District 88-11. Info: [www.aa-quebec.org](http://www.aa-quebec.org)

18-20—*Defuniak Springs, Florida*. Sunshine Conv. Write: Ch., Box 456, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435; [sunshinesuzieb@aol.com](mailto:sunshinesuzieb@aol.com)

18-20—*Idaho Falls, Idaho*. Area 18 Spring Assembly & Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2551, Idaho Falls, ID 83403; [www.idahoarea18aa.org](http://www.idahoarea18aa.org)

18-20—*Little Current, Ontario, Canada*. Rainbow Roundup. Write: Ch. Box 921, Little Current, ON POP 1H0 Canada; [tickets@rainbowup.ca](mailto:tickets@rainbowup.ca)

25-27—*Couer d'Alene, Idaho*. Couer d'Alene Conv. Info: [www.cdaconvention.org](http://www.cdaconvention.org)

25-27—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 390533, Minneapolis, MN 55439; [www.gopherstateroundup.org](http://www.gopherstateroundup.org)

25-27—*Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada*. Area 81 Spring Assy & Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-442 Main St., Shediac, E4P 2G7; [2018springassemblyroundup@gmail.com](mailto:2018springassemblyroundup@gmail.com)

31-3—*Lahaina, Hawaii*. MauiFest Internat'l Conv. Write: Ch., Box 893, Kihei, HI 96753; [www.mauifest.org](http://www.mauifest.org)

## June

1-3—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. Area 46 State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6565, Albuquerque, NM 87197; [www.nm-aa.org](http://www.nm-aa.org)

8-10—*Tallahassee, Florida*. Founder's Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., Box 38034, Tallahassee, FL 32315-8034; [www.foundersdayflorida.org](http://www.foundersdayflorida.org)

8-10—*Akron, Ohio*. 83<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309; [foundersday@akronaa.org](mailto:foundersday@akronaa.org)

8-10—*Kenton, Oklahoma*. 42nd Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 944, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

8-10—*Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Western Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

9-11—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. Gratitude Roundup. Write: 4015 11st SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 4X7; [gratituderounduppyc@gmail.com](mailto:gratituderounduppyc@gmail.com)

15-17—*Sparks, Nebraska*. 10<sup>th</sup> Sober Float. Write: Ch., 512 N. Cherry St., Valentine, NE 69201; [soberfloat@gmail.com](mailto:soberfloat@gmail.com)

## July

19-22—*Raleigh, North Carolina*. 71<sup>th</sup> NC State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 41451, Raleigh, NC 27629; [www.aanconvention.com](http://www.aanconvention.com)

20-22—*Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada*. Eastern Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

27-29—*Toledo, Ohio*. OH State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 401, Toledo, OH 43697-0401; [www.area55aa.org](http://www.area55aa.org)

27-29—*Charleston, West Virginia*. WV State Conv. Write: Ch., 112 Courtney Dr., Lewisburg, WV 24901; [www.aawv.org](http://www.aawv.org)

## August

4-6—*Boise, Idaho*. Gem State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 45505, Boise, ID 83713; [www.gemstateroundup.org](http://www.gemstateroundup.org)

10-12—*Austin, Texas*. Capital of TX Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4946, Austin, TX 78765; [www.capitaloftexasconference.org](http://www.capitaloftexasconference.org)

24-26—*Kalamazoo, Michigan*. 66th MI State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 145, Marshall, MI 49068; [www.wmaa34.org](http://www.wmaa34.org)

24-26—*Charleston, West Virginia*. SE Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 431, Scott Depot, WV 25560; [www.sewomantowoman.org](http://www.sewomantowoman.org)

24-26—*Reunion Flat, Wyoming*. 17th Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2905, La Grande, OR 97850; [tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com](mailto:tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com)

24-26—*Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. 3rd Internat'l Secular Conf. Info: <https://secularaa.com>

31-2—*Denver, Colorado*. CO State Conv. Write: Box 852, Littleton, CO 80160; [2018.reg.chair@gmail.com](mailto:2018.reg.chair@gmail.com)

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