

About AA

A.A. Membership Survey

We are pleased to announce that the 1996 A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet is now available and we are enclosing a copy with this issue.

The purpose of this triennial survey is to keep A.A. members informed on current trends and membership characteristics. The survey also provides information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community and the general public as part of A.A.'s commitment to make information about Alcoholics Anonymous available to any professional or member of the public who has an interest in A.A.

Many people are often surprised by the limited information which this survey provides. As A.A. is a nonprofessional Fellowship, we do not provide in-depth analyses. A.A. is not involved in treatment, prevention, education or advocacy regarding alcoholism. As nonprofessionals, we meet together to share our personal experience, strength and hope based on recovery through A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

It is hoped that this pamphlet provides a snapshot of A.A. membership and captures the wide diversity of A.A.'s membership. Additional copies may be obtained from the General Service Office (P-48; 15¢ each).

Nonalcoholic Trustees— Vital to A.A. World Services

"No description of our world services would be complete without full acknowledgment of all that has been contributed by our [Class A] nonalcoholic trustees. Over the years they have given an incredible amount of time and effort; theirs has been a true labor of love." So saying, in the introduction to *The A.A. Service Manual*, co-founder Bill W. added, "Some of them, like Jack Alexander, Fulton Oursler, Leonard Harrison and Bernard Smith, have given much in their fields of literature, social service, finance and law. Their example is being followed by more recent nonalcoholic trustees."

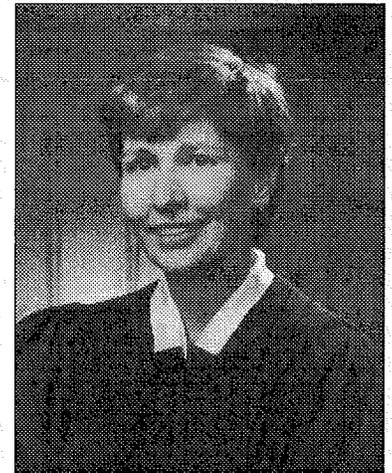
Bill might have been speaking of three of A.A.'s latest Class A trustees: Gary A. Glynn, newly-elected chairman of the A.A. General Service Board; his immediate predecessor, W.J. "Jim" Estelle, Jr.; and new trustee Linda L. Chezem.

For the past 12 years, Gary Glynn, of New York City, a veteran financial/investment analyst, has been president and chief investment officer of the United States Steel and Carnegie Pension Funds. About 14 years ago, a close relative of Gary's became sober in A.A. and stayed sober—a happy turn of events that he says made him grateful to the Fellowship and receptive to service. His direct association with A.A. began in 1985, when he became a consultant to A.A. World Services, Inc. and held appointments to

the trustees' Finance Committee and Employees' Retirement Committee. Elected to the board in 1993, he has served as board treasurer and as a member of the trustees' Literature, Nominating and Archives Committees. "Although the continuing good health of A.A. as a self-supporting, nonprofit entity is of course a priority," Gary says, "I don't view it as I would a financial organization. I believe in the Fellowship's unwavering adherence to its Three Legacies—Recovery, Unity and Service, and have witnessed how A.A. truly works for many alcoholics."

Gary succeeds Jim Estelle, a long-time administrator in the correctional systems of several states who has had a long and close association with A.A. Jim served as a Class A trustee from 1977 to 1986, and returned to serve as chairman of the General Service Board, 1993-1997, and will now be trustee emeritus. For many years he worked diligently to help bring A.A. groups into prisons and the prison work camps to which he had been assigned early in his distinguished career. Jim was the director of the Texas Department of Corrections in the '70s; he has lectured widely and taught courses in corrections and the administration of correctional systems. In recent years, as a correctional consultant living in El Dorado Hills, California, he has had clients ranging from the California Department of Corrections to the Republic of Egypt. Jim believes that "the challenge in corrections is greater than ever, with the explosion of the jail and prison populations and the simultaneous reduction of tax money to support rehabilitation. For A.A., and for professionals in the field of alcoholism and substance abuse," he stresses, "there is a real responsibility to be ever more diligent, disciplined and persistent."

Incoming trustee Linda Chezem, of Mooresville, Indiana, earned her J.D. degree from Indiana University School of Law. She served her first judgeship in 1976 and presently sits on the Court of Appeals of Indiana in Indianapolis. "In this state," she explains, "the trial court judge has the responsibility for the probation office and the various local corrections programs such as work release, a responsibility that varies from county to county." In Lawrence County, where she presided over the county court at Bedford from 1976-82,



Judge Linda Chezem

Linda's interest in alcohol-related issues led her to spearhead the first certified court alcohol and drug program in Indiana.

"We were one of the first probation departments to use breathtesting and urine-testing equipment," she says. "In fact, I think we were the leaders, for a county our size, in recognizing the threat alcohol presents to the successful completion of probation and intermittent sentences." She adds that "my interest in addressing the abuse of alcohol and promoting the recognition of the relationship of alcoholism to crime and family dysfunction has been long-standing—both professionally and in terms of my own family. My experience has proven to me the value of the Twelve Steps as the best hope."

Professionals Helped Build A.A.

Jim Estelle, Gary Glynn and Linda Chezem belong to a company of distinguished individuals who have helped A.A. hew to its founders' original vision of self-support and singleness of purpose. The Fellowship's non-A.A. friends have been especially effective in carrying the A.A. message of cooperation without affiliation to their fellow professionals, and the professional community and A.A. maintain a unique relationship that goes back in time. A.A. co-founder Dr. Bob was himself a physician; he and Bill W. were helped in recovery and service by many professionals. Bill was always quick to point out that "no one in particular invented A.A. All our ideas have been drawn from religion and medicine; and our friends, by their enthusiastic recommendations, have brought us where we stand today."

Bill's understanding of alcoholism as an illness grew out of his friendship with his personal physician, Dr. William D. Silkworth, and with Connecticut psychiatrist Dr. Harry Tiebout, who later became a Class A trustee. Bill's grasp of the spiritual aspects of recovery was furthered by contact with many members of the clergy: In Akron there was the beloved Sister Ignatia, who worked closely with Dr. Bob in sobering up several thousand drunks; in New York, "Father Ed" Dowling and the Reverend Sam Shoemaker were friends and advisers to Bill and the fledgling Fellowship.

Businessmen, notably John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had a hand in shaping our Seventh Tradition of self-support, and attorneys such as Bernard B. Smith helped to construct A.A.'s democratic service structure. Indeed, professionals have been available all along the way these past 62 years, not to give money but to give of their time and expertise—which have proved to be infinitely more valuable.

Non-A.A.s Can Do What A.A.s Can't

A.A.'s close ties with the professional community extend to its own General Service Board, which in addition to 14 alcoholic (Class B) trustees includes seven nonalcoholic, or Class A trustees, all of them highly respected professionals. From matters of philosophy and organization to public information and international sharing, their work touches on every aspect of A.A. service.

Experience has shown that, for A.A.s, being in the public eye is hazardous to our sobriety—and to our collective survival if we break our anonymity at the public level, then get drunk. Yet "A.A. had to be publicized somehow," as Bill said, "so we resorted to the idea that it would be far better to let our friends do this for us"—mainly our nonalcoholic trustees. They can face the

camera head on or use their last names without threat to themselves or the Fellowship. In the process, they reach many a suffering alcoholic with the A.A. message, along with the professionals who often see the alcoholic first.

Besides Gary Glynn and Linda Chezem, Class A trustees presently serving A.A. include: Elaine M. Johnson, Ph.D., of Maryland, former director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration under the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services; Arthur L. Knight, Jr., of Illinois, a retired businessman who has served as president, director and chief executive officer of manufacturing, distribution and financial services companies; Robert Oran Miller, D.D., Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama; Peter Roach, of Ontario, a retired elementary and secondary school teacher and director of education; and John N. Chappel, M.D., Nevada psychiatrist and chemical dependency authority.

Working hand-in-hand with our professional friends, who are on the front line of alcoholism treatment and counseling, A.A. is able to reach more suffering alcoholics. We welcome your letters and inquiries. Also, you may be interested in several pamphlets, available from the General Service Office, that have been of help to professionals, including: "If You are a Professional, A.A. Wants to Work with You"; "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Profession"; "Members of the Clergy Ask about Alcoholics Anonymous"; "A.A. in Correctional Facilities"; and "Alcoholics Anonymous and Employee Assistance Programs."

Visit the A.A. Web Site

Since December 1995, information about Alcoholics Anonymous has been available on the World Wide Web, in English, French and Spanish. When you visit our home page at <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org> you will find information about A.A. directed to the general public, media and professionals. Features of the A.A. site include: The A.A. Preamble; The A.A. Fact File; the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?"; a letter to professionals, a list of local central/intergroup offices and answering services, and international general service offices. There are also links to international general service offices.

Professionals visiting the site may request further information about Alcoholics Anonymous and receive an informational packet. Recently, and almost simultaneously, local Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) committee members (A.A. volunteers who are available to act as a local resource to any professional who may be in contact with an alcoholic) in North Carolina, Illinois, Texas, California, Canada and several other areas, have been in touch with and provided information and service to physicians, teachers, counselors, psychologists, correctional professionals, employers, nurses, and other professionals.

Since its beginning, the A.A. site has had approximately 206,000 visits to our home page. A.A. continues everywhere, anywhere to help the alcoholic through cooperation with professionals who are in daily contact with suffering alcoholics. These professionals play a vital role in helping the alcoholic find sobriety.

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