



# ABOUT A.A.

...a newsletter for professional men and women

December 1979

## In Memoriam

### Austin MacCormick

Austin MacCormick, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee emeritus of Alcoholics Anonymous, director of the Grapevine Corporate Board (overseers of A.A.'s monthly magazine), and member of the Grapevine Editorial Board, died on October 24. He was 86.



Former New York City Corrections Commissioner, and executive director of the Osborne Association, an organization concerned with penal reform, his work led him to a study of the problem of alcoholism and, subsequently, to an interest in A.A., which he has actively served since 1949.

His rich humor, intelligence, and broad humanity will be greatly missed by all who have had the privilege to know him.

## New A.A.-Made Movie Now Available for Professional Community

The first movie on A.A. made by A.A. itself is now available (on weekly loan or long-term lease basis) to professional agencies, programs, and people who have a direct interest in helping sick alcoholics.

"Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View" is a 28-minute 16 mm color film, produced under A.A. supervision by Karen and David Crommie, Burlingame, Calif., nonalcoholics who have won several prizes for documentary films on sensitive subjects.

Eighteen months in the making, "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View" was shot on location in many

areas of the U.S. and Canada. To avoid breaking A.A.'s Tradition of anonymity in public media, all A.A. members are filmed with subtle techniques that conceal identity, although the filming methods are so unobtrusive they are seldom noticed by viewers.

On the sound track you hear unrehearsed A.A.'s talking freely about their recovery from alcoholism in many real-life situations—at work, at dances and banquets, driving, talking to people who call A.A. for help, at A.A. meetings and informal gatherings, and more.

Although "Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View" was made for public viewing, it is being released in careful stages so that A.A. members, service offices, and committees could see it first.

A.A. World Services, Inc., retains ownership of all prints, which are, of course, protected by copyright. The \$35-per-week loan fee covers chiefly handling and shipping costs. But the film can be leased for an indefinite period for \$150.

The loan and lease agreements stipulate that the film must be used on the premises of agencies renting it and only for their own purposes. No admission fees should be charged explicitly for a screening, and TV showing is not permitted. Nor may it be copied or loaned to other agencies.

The number of prints is limited, so they are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Write us if you are interested.

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## Enclosure

A copy of Guidelines for A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field is enclosed with this bulletin.

Although Guidelines have been developed to share information within the Fellowship, non-A.A. administrators and staff of treatment centers and other facilities which employ A.A. members have indicated that they have also found the Guidelines useful

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### New A.A. Publications Available for Senior Citizens, Prison Inmates, Treatment Personnel

Three new pamphlets for specific audiences have just been published by A.A., after screening by our annual General Service Conference.

“IT SURE BEATS SITTING IN A CELL” is a heavily illustrated pamphlet prepared especially for residents of correctional facilities. At every stage of the writing, consultations were held with ex-inmates now in A.A., with corrections officials, and with incarcerated alcoholics.

Six former inmates, men and women from varying ethnic and social backgrounds, tell in graphic detail about their alcoholism, their days behind bars, and their current lives in A.A.

The pamphlet also discusses how people with a drinking problem can get help, even when locked up. Another section gives careful, practical tips on what to do during the first hours after release—often a crucial time for the problem drinker coming from a cell.

The theme of the pamphlet is how people have learned to stay out of such cells. It is illustrated with action drawings, and is written with special clarity for the benefit of those with low reading levels.

“TIME TO START LIVING” is subtitled, “Stories of Those Who Came to A.A. in Their Later Years.”

Responding to requests from many parts of North America—especially from professionals who work with older populations—this pamphlet gives the experience of five men and four women, all over 60 years old when they got sober in A.A. (some in their 70’s or 80’s).

Some retirees begin to develop drinking problems after stopping work, and the progression into serious illness is relatively speedy. More and more older people are coming to A.A. and making successful recoveries.

“A.A. IN TREATMENT CENTERS” is about helping alcoholics in hospitals, detox units, clinics, rehab centers, recovery homes, halfway houses, and other such treatment institutions.

Six officials of such agencies comment on the helpfulness of sober A.A. members to their clients. Qualifications that make an A.A. member particularly useful

in treatment facilities are given, along with a list of strongly suggested Do’s and Don’t’s—based on years of A.A. experience—for members interested in such activity.

For a sample copy of any of the three pamphlets discussed above, write to A.A. General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10017.

### New Orleans Will Host A.A.’s 45th Anniversary International Convention

July 3-6, 1980, are the dates, and New Orleans is the site for our seventh International A.A. Convention, to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the birth of A.A. in Akron, Ohio, in 1935.

At the last such convention, in 1975, over 19,000 A.A. members, their families and friends convened in Denver, Colo.

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To register and reserve housing, it is necessary to use a form available from A.A.’s General Service Office.

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The first such gala bash was in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950. Subsequent ones, every five years, were in St. Louis, Mo.; Long Beach, Calif.; Toronto, Ont.; and Miami Beach, Fla.

No “official” A.A. business of any sort is conducted at these gatherings. They are just multiple A.A. meeting days and nights, with lots of sober socializing. Twenty-one non-A.A.’s will appear on panels, speaking on topics such as How A.A. Cooperates, A.A. and the Clergy, and A.A. in Prisons.

Theme of the 1980 International is “The Joy of Living.” A mini-Mardi Gras ball and other dances are scheduled, as is an evening of professional entertainment. Members from at least 18 countries are expected.

In addition, Al-Anon Family Group and Alateen members will be having sessions of their own.

The Superdome is the location for the biggest sessions, but various hotel ballrooms will also be used.

We will be glad to see anyone who wants to come celebrate our sobriety with us.