

■ To Be Young... and Sober

Drinking is a rite of passage for many young people, but for some, it becomes a trap. The good news is that there is a way out through another, much rarer rite of passage: getting sober. Many teens and 20-somethings cannot even imagine themselves being alcoholics *because* they are so young, and the idea of going to A.A. meetings and hanging out with folks in their 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s may seem somewhat surreal. But the “spiritual malady” of alcoholism is as real for young people as it is for anyone else.

According to A.A.’s last membership survey, the number of young people currently in recovery may be small, but this group plays a huge role in attracting other young people to A.A. Getting sober presents unique challenges to anyone, but it can be especially acute for young people. But, despite their youth and the prejudices they sometimes face because of their age, young people can be especially “fearless and thorough from the very start.”

Chad is 34. He got sober when he was 16. His father was in A.A. and his mother was in Al-Anon, but it was not until he went to a drug and alcohol treatment center that he learned about the program of A.A. and the Twelve Steps. “I think young people who encounter A.A. are faced with the same exact things as everyone else: loneliness, emptiness, fear, insecurity, anger and desperation. It just might seem more intense for a young person going through adolescence because emotions are magnified, and you no longer have alcohol to take the edge off. The hardest thing about getting sober young is that you see a lot of people come and go. It’s heartbreaking watching your best friend in the program go into a dark place and disappear.”

Rachel is 31. She sobered up when she was 21 and was the first person in her family to do so. After a bad accident at 19, she went to a rehab and there attended her first twelve-step meeting. Rachel considers herself a *real* alcoholic — “and so were all my friends,” she says. Her greatest challenge was making the choice to separate from them. “I wasted too much time in self-pity writing goodbye letters.” At first, she compared instead of identified, but that eventually changed. She never expected to

make it to 21, and when she did, she was surprised to be there... and to be sober.

Niko, 20 years old and sober a little more than two years, attended his first meeting in a detox. “It was an incredibly difficult experience. I was sweating heavily; I wasn’t able to sleep the whole night. I prayed to my idea of a higher power at the time to either kill me or give me a drink.” For Niko, it was difficult to accept that he couldn’t drink when he saw so many others his age drinking the way he used to and still wanted to. He missed going to bars and parties with his college friends. “When I first started getting sober, I thought my life was over and that I would never have fun.”

As the number of young people’s meetings (YPMs) continues to grow, reaching a younger and younger range of ages, they provide a great place for young people to connect with other members they can identify with and

to end their denial as well as their concerns about being “too young for A.A.” YPMs provide compelling alternatives to “people, places, and things,” which are a young person’s whole world if they are still in school or at home, and offer a sanctuary where tattoos, piercings, multicolored hair, and a host of electronic devices are not oddities or sources of alienation but simply facts of life.

Says Chad, “I was fortunate to meet other young people in A.A. within my first week of

going to meetings. There was even a young people’s meeting that met on Friday nights. After the meeting, we would all fellowship by going out to eat, going bowling, and playing billiards or cards and board games at someone’s house.”

“I didn’t drive for the first two years,” says Rachel, “and I didn’t meet any young people. But when I started driving again, I found a meeting where I met someone exactly my age with the same time.”

“I didn’t meet another young person in A.A. for six or seven months into my sobriety,” notes Niko. “I had a friend in A.A. who knew of another young person that was a year older than me and had a few months more sober time than I did. We hit it off when we first met.”



From the Young People’s Animation video available on aa.org.

Box 4-5-9 is published quarterly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, copyright © 2018 by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Mail address: P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

G.S.O.'s A.A. Website: www.aa.org

Subscriptions: Individual, \$3.50 per year; group, \$6.00 for each unit of 10 per year. Check — made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc. — should accompany order. To have issues delivered directly to your inbox, register your email on the A.A. Digital Subscription Service on G.S.O.'s website.

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.

The International Conference of Young People in A.A. (ICYPAA) was founded in 1958 for the purpose of providing a setting for an annual celebration of sobriety among young people in the program, and it has spawned many state and citywide young people's events. ICYPAA has been described as 100 percent enthusiasm surrounded by unconditional love — a lifeline for young people getting sober.

Says Chad, "I believe A.A. has done a great job being accessible to younger people, although I think it might help if we could reach out more to local high schools, colleges and universities so that psychologists and counselors would have A.A. contact information to pass on to students with drinking problems. Maybe even a weekly meeting at educational institutions. Most young people just want to be accepted and find their tribe."

Rachel adds, "Just us being at meetings is service. And I think young people's conferences are great. My first ICYPAA experience was incredible — being in that energy and witnessing thousands of young people who were sober and having a blast."

"I think the older folks could reach out to younger people by talking to them during or after the meeting," comments Niko. "My mom used to walk me to meetings and wait outside to make sure that I would stay because I was too fearful and angry to talk to anyone. After a month, an oldtimer saw me on my phone and sat next to me during the meeting and talked to me. He planted the seed."

So, how do we reconcile the old and the new? Not just in terms of chronological age, but with respect to familiar methods versus the ways of the times in which we live? How do we best take advantage of technology and new trends while still honoring the Traditions?

Chad suggests, "It would be great to have a multi-location A.A. meeting directory app for your phone so that when you travel, you can find the closest meeting to your

current location. And maybe instead of a phone hotline, a group chat app if you need to talk to someone. As far as the Traditions... I don't know if there is a better way to explain them besides learning from a sponsor and doing service work. I'm old school like that."

"I'm a big believer in sharing energy and space," Rachel responds, "although the online meeting finder is very useful, as is being able to look up pamphlets online, a more extensive app would be great. At seven years, I hit an emotional bottom where I had to change everything, including my sponsor. That's when I learned about the Traditions and how you can apply them to your life. Young people should go to Tradition meetings or even start one."

Niko says, "I think we A.A.s can better incorporate new technology — having phone meetings, or doing what the New York Conference of Young People does: you can email them at help@nycypaa.org and ask them questions about A.A. or request that they find another young person to bring you to your first A.A. meeting."

Does age really matter when it comes to getting sober? It is said that if someone wants what you have you can't say anything wrong, and if they don't you can't say anything right. Chad feels that age does not make a difference. An old cowboy helped him a lot at A.A. meetings when he was in treatment: he went out of his way to welcome him and told him to keep coming back. Rachel relates to all people's alcoholism — their age doesn't matter to her — and Niko thinks age only matters when sharing, since his drinking time was brief, relative to other people.

Chad, Rachel and Niko echo the myriad young voices at many different A.A. meetings, their voices filled with hope and gratitude: "A.A. has given me my life back. I hope I never grow up so much that I forget that... The happiness I have found in the journey would be unimaginable to my younger self... I enjoy the face-to-face human interaction that happens at a meeting. It is such a better way to connect with people... I never heard anyone say that they didn't wish they'd gotten sober at a young age, and that's what keeps me going."

And there is one more thing. "The Big Book tells us we aren't a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in



our existence, they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life." Chad couldn't agree more. He feels an essential part of twelfth-stepping a young person is to show them how to have fun in sobriety. "Why get sober if your life is going to be a boring miserable existence? Sounds harsh, but that fear is true for all of us. To me, part of the spiritual journey in A.A. is discovering, or rediscovering, the curiosities and passions we have in life and actually pursuing them!"

There are a number of resources available from G.S.O. that are addressed to young people — pamphlets, videos

and other materials — and Grapevine routinely shares the experience, strength and hope of young members. Additionally, in the hopes of better meeting young people "where they are," the General Service Conference has recommended that the pamphlets "Young People in A.A." and "Too Young?" be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.

As these projects get underway, a visit to the video section of G.S.O.'s website (www.aa.org) can provide a taste of what it's like to be a young person in A.A. today.

■ Remote Communities in A.A.: Notes from the Field



In keeping with A.A.'s Responsibility Declaration, the need for A.A.'s service structure to pay special attention to alcoholics living in remote communities was first articulated in the 1970s with reports from A.A. members dedicated to carrying the message to some of the most far-flung places across the U.S. and Canada. A number of years later, the first formal meeting of a Remote Communities Conference took place in Toronto in 1996. Soon after, a Remote Communities meeting, comprised of a group of delegates to the General Service Conference, took place before the 1997 Conference, and at that time reviewed and recommitted to a definition of "remote communities" as "any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture and geography." It also expanded the committee to include all Conference members who wished to participate and made the decision to publish a yearly newsletter. Today, this effort has morphed into what is known as the Pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting that is held just prior to the annual General Service Conference, and has two co-chairs who create the agenda and a G.S.O. staff member who supports them.

On a Fellowship-wide basis, each area determines how best to apply the definition of "remote communities" to its specific circumstances, in several cases adapting and even translating A.A. service literature to suit their needs. The work of many area committees embodies the Remote Communities reminder: "Know that 'far' or distant does not necessarily equal remote."

With that said, in northernmost North America, issues of "far" — of geographical distance and physical access — are all too real. As noted in the most current issue of the *Remote Communities Communicator* (from which the following highlights are excerpted), Area 79 (British Columbia/Yukon) reports that many of its 800-plus groups (among 48 districts) are "only serviceable by ferry, small plane, boat and even skidoo." Area 02, Alaska, reports that it now has an active Remote Communities committee, with three telephone meetings ongoing in the Alaska bush; videoconference meetings are in discussion. Area 78 (Alberta/Northwest Territories) hosts online meetings, but notes a few challenges, including the cost of Internet service and concerns about anonymity breaches in small online communities.

In these and other area Remote Communities committees, First Nation/Native communities and reservations often present both telecommunication challenges and cultural/language barriers, in addition to being geographically remote. A 2017 highlight for Area 79 was connecting over 50 people and two First Nations communities. One of these was so isolated it only received telephone lines in the last few years (there's no cell phone or Internet access), but today it has a regular telephone meeting. Another success story was reported by Area 78, where three Tsiigehtchic people joined an online meeting through their health center and later started their own meeting.

Of course, nothing is better than alcoholics carrying the message face to face. Each year, Area 02's District 8 undertakes a trip to a remote area in Alaska, and this year they head to Kotzebue; last year's trip to Utqiagvik (Barrow) was a highlight. One New York City A.A. member recently commented to a committee member, "I thought I was going to any lengths to carry the message when I walked two blocks from my apartment to attend a meeting. I can't believe that you folks in Alaska get on airplanes to hold an A.A. meeting!" Meanwhile, Area 78's committee strives to bring remote members to area assemblies, and asks that area groups send around a second Seventh Tradition can to help fund this endeavor. The Area 80 (Manitoba) committee makes two trips a year to different remote areas. In Area 80, eight committee members attended the first annual A.A. roundup at Opaskwayak Cree Nation, which featured a sobriety dinner with over 200 in attendance and a traditional hoop dancing performance by children from the community.

Quite different distances are traveled in Area 17 (Hawaii), a "remote community of remote communities." There, each year in an event called The Crossing, Maui members travel to the far less populous islands of Lanai and Molokai and share meetings.

In Area 18 (Idaho), many struggling alcoholics in the state's rural mountain, farming and ranching communities are miles away from any town that might have a meeting. Internet service isn't reliable or even available in many of these areas, either.

Other culturally and linguistic "remote" communities abound. Area 79 contains a very large population of Asian and South Asian people, for example, and while certain groups (Punjabi, Hindi, Korean) list their meetings, other ethnicities (Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese) do not. In response, the area is building a list of members who speak these languages to reach out to those not represented. Area 17 is currently involved in outreach to the Micronesian community, in which very few A.A. members speak English; attempts are being made to have English-speaking non-members assist with translation.

Area 15 (South Florida/Bahamas/VI/Antigua) reports that in its area, "'remote' could be three blocks away if language and culture are barriers." Here, members are engaged in multiple efforts, including taking Big Books to the Bahamas and Cuba; starting meetings in Cayman

Brac (the easternmost island in the Caymans); and reaching out to migrant farm workers. They've also discovered an unlisted Russian meeting. Three districts in the area have expressed linguistic and cultural challenges connecting with the Haitian community, including anonymity concerns, due in part to the cultural stigma associated with alcoholism. The area is currently developing an area service kit with materials translated into Russian and Creole.

Because the theme of the 2018 *Remote Communities Communicator* issue was to share on the idea of "The Military as a Remote Community," several areas speak largely to this topic. Area 03 notes there are seven military bases in Arizona; however, at this time, non-military people are not allowed to bring meetings on base, in order to protect the anonymity of military personnel. The area Remote Communities coordinator is gathering information from members with ties to the military to see what support might be provided, however.

Both Areas 26 (Kentucky) and 40 (Montana) offer first-person shared experience from A.A. members of the military. The Area 26 member served in Iraq during Desert Storm and, later, in Afghanistan. He used every tool he could to stay sober, including literature, but more important were joining *LLM* and asking to be placed on a list of troops seeking support from American A.A. members. On a dark day in Baghdad, just when he was ready to drink, he says, "the miracle happened," and mail came pouring in. He added, "It is a great example of meeting adversity with serenity and doing the best we can with what we have." Likewise, upon notification that he was being deployed to Iraq, the Area 40 soldier prepared by building an A.A. email list — a "tether to sanity" that he predicted, correctly, would be critical to his recovery.

Area 87 (Southwest Quebec) also weighs in, "Our troops are in our backyards, and yet they seem so far away when we think about trying to help them recover," adding that these A.A.s are in a kind of "professional isolation." The committee member reports that in the Canadian military, soldiers are encouraged to attend A.A. meetings off base. At the moment, the Area 87 C.P.C. committee plans to collaborate with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Area 91 (Saskatchewan) describes its Remote Communities committee as at the "infant stage." Thus far, they have identified communities that are geographically and culturally remote, including shut-ins, the elderly, active and retired military, and an increased immigrant population, some from countries where it is illegal or dangerous to identify as an alcoholic.

When considering the many difficulties faced by these committees, it's reassuring to read the words of wisdom from Area 17: "Let us remember we must always look at our efforts in light of two questions: does it help the drunk and does it build unity? In reaching out to remote communities, I know I need to remember that the drunk I'm helping may, in fact, be me."

■ Two New Class B Trustees Join the General Service Board

Following their election in April at the 68th General Service Conference, the General Service Board of A.A. welcomed two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees: Jan L., of Invercairn Beach, Ontario, Eastern Canada regional trustee, and Kathi F., of Tucson, Arizona, Pacific regional trustee. While all trustees represent the Fellowship as a whole and no trustee can be said to “represent” a geographical section, these newly elected A.A. members bring extensive service experience to the board’s deliberations and an invaluable regional A.A. point of view.

Invercairn Beach, Ontario, is a tiny community (only 11 year-round residents) on the eastern shores of Lake Huron, a place with beautiful sunsets over the nearby lake and brilliant starlight at night. It represents “peace and serenity” to **Jan L.**, who has lived there since she got sober in 1991. Before getting sober, Jan “did geographical cures” all across Canada. Running out of money, she went to her mother’s home in Invercairn Beach and continued to drink, hiding her liquor in closets. One night in February, her mother told her she was going to a Tupperware party, but instead went to Al-Anon. She came home with an ultimatum: Jan needed to either attend an A.A. meeting or leave home. “She let go and let God,” Jan laughs, noting, however, that she ultimately went to a meeting.

That meeting — the Forest Lakeside Group on Monday nights — is still Jan’s home group. “I knew nothing about A.A.,” Jan says. “I just knew I had to do something. They offered me coffee and I was afraid to drink it because I was shaking so much. I said, ‘I am Jan and I guess I am an alcoholic.’” The men in the meeting — they were almost all men — treated her “like a little sister,” taking her under their wing, talking about the Steps, and helping find a woman to sponsor her.

Jan’s first service job, at a year and a half, was district secretary, and she discovered she loved doing service work. She even took the *A.A. Service Manual* to the beach to read, probably a first. “A whole new world opened up to me,” she says. Since that time, she has served as alternate G.S.R. and G.S.R.; Area 86, Western Ontario alternate delegate and delegate Panel 54 (2004–2005); and secretary and chair of the Ontario delegates committee, among other positions.

As trustee, Jan hopes to continue the work of keeping communication and information flowing to and from the rural A.A. groups in eastern Canada, as well as meeting the delegates and alternate delegates and discussing their concerns. Having a slight walking disability due to childhood polio, she is also very aware of accessibility issues.

It isn’t only Jan’s service experience that will stand her in good stead as trustee. For the past 27 years, she has worked as executive assistant for the county where she lives, providing support for three general managers. “My job involves being organized and thinking before I speak. I deal with different municipalities and people with different agendas, so you have to have tact, and you have

to smile and be positive. I don’t have time to be negative. I’ve learned through A.A. that life is good and I can live life sober. There may be bumps in the road, but it is my attitude toward those bumps that will form my journey.”

Kathi F. got sober in 1990, after a friend in Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) pointed out that Kathi’s own drinking — not that of her father — might be the real problem. Even though she wasn’t a first-time winner, she loved A.A. from her very first meeting. “I was seeking direction in my life, and I remember looking at the Steps and understanding that a way to live was outlined right there.” Plus, she loved the people she met in the rooms. “I loved hanging out with alcoholics when I was drinking, and I liked it when I was sober, too.” Kathi met her husband, Kevin, in the program — “I had the chip box and he was getting his three-year coin” — and they got engaged at a PRAASA conference in Alaska.

Kathi lives in Tucson, Arizona, which is where she got sober. As vice president and manager of a title company there, she has a busy job — chairing meetings, supervising employees, preparing reports, and the like. She has held the job since 1983; when she got sober, she added service to her crowded schedule. She started out informally, making coffee and cleaning ashtrays, but her “first real commitment was as service greeter coordinator, making sure the right greeters showed up on the right nights,” she says. She became a G.S.R. in 1995 (but “a terrible one,” she adds) and has continued to do an extraordinary amount of service work — from chairing meetings to serving as Area 3 secretary, alternate delegate and delegate, Panel 64 (2014–15). She is also the 2020 PRAASA venue contract negotiator and has been chair of the Navajo Big Book Committee, working with A.A.W.S.

Through all of these commitments (as well as the nonprofit work that she does), Kathi says, “I have learned that my primary goal is to be of service, both in A.A. and in my business life. I consider myself to be at the bottom of the triangle.” Kathi’s goal during her tenure as trustee is “to try to help A.A. members who know nothing about general service or G.S.O. or the board or Grapevine to get some knowledge of all of this. We are all connected in love and service, and members sometimes have a hard time seeing just how we need each other. I hope to shed some light on that.”

■ National A.A. Archives Workshop to Convene in Chicago

With the theme, “Principles Before Personalities,” the 22nd National A.A. Archives Workshop will take place September 28–30, hosted by Chicago Archives — Area 19. Featuring a special focus on Dr. Bob, his early years in Chicago and his connection to New York and Akron, Ohio, the workshop will also have presentations and literature from the Society of American Archivists, and local long-timers will tell their stories as part of an ongoing oral history project. For more information, contact chicagoarchives1939@gmail.com.

■ “Q” & A.A.

At the heart of the A.A. program is the act of recovering alcoholics carrying the message of A.A. to those still sick and suffering from the disease. Following the example of co-founders Bill W. and Doctor Bob, whose first meeting set in motion a movement that would impact millions of lives, the primary purpose of all A.A. members is to share their experience, strength and hope with each other to stay sober. However, alcoholics are not the only ones to carry the message. Many nonalcoholic individuals (Rev. Samuel Shoemaker, Dr. William D. Silkworth, John D. Rockefeller, Sister Ignatia, Fr. Ed Dowling, among many, many others) were instrumental in exposing future A.A. members to the program that would save their health, sanity and very lives. Through written articles and letters, personal recommendations and counseling, and hands on care-giving these benevolent friends of A.A. contributed to the formation of what is now a worldwide Fellowship. Perhaps one of the most unlikely messengers was Clinton T. Duffy, who in the 1940s and '50s was warden of San Quentin prison, a particularly harsh and brutal institution known colloquially as “the Q.”

Duffy was a man who, while heedful of his responsibility to secure his charges, offered them a new kind of freedom as well. In allowing A.A. members from the outside to carry the message inside prison walls, Warden Duffy pioneered a fledgling movement in the prison system that would change the lives of literally thousands of inmates.

Even more impressive, Duffy brought this about in 1942 when A.A. was only seven years old and untried by many standards. But he immediately realized the efficacy of one alcoholic sharing their personal tragedies and indomitable strength with another.

Duffy, considered by Bobbie B., an early staff member at the General Service Office, to be “one of the nicest people it has been our privilege to know,” soldiered through considerable opposition at the start but was adamant in his mission, observing in his book *San Quentin Story* that, “...alcohol, indeed, has been the silent instigator in an appalling number of crimes... 68 percent of the men admitted, or their records revealed, that liquor had played some part in their downfall.” He went on to say, “There continued to be committed to penal institutions a large percentage of men who, except when under the influence of liquor, were law abiding citizens, men who lost control over their actions as soon as they have taken the first drink.”

Duffy was emboldened in his quest to expand the program by attending the A.A.

meetings that were held inside the Q — by listening to the firsthand stories of men who sobered up despite being the type of alcoholics whom many health care professionals came to regard as hopeless. Duffy personally witnessed the miracles that take place in the rooms of A.A. and recognized the necessity of providing an opportunity for men, many of whom had committed their crimes under the influence of alcohol and drugs, to come to terms with that trenchant fact and take responsibility for their actions and what had become of their lives. He insured the future of the movement by creating a 35-page document (Formation of an Alcoholics Anonymous Group in Prison) that laid out in fine detail the structure of the inside meetings and the necessary links to A.A. on the outside. Duffy’s tenacity and diligence paid off — by 1946 there had been 1,164 men on the rolls, many of whom were out on parole, and 290 were active members at San Quentin.

After A.A. had become a regular part of the Q and sober members began to be released Duffy was gratified to see how low recidivism rates were for the men who had found recovery. He received letters from A.A. members and reports from parole officers who told powerful stories of ex-offenders reclaiming their lives and families and positions in the community. *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* cited that, “when the parole figures on alcoholic prisoners suddenly dropped from the usual 80 percent return to prison to a spectacular 20 percent, and held that way, skeptics everywhere were convinced.”

In the spirit of A.A.’s fundamental principle of humility, Duffy never took any real credit for what he had started, maintaining that the recovery and recidivism rates were due to the many A.A. members who gave their time freely in undertaking this special Twelfth Step work. Duffy noted “the unselfishness of the A.A.s is an inspiration not only to the inmates of the institution but to the Prison Administration as well.” However, the thousands of men and women who have gotten sober while in prison do indeed owe a debt of gratitude to Warden Duffy who made so much possible. Bill W., in response to a letter from an inmate at New Jersey State Prison in Trenton



years later, wrote, "... it touched me deeply because I know that your situation... is harder than the lot of the average alcoholic. Yet A.A. has well demonstrated that no trouble is too great, no tarnish is too deep, for the loving kindness of God to remove — if and when we are willing to do our part." Clinton T. Duffy may not have been an alcoholic or a particularly religious man, but he was certainly a godsend in his service to help lead so many to a point where they could ask for the removal of the trouble that tarnished their lives.

A.A. is not only still actively a part of life at the Q (60 plus meetings a month with sobriety dates ranging from 1 month to 25 years) but is now an integral part of prison programs around the world. With over 10 million of the world's population incarcerated and an alcoholism rate estimated to be 6.2 percent of the adult population the need is obvious to anyone and it is gratifying to know that the prison population is still benefiting from Duffy's work to this day. Since alcohol is indeed so often involved in the commission of crimes and consequent incarceration it is compelling to learn of someone's first steps toward sobriety being taken behind actual prison bars. In this way A.A. is not only a bridge back to life in the spiritual sense, but in a literal one as well.

John B. is a man who found sobriety in California's Solano State Prison. Released almost five years ago he is reclaiming his place in society, one day at a time. John had a lot of alcohol related mishaps in his youth before being convicted of second degree murder and imprisoned for 29 years. Early warnings by judges went unheeded and once incarcerated he admits using A.A. merely as a bargaining tool, a way to make points when he went up before the parole board. It took many years before John realized that, like his alcoholic parents who he never wanted to emulate, he had no choice when it came to drinking. He managed to put together five years without a drink but admits he was essentially a dry drunk who did not take the program seriously. He even achieved somewhat of a reputation as an A.A. leader who swept up new recruits in his wake on the way to meetings. By all appearances, he was untouchable. Until he drank. Until his status as the cool guy who everyone looked up to came crashing down. Until he walked into a meeting and admitted openly and honestly what he had done. It was an ego-crushing moment that brought, along with real tears, real sobriety for John. That was almost 24 years ago and he has not had a drink since.

John maintained his sobriety by working the Steps in prison with an outside sponsor, corresponding by mail and doing action steps face to face on visits. John remembers kneeling with his sponsor in the visiting room and saying the Third and Seventh Step prayers oblivious to anyone who may have questioned the unusual sight. Gone was the bravado and false pride as he truly embraced the gift he had been given. John attended a meeting the same day he was released and found his A.A. home group two days later. Aware of Clinton T. Duffy's seminal work in

bringing A.A. inside prisons, John observed that, "...he was very insightful in recognizing the untiring need of alcoholics to keep what they have."

John considers those who bring in meetings to prisons to be the thankless heroes of A.A., and is deeply grateful for their service, acknowledging, "I shouldn't even be here, but because of A.A., I am." Although he feels there is no way to repay Alcoholics Anonymous, he hopes to take advantage of a new movement in California to allow sober ex-offenders to bring meetings back inside the prisons in which they served their time. John says that the possibility of being able to join the ranks of those who carry the message inside is a great motivator for him. He wants not only to give back what was so freely given to him, but to give it back in that most improbable and difficult place — the prison where he spent three decades of his life.

New from G.S.O.:

New and Revised pamphlets:

- Women in A.A.
- A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues — and Their Sponsors
- The "God" Word: Atheist and Agnostic Members in A.A.
- LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.
- Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services

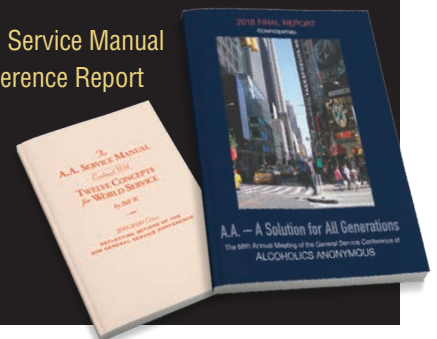


These items have new covers and are now available in English, French and Spanish:

- A.A. for the Native North American
- A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic

Also available:

- 2018-2020 A.A. Service Manual
- 2018 Final Conference Report



2020 International Convention Frequently Asked Questions

In a little less than two years — July 2-5, 2020 — the International Convention will celebrate A.A.’s 85th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan. With a theme of “Love and Tolerance Is Our Code,” A.A.s from around the world will converge on Detroit to celebrate sobriety and to share experience, strength and hope in meetings, panels and workshops at the COBO Center, the Ford Field stadium and at other locations throughout the friendly city. Members of the Fellowship are now gearing up for this wonderful event, and the General Service Office is beginning to receive inquiries. So here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the Convention.



Registration

- Q** *When will registration forms be available?*
- A** Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, central offices, intergroups and international G.S.O.s. Online registration will be available in September 2019.
- Q** *Will I be able to register online?*
- A** Yes. There will be links to registration on G.S.O.’s A.A. website, www.aa.org.
- Q** *What about on-site registration?*
- A** On-site registration will be set up at the COBO Center and will open on Wednesday morning, July 1, 2020.
- Q** *Must everyone register? I thought I didn’t have to pay to go to an A.A. event.*
- A** Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary, and, as responsible A.A. members, “we pay our own way.” The International Convention is paid for by those A.A.s who participate in it.
- Q** *How much will registration cost?*
- A** Registration fees will be established in 2019. Our objective is to keep registration as accessible as possible. For recent International Conventions, the registration was around \$100 for this special self-supporting event.
- Q** *Can travel agents register groups or individuals?*
- A** No. Payments from travel agencies to register groups or individuals will not be accepted.

Housing

- Q** *When can I reserve my hotel room?*
- A** Once you have registered for the Convention, you will be able to sign up for housing.

- Q** *Where are the main hotels?*
- A** Our Convention hotel block of over 10,000 rooms will be in five main areas, four in Michigan — downtown Detroit, Dearborn, Southfield and Romulus/Airport — and one just across the Canadian border, in Windsor, Ontario. Of those 10,000 rooms, only 3,000 are in downtown Detroit and within walking distance of the COBO Center and the Ford Field Stadium.
- Q** *Can members contact hotels directly?*
- A** No. To make the process as fair as possible, all housing requests will be processed through the Convention Housing Bureau.
- Q** *Can travel agents make room reservations?*
- A** Room reservations can only be made in an individual’s name. Rooms available through the Housing Bureau, at specially negotiated Convention rates, are not commissionable to travel agents.
- Q** *Can we request a room in the same hotel with friends?*
- A** Yes. You can reserve more than one room through the housing process as long as your friends have registered for the Convention. You will need to provide their name(s) and be prepared to pay additional deposits.
- Q** *If 50 of us are coming together from the same area, can we be in the same hotel?*
- A** We do make an effort to accommodate group housing requests. There is a separate procedure for this so we can ensure fairness while still trying to meet your needs. For information on this procedure, please contact the International Convention coordinator at G.S.O. at 2020IC@aa.org.

Transportation

Q Will local transportation be available?

A All members in housing blocked for this event will be provided with shuttle buses for a less-than-45-minute ride to the COBO Center and the Ford Field stadium. Some members will be within walking distance of the meeting venues.

Q What about special airline rates?

A As at other International Conventions, there will be special fares available. That information will be available with the August 2019 registration information mailing and on the International Convention Website.

Q Where can I find information about crossing the border into the U.S. for this event?

A For accurate, specific and up-to-date information about visas and travel into the U.S., visit the United States Department of State website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>.

If you are coming from abroad, you may need a visa. Most Canadian citizens and many citizens of countries in the United States Visa Waiver Program (VWP) do not need a visa. However, you will need a machine-readable passport valid for at least 90 days past your date of departure. The VWP countries are: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

If you do not come from a VWP country, you must obtain a nonimmigrant visa. Plan ahead; it may take six (6) months to receive a nonimmigrant visa, depending on the demand in your country.

Please note, some of our available hotels are located in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Therefore, attendees staying in Windsor will be crossing the international border at least twice a day, when coming into Detroit and when departing. While this is handled routinely, it will require you to carry your passport at all times.

Q Where do I obtain more information about the 2020 International Convention?

A More information will be available throughout 2019 and 2020 in Box 4-5-9 and on G.S.O.'s website, www.aa.org (you can use the QR code below). All necessary information will be included in the registration packet, which will be available August 2019.



G.S.O.'s website will be updated as more information becomes available. We hope to see you in Detroit to celebrate the 85th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Vacancy for Appointed Committee Member on Trustees' Literature Committee

The trustees' Literature Committee has an opening for an appointed committee member (A.C.M.). We are searching for an appropriate individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations.

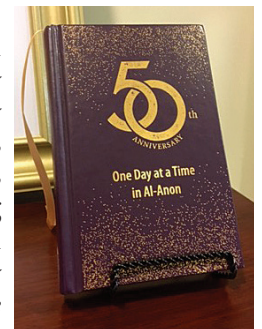
Some of the qualities most desirable for this appointed committee member opening are:

- Expertise in and/or familiarity with the use of current technology and communications tools.
- 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 annual General Service Conference. 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.
- Experience in A.A. service, and in carrying the message to the Spanish-speaking alcoholic (bilingual preferred).

In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. To obtain a résumé form for this opening, please call the Literature desk at G.S.O. (212) 870-3019, or email literature@aa.org. Résumés should be returned to the General Service Office by November 2, 2018.

Friends Forever

At the 2018 International Convention of Al-Anon Family Groups, held in Baltimore, MD, July 6-8, Al-Anon's Board of Trustees presented Alcoholics Anonymous with a proclamation reaffirming the special bond between A.A. and Al-Anon, along with a gift copy of their commemorative book *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon: 50th Anniversary*.



As noted in the proclamation, "Whereas the Al-Anon fellowship has its roots in the lifesaving program of Alcoholics Anonymous, a similar and yet separate fellowship, and whereas Alcoholics Anonymous has carved a spiritual path of living 'One Day at a Time' for Al-Anon Family Groups, and whereas the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups wishes to reaffirm the special relationship of cooperation that exists between Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous, therefore, be it resolved that the 2018 International Convention of Al-Anon Family Groups gratefully acknowledges the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon's ally and friend..."

The proclamation and the book were gratefully received and are currently on view in G.S.O.'s Archives.

■ **Reminder:**

Résumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 2019

Two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees, from the Northeast and Southwest regions, as well as the trustee-at-large/Canada, will be elected at the General Service Conference in May 2019. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2019, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new Northeast regional trustee will fill the position currently held by Richard P. of Windham, NH. The next trustee from the Southwest region will follow Yolanda F. of San Antonio, TX. The new trustee-at-large/Canada will replace Scott H. of Kamloops, British Columbia.

Please submit your candidate's résumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

■ **Openings for G.S.O. Staff Member**

G.S.O. is pleased to invite candidates to apply for two open staff positions at the General Service Office in New York. G.S.O. staff are active members of Alcoholics Anonymous who have a minimum of six years' sobriety. They are responsible for work that is specific to each of our 13 service desks, rotating to a new office and assignment every two years. Assignments include Accessibilities/Remote Communities, Communication Services, Conference, Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment, Corrections, Group Services, International, International Convention, Literature, Nominating, Public Information, Regional Forums and Staff Coordinator. Ongoing communication with A.A.s on all aspects of recovery and service is a vital part of this work. Staff also represent the General Service Office at A.A. functions throughout the U.S. and Canada and provide the primary staff support for the General Service Board and its committees and the annual General Service Conference.

Minimum qualifications include the following: excellent communication and organizational skills, good computer skills, the flexibility to travel and work flexible hours, the ability to work as a team member and independently, as well as willingness to relocate to New York City, if necessary. A.A. service knowledge and experience will also be taken into consideration. In addition, fluency in French and/or Spanish will be considered a plus for all candidates, and one position requires a bilingual candidate with excellent oral and written skills in English and Spanish.

To request an application form, contact: Staff Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163, or by email: staffapplications@aa.org. The deadline for receipt of applications is October 19, 2018.

■ **Opening for an AA Grapevine, Inc. Associate Publisher**

AA Grapevine, Inc. is pleased to invite candidates to apply for the position of Associate Publisher based in the New York office.

A qualified candidate should have successful work experience in the communications industry ranging from publications to digital departments to editorial and circulation departments. The candidate needs to be well-versed in all aspects of multi-media publishing.

The position reports to and provides management support for the Executive Editor/Publisher. The Associate Publisher will play a hands-on role in all aspects of working with staff and vendors, will engage in ongoing communication with the Fellowship and will represent AA Grapevine, Inc. at A.A. functions throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Qualifications include the following: A Bachelor's degree, excellent communication and organizational skills, the ability to work independently and with a team. The candidate should be an active A.A. member with a minimum of 6 years of sobriety. A.A. service knowledge and experience will be taken into consideration. Must be willing to travel, work flexible hours and relocate to New York City, if necessary. Fluency in English and Spanish is required.

Please forward cover letter and resumes to: resumes@aagrapevine.org. The deadline for submission of resumes is: October 15, 2018.



**WE
WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU!**

Your input is invited for the
**2018 Grapevine and La Viña
Online Fellowship
Feedback Project**

Visit www.aagrapevine.org
for more details beginning
September 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.**

September

- 1-2—*Rivière-au-Renard, Quebec, Canada.* Mini Congress Write: Ch., 10 Rue Tremblay, CP. 2969, Rivière-au-Renard, QC GUX 5J1
- 7-8—*Lévis, Québec, Canada.* Congrès de Lévis. Write: Ch. CP 46059, Lévis, QC G6V 8S3; www.aa89.org
- 7-9—*San Jose, California.* Pacific Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org
- 7-9—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada.* 52nd Dunnville Conv. & Campout. Write: Ch., Box 76, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0; dunnvilleconvention@outlook.com
- 14-15—*Salamanca, New York.* Day of Learning. Info: nypennintergroupoct2014@gmail.com
- 14-15—*Sainte-Ursule, Quebec, Canada.* 38 ième Congrès. Write: Ch., 215 Lessard, Ste-Ursule, QC J0K 3M0; www.aa-quebec.org/region89
- 14-16—*Mountain Home, Arkansas.* Autumn In The Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 1166, Mountain Home, AR 72653; aacoar@gmail.com
- 14-16—*Taos, New Mexico.* 35th Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch. Box 750, El Prado, NM 87529; www.taosmountainfiesta.org
- 14-16—*Round Rock, Texas.* Nat'l Tech Workshop. Write: Ch. Box 528, Georgetown, TX 78627; www.naatw.org
- 14-16—*Wausau, Wisconsin.* Area 74 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 455, Wausau, WI 54402; www.aawausauwi.org
- 14-16—*Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.* 20e Congrès de Gatineau. Info: congress22@aa90.org
- 21-22—*Duluth, Minnesota.* 73rd Duluth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816; www.duluthroundup.org
- 21-22—*Agassiz, British Columbia, Canada.* Upper Fraser Valley Rally. Write: Ch., Box 134, Chilliwack, BC V2P 2M9; events45aa@outlook.com
- 21-23—*Rancho Mirage, California.* South CA Conv. Write: Ch., 510 S. 2nd Ave, #10, Covina, CA 91723; www.aasocal.com

- 21-23—*Houston, Texas.* SETA Correctional Facilities Conf. Write: Ch., Box 925241, Houston, TX 77292; www.2018setacfconference.org
- 28-30—*Crescent City, California.* Sobriety by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531; www.sobrietybythesea.com
- 28-30—*San Diego, California.* 44th Woman to Woman SD Conf. Info: www.womantowomansandiego.com
- 28-30—*Sterling Heights, Michigan.* Tri-County Conf. Write: Ch. Box 4324, Troy, MI 48099; www.tri-countyconference.org
- 28-30—*Somerset, New Jersey.* 62nd Area 44 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 404, West Orange, NJ 07052; www.nnjaa.org/convention/2018/
- 28-30—*Grosseto-Prugna, Corse, France.* 2ème Conv. Int'l Francophone. Écrire: aa.conventioncorse2018@laposte.net

October

- 5-6—*Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada.* 48e Congrès de Sherbrooke. Info: www.aa-quebec.org/region88
- 5-7—*Santa Maria, California.* 52nd Central Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1892, Santa Maria, CA 93456; www.centralcoastroundup.org
- 5-7—*Richland, Washington.* Three Rivers Big Book Weekend. Write: Ch., 3019 Duportail St. #108, Richland, WA 99352; www.threeriversbigbookweekend.org
- 5-7—*Martinsburg, West Virginia.* Area 73 Fall Assembly. Info: www.aawv.org
- 5-7—*Weston, West Virginia.* Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302; www.jacksonsmillroundup.com

- 6-7—*Kalispell, Montana.* 24th Fall Refresher. Write: Ch., Box 8242, Kalispell, MT 59904; www.aanwmt.org
- 12-14—*Boxborough, Massachusetts.* Woman to Woman NE Conf. Write: Ch., Box 259, Bellingham, MA 02019; www.womantowomannewengland.org
- 12-14—*Sparks, Nevada.* Sierra NV Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5874, Sparks, NV 89432
- 12-14—*Rapid City, South Dakota.* Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1382, Rapid City, SD 57709; 2018area63fallconf@gmail.com
- 12-14—*Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada.* Area 82 Assembly & Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 642, Corner Brook, NL A2H 6G1; cornerbrookaa@outlook.com
- 12-14—*Biarritz, France.* Biarritz Internat'l Conv. Info: www.aaconventionbiarritz.com
- 17-21—*Tossa de Mar, Catalonia, Spain.* Costa Brava Internat'l English Speaking Conv. Info: www.costabravaconvention.com
- 19-21—*Perrysburg, Ohio.* Holy Toledo Conf. Write: Ch., Box 135, Glenshaw, PA 15116; www.holytoledoconference.com
- 19-21—*Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico.* 25th Rocky Point Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 10756, Glendale, AZ 85318; www.rockypointroundup.org
- 26-27—*St. Cloud, Minnesota.* St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302; www.stcloudroundup.org
- 26-28—*Quincy, Illinois.* MS Valley Reg. Conf. Info: mvrctristate@gmail.com
- 26-28—*Gilbertville, Kentucky.* 58th Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3214, Paducah, KY 42002; www.tristateconvention2018.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 EMAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: _____ NAME _____ PHONE # AND EMAIL _____

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

26-28—*Branson, Missouri*. Colors of Fall. Info: www.wamo-aa.org

26-28—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 78th Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6, Bovard, PA 15619

26-28—*Bellingham, Washington*. Mt. Baker Roundup. Write: Ch., 910 14th St., Bellingham, WA, 98225; www.mtbaker-roundup.org

November

1-4—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. 57th Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96834; www.annualhawaiiiconvention.com

1-4—*Long Branch, New Jersey*. 8th Jersey Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., 3 Ashford Ct., Spring Lake, NJ 07762; www.jerseyshoreroundup.com

1-4—*Kampala, Uganda*. Uganda Conv. Write: Ch., Box 16116 Wandegeya, Kampala, Uganda. aaconventionug18@gmail.com

2-4—*Lake Havasu City, Arizona*. Lake Havasu City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1692, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405; <http://havasuaa.org>

2-4—*Fort Smith, Arkansas*. Border City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5800, Ft. Smith, AR 72913

2-4—*South Portland, Maine*. Nat'l Corrections Conf. Write: Ch., Box 125, Bath, ME 04530; www.2018nationalcorrectionsconference.org

2-4—*Cheektowaga, New York*. 77th Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., 17 Gierlach Street, Sloan, NY 14212; www.buffaloaaany.org

2-4—*White Plains, New York*. NE Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 210341, Woodhaven, NY 11421; new2w2018@gmail.com

2-4—*Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*. E. PA Gen. Svc Conv. Info: convention@area59aa.org

2-4—*Bee Cave, Texas*. Area 68 Fall Voting Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 170232, Austin, TX 78727; www.district3b3c.org

2-4—*Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*. Area 75 Conf. Write: Ch., Box 14171, Madison, WI 53704; www.eventbrite.com

2-4—*Repentigny, Québec, Canada*. 36eme Congrès de Repentigny. Info: infopubliqueaa90.08.18@gmail.com

9-10—*Houma, Louisiana*. 38th Bayouland Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2251, Houma, LA 70361; www.thebayoulandjamboree.org

9-10—*Cornwall, Ontario, Canada*. 71st Cornwall & Area Dist. 50 Conf. Info: cornwallaaconference@yahoo.com

9-10—*Dubai, United Arab Emirates*. MERCAA Conv. Info: www.mercaa.com

9-11—*Texarkana, Arkansas*. Texarkana Conv. Info: <https://12x12x12.org>

9-11—*Laredo, Texas*. XX Asambleá Hispana Zona Sur De TX. Write: Ch., 1719 Guadalupe St., PMB 028, Laredo, TX 78043

9-11—*Ocean Shores, Washington*. Ocean Shores Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 995, Ocean Shores, WA 98569; www.oceanshoresjamboree.com

16-18—*Ardmore, Oklahoma*. 35th Red River Valley Rally. Write: 14192 Little Rd., Kingston, OK 73439; www.redrivervalleyrally.com

16-18—*Sterling, Virginia*. Southeast Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; regionalforums@aa.org

22-25—*Las Vegas, Nevada*. LV Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 14743, Las Vegas, NV 89114; www.lvroundup.org

23-25—*Oxnard, California*. XX Congreso de Condado de Ventura y Santa Barbara. Write: Ch., 1315 W. Gonzalez Rd., Ste J., Oxnard, CA 93036; congreso@aacondadodeventura.org

23-25—*Naples, Florida*. Gratitude in Action. Write: Ch., 12435 Collier Blvd., Ste. 107 Naples, FL 34116; www.serenityclubswfl.org

23-25—*Grand Rapids, Michigan*. 40th MCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 140033, Grands Rapids, MI 49514; www.mcpaa.org

23-25—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Founder's Day Wknd. Write: Ch., Box 8327, Minneapolis, MN 55408; www.foundersdaymn.org

23-25—*Gulfport, Mississippi*. Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., 19021 Commission Rd., Long Beach, MS 39560; www.aagulfcoast.org

December

7-9—*Birmingham, Alabama*. Magic City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 55103, Birmingham, AL 35255; www.magiccityroundup.com

January 2019

3-6—*Boise, Idaho*. WACYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 191037, Boise, ID 83719; www.wacypaaxxi.org

11-13—*Ormond Beach, Florida*. Big Book Comes Alive. Info: bbcaormond@yahoo.com

11-13—*Skokie, Illinois*. We are not Saints Conv. Write: Ch., Box 409300, Chicago, IL 60640; www.wearenotsaints.com

17-20—*Raleigh, North Carolina*. Tar Heel Mid-Winter Conf. Write: Ch., Box 18412, Raleigh, NC 27619-8412; www.tarheelmidwinter.org

18-20—*Bismarck, North Dakota*. 5th Rule 62 Rendezvous. Ch. Box 71, Bismarck, ND 58502; www.rule62rendezvous.org

25-27—*Boston, Massachusetts*. Freedom Trail Conf. Info: <http://2019freedomtrailconference.eventzilla.net>

25-27—*Fairmont, Minnesota*. Recovery Unity & Svc Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2812, Minneapolis, MN 55402; rusc@area36.org

25-27—*Hilton Head Island, South Carolina*. 39th Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6256, Hilton Head, SC 29938; www.hiltonheadmidwinterconference.com

25-27—*Costa Teguse, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain*. 10th Internat'l English Conv. Info: www.aalanzarote.com

February 2019

1-3—*Tampa, Florida*. Pockets of Enthusiasm. Write: Ch., 12435 Collier Blvd., Ste. 107 Naples, FL 34116; www.serenityclubswfl.org

7-10—*Los Angeles, California*. 55th Internat'l Women's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 82570, Los Angeles, CA 90082. www.internationalwomensconference.org

■ New Grapevine Publication

One Big Tent

Atheists, agnostics, nonbelievers and secular alcoholics have been members of the AA Fellowship since its earliest days, making significant contributions to the development of the program, helping to swing the doors of AA ever-wider. But finding their path has not always been easy. This is a collection of stories, originally published in Grapevine, which represent the shared experience of secular AA members who have struggled with alcoholism, yet ultimately found a common solution in AA. These members share how they found their place in AA, work the program, do service and sponsor others.

To order this book or any other product from our collection, visit us at AAGrapevine.org and click on Store or call (800) 631-6025 US/Canada, (818) 487-2091 International, or fax us at (818) 487-4550. Price: \$11.50, \$10.99 for five or more copies. (GV39)

