



# AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

VOLUME 3

Published by General Service Office of A.A., P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17

NUMBER 7

## G. S. O. OFFERS 'LITERATURE PACKAGES'

### Overseas Growth Reflects Progress And Maturity

A.A. is "coming of age" overseas as well as in the U. S. and Canada, judging from letters received recently at G.S.O. from correspondents around the globe.

"We are making history here," writes the secretary of the Central Service Office in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Sheena B.'s enthusiasm stems from the fact that members in that Area recently approved a new constitution which allows for "greatly increased" expansion of A.A.'s service structure there.

The A.A. Service Council in N.S.W. now includes two "Delegates" from each of the nearly 140 groups in the Area. In 1952 there were only 12 groups.

From Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, also comes news of progress. Melbourne A.A.s recently opened a new Central Office at 327 Collins Street, in the heart of the City.

In Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the movement recently demonstrated its maturity. A newspaper report of a police court case had the effect of giving A.A. "a bit of a black  
(Continued on Page 4)

#### NEW IN A. A.

New registrations at G. S. O. during May:

- 91 Local groups
- 4 Clubs
- 1 Intergroup facility
- 15 Lone Members
- 2 Prison groups
- 5 Hospital groups
- 3 Internationalists (seamen)

### Literature Discount Packages

Package #1 (63 pamphlets worth \$8.52) \$7.50

ITEM	Number of Copies	Regular Group Price
This Is A. A.	7	\$ .70
A. A.—44 Questions and Answers	8	1.20
Is A. A. For You?	6	.30
Young People and A. A.	5	.75
A. A. Tradition—How it Developed	2	.30
Sponsorship	2	.20
Alcoholism the Illness	5	.75
The Alcoholic Husband	4	.40
The Alcoholic Wife	2	.20
The Alcoholic Employee	2	.30
A. A. and the Medical Profession	2	.30
Sedatives and the Alcoholic	2	.30
Saturday Evening Post Reprint	2	.20
Fortune Reprint	2	.20
Good Housekeeping Reprint	2	.20
Partners in A. A.	5	1.00
The Third Legacy Manual	1	.35
Helpful Ally	2	.06
Structure and Services of A.A.	2	.06

Package #2 (four books worth \$14.00) \$13.00

Alcoholics Anonymous	2	8.00
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions	1	2.50
A. A. Comes of Age	1	3.50

Package #3 (combination of #1 and #2) \$20.00

### 'A. A. COMES OF AGE' POPULAR WITH MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS

Less than a year after publication, Bill's latest book, *A.A. Comes of Age*, seems firmly established as one of the basic pieces of movement literature, with substantial appeal to readers outside the Fellowship.

Interest in the book, which offers the only authoritative history of A.A.'s birth, growth and development, is evidenced by favorable reviews reaching G.S.O., by the number of groups re-ordering copies and by "outside" requests for permission to reprint excerpts or to reproduce photographs con-

tained in the book. Such requests are generally granted, provided due credit is given. A local television show recently used pictures from the book.

A number of groups have purchased the book for placement in local public libraries and as gifts to prison groups, whose interest in this history of A.A. is reflected in many letters to G.S.O.

Please Note  
'Grapevine' Folder  
Accompanying  
This Bulletin

### Discount Rates Now Available For Many Items

Availability of three special "literature packages" providing discounts up to 16 percent on list prices was announced late last month by A.A. Publishing, Inc.

Package #1 provides an \$8.52 assortment of 19 different pamphlets for \$7.00. (Discount: 16 per cent.)

Package #2 provides two copies of the *Big Book* and one copy each of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and *A.A. Comes of Age*, with a total group price of \$14, for \$13. (Discount: 7 per cent.)

Package #3 is a combination of #1 and #2. It offers literature with a total value of \$22.52 for only \$20. (Discount: 11 per cent.)

This new venture was approved by the recent General Service Conference as a means of making it possible for local groups to offer their members a maximum variety of A.A. literature at minimum cost.

The titles and specific number of copies of each pamphlet offered in Package #1 are shown in the adjoining box. A total of 63 pamphlets are offered

INDIVIDUAL

"BULLETIN"

SUBSCRIPTIONS

NOW AVAILABLE

\$1.00 A YEAR

## THE A. A. EXCHANGE BULLETIN

Published monthly by General Service Office of A. A., P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y.

G. S. O. Staff Editors: Jane (Group Relations, Internationalists), Ann (Hospitals, Prisons), Eve (Public Information), Hazel (Conference), Anita (Group Relations), Lyb (Groups, Loners outside U. S. & Canada).

## Literature Service

G.S.O. Literature service is the theme of this issue of the *Exchange Bulletin*. It might be described as one of "major" services provided by the Office, involving distribution of more than half a million copies of various pamphlets and brochures each year, exclusive of more than 300,000 copies of the *Bulletin* itself.

The full-page box on the facing page shows the scope of the book and pamphlet literature which has been approved by the movement through the General Service Conference. This listing, reproduced at approximately 18-month intervals for the information of the groups is particularly timely now. For the Conference, at its eighth meeting in April, authorized G.S.O. to offer the special "literature packages" described on page one.

Bill's three texts, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and *A. A. Comes of Age*, are, of course, the most important items in the Fellowship's literature

Nearly all of the pamphlets represent refinements or condensations of the texts to meet specific needs expressed by the groups themselves. The result is that no member, newcomer or "outsider" can fail to find relatively inexpensive approved literature that describes the movement and answers questions most frequently asked.

Who decides when a new item should be issued? The movement itself makes this decision, through the Conference. Usually this decision has been preceded by a number of requests from groups and by a careful study of needs by G.S.O. (Occasionally the Conference will reject or defer approval for a new pamphlet when the proposal is first presented to it. At times, the Conference itself will recommend that a special item be issued. Or that an existing item be dropped.)

All literature goes through several drafts and is reviewed by the G.S.C. literature committee and by other experienced members.

In the U. S., Canada and around the world, the literature itemized on the next page is the quiet voice of A.A., reminding all alcoholics that there is indeed a constructive way out of their dilemma.

## G. S. C. Delegates Carry Story To Grass Roots

Jim O., Washington State Delegate, writes that he is planning to report on the Conference at a big meeting in Spokane July 19th.

N. E. Ohio Delegate Howard B. prepared a 700-word Conference report for the May issue of the *Central Bulletin* circulating in his Area.

Dan G., Eastern Michigan, reproduced portions of the G.S.O. "Conference Digest" for presentation at group meetings.

Georgia Delegate Louis M. scheduled his report to the State Committee on June 29th. Louis also had a report for the Tri-State meeting in Albany, Georgia, May 24th.

Kansas Delegate V. D. B. made his report to about 800 persons, including a blind A.A. with a guide dog, at Kansas City May 18th.

Two of the three former Maryland Delegates were present when Clarence M. reported to his State Committee on May 9th.

Ruben J., Oklahoma, and Jim W., Colorado, reported jointly at the Northeast District meeting at Tulsa the first week in June.

Bess H., Quebec, Canada, gave a bilingual report at the annual A.A. French Banquet late in May. Bess spoke in both English and French.

"New Mexico A.A. has come of age," Joe L. reports, following that State's first Conference which followed Third Legacy Manual recommendations all the way.

## A. A. CALENDAR

### JULY

18-20—2ND ANNUAL OHIO STATE CONFERENCE—Commodore Perry Hotel, Toledo

—FEDERATION OF THE RHODESIAS & NYASALAND—Bulawayo

### AUGUST

1-3 —18TH ANNUAL ARKANSAS CONFERENCE—Marlon Hotel, Little Rock

21-23—STATE & SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE—Asheville, N. C.

30-1 —6TH EUROPEAN ROUND-UP—Wiesbaden, Germany (Contact: Postamt No. 1., Box 3267, Frankfurt/Main, Germany)

30-1 —11TH NW. CONVENTION—Florence Hotel, Missoula (Contact: P. O. Box 638 Missoula)

### SEPTEMBER

5-6-7—COOKS FOREST, PA.—(Contact Pittsburgh Central Office)

27-28—MICHIGAN STATE CONFERENCE—(Contact: P. O. Box 35, Flat Rock, Michigan)

27—ANNIVERSARY MEETING—The Hague, Holland

### OCTOBER

11-12—MISSOURI STATE CONFERENCE—St. Louis, Mo.

10-12—5TH GEORGIA STATE CONVENTION—Buo Air Hotel, Augusta (Contact: P. O. Box 3454 Augusta)

18-19—9TH STATE CONVENTION—Hi Way House Motel, Phoenix

## NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Montana's G.S.C. Delegate, George W., reports a successful State meeting at Harve, with about 100 present . . . The Laurel City Group, Winsted, Connecticut, says the new pamphlet, *Partners in A.A.*, is helpful. "It clarified many points, Secretary Morton H. writes . . . Emma K., of Butte, oldest woman member in Montana, marked her 10th anniversary with a \$10. Birthday Plan contribution to support A.A.'s world services.

Interesting group names noted recently: "Sun and Surf" (Rockaway, N. Y.). . . "Turf" (meets at Belmont Raceway, N. Y.). . . "K-Holics", (Tacoma, Washington). . . "Key to Happiness" (Los Angeles).

### SUBSCRIBERS

Rib Mountain Group, Wausau, Wisconsin, joins list of those ordering *Bulletin* subscriptions for all members . . .

Apologies to the Pioneer Group, Abilene, Texas. It has 75 members, not the 15 listed in the '58 World Directory . . . Thanks to Grace T., Elkart, Indiana, for her note saying how delighted she was to learn that the gal staff members at G.S.O. are really alcoholic . . .

Delegate Paul B.'s report was a feature of the Wyoming State Convention May 10-11 at Worland.

Earl P., Western Missouri, delivered G. S. C. reports at Sedalia (May 11) and Sikeston (May 31). A joint State Conference of Missouri Areas is scheduled for October 11-12 at St. Louis.

Cec C., Saskatchewan, Canada, has made reports at meeting in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Weyburn, North Battleford and Gravelborg.

### 'MITE' BOX

The Shilo Group, Manitoba, Canada, also has adopted a special "mite box" plan . . . The first four months netted \$11.37 from the nine members "and we have eight months to go," notes George S.

### WELSH, ANYONE ?

Attention all Welsh-speaking (and writing) members in the U. S. A.! W. I. J. of Bangor, Cairns, Wales, who used to visit America as a drinking merchant mariner, would like to correspond with members anywhere in the States . . . G.S.O. will forward letters.

We note with deep sorrow the passing of Adam Capeling of Toronto, one of Canada's first two Conference Delegates and its first member on the Board of Trustees. His contribution to the entire movement was immeasurable and will be long remembered.

# G. S. O. Literature & Special Items

		I T E M	PRICE TO GROUPS	RETAIL PRICE	
B O O K S		ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (The Big Book), New, Revised Edition. *50 cents of the Price to Groups, \$4.00, is earmarked for A. A.'s Reserve Fund for World Services.	* \$4.00	\$4.50	
		TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS (Book on A. A. Principles by Bill W.) *25 cents of Price to Groups, \$2.50, is earmarked for A. A.'s Reserve Fund for World Services.	* \$2.50	\$2.75	
		A. A. COMES OF AGE (Bill's Story of A.A.'s Birth, Growth and Development) *50 cents of Price to Groups, \$3.50, is earmarked for A. A.'s Reserve Fund for World Services.	* \$3.50	\$4.00	
		THIS IS A. A. (Pocket-size introduction to A. A.)		.10	
		A. A.—44 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Answers to key questions)		.15	
		IS A. A. FOR YOU? (Twelve searching, enlightening questions)		.05	
		PARTNERS IN A. A. (The individual's relationships)		.20	
		YOUNG PEOPLE AND A. A. (Youth's stake in the recovery program)		.15	
		A. A. FOR THE WOMAN (Personal stories from woman's angle)		.15	
		A. A. TRADITION—HOW IT DEVELOPED (By Bill W.)		.15	
		Q. & A. ON SPONSORSHIP (Helping newcomers achieve sobriety)		.10	
P A M P H L E T S		ALCOHOLISM THE ILLNESS (Two notable addresses by Bill W.)		.15	
		THE ALCOHOLIC HUSBAND (A message to wives)		.10	
		THE ALCOHOLIC WIFE (A message to husbands)		.10	
		THE ALCOHOLIC EMPLOYEE (Helping employers understand A. A.)		.15	
		A. A. AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION (An up-to-date survey)		.15	
		A. A.—HELPFUL ALLY IN COPING WITH ALCOHOLISM		.03	
		SEDATIVES AND THE ALCOHOLIC (Misuse of medication)		.15	
		SATURDAY EVENING POST REPRINT (1941) (An "historic" article)		.10	
		FORTUNE REPRINT—A. A. (Comment by a distinguished magazine)		.10	
		GOOD HOUSEKEEPING REPRINT ("Letter to a Woman Alcoholic")		.10	
			Three pamphlets below are available in Finnish, French, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish & Swedish. Check quantity in appropriate box.		
			A. A. TRADITION (By Bill W.): (Fi ) (Fr ) (N ) (P ) (Sp ) (Sw )		.25
		A. A.—44 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: (Fi ) (Fr ) (N ) (P ) (Sp ) (Sw )		.15	
		FORTUNE REPRINT—A. A.: (Fi ) (Fr ) (N ) (P ) (Sp ) (Sw )		.10	
		The Third Legacy Manual		\$ .35	
		Structure & Services of A. A. (How service agencies function)		.03	
S P E C I A L		Wallet Cards (Steps & Traditions) plastic coated, 2 in. x 3½ in.. per 100		3.50	
		Wallet Cards (Serenity Prayer) plastic coated, 2 in. x 3½ in.. per 100		3.50	
		Twelve Steps, parchment paper for framing, 8½ in. x 12 in.		1.25	
		Twelve Traditions, parchment paper for framing, 8½ in. x 12 in.		1.25	
		Serenity Prayer, parchment paper for framing, 8½ in. x 12 in.		1.25	
		1 Set of the 3 parchment papers, listed above		3.50	
		Lasker Award Citation, fine paper replica, 21¼ in. x 14½ in.		2.50	

## Canadians Join In McNeil Party

The 10th Anniversary celebration of the A.A. group at McNeil Island (Washington) Federal Prison was literally an international affair, according to G.S.C. Delegate Jim O. who attended the special meeting.

A.A.s from many sections of the U. S. Northwest and Canadian British Columbia were present, including ten women guests who were A.A. members or members of Al-Anon Family Groups.

### 12TH STEP

Members of the Medical Facility A. A. Group, Vacaville, California, are "enjoying real Twelfth Step work," Dave B., reports. A new Reception Guidance Center has been activated adjacent to the Facility and a group of five or six A.A. members from C.M.F. are allowed to conduct meetings at the Center on Sunday afternoons. The new project has proved helpful to men in both institutions, Dave writes.

### DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Cedar Rapids, Iowa—"Original Group" should be credited with \$235, not \$135. (\$100 was erroneously credited to "Cedar Falls Group.")

Watertown, Wisconsin—"Watertown Group" contributed \$10, mistakenly credited to Lower in Waterloo.

Wilowbrook, Calif.—"Everybodys Group" contributed \$110.

San Jose, Calif.—"Willowbrook Group" contributed \$20, not \$80.

Yorktown, N. Y.—"Yorktown Group" contributed \$30, erroneously credited to "Yonkers Group."

Indianapolis, Indiana—"Doherty Sheerin Memorial Breakfast Group" contributed \$100, not \$10.

Onaga, Kansas—"Onaga Group" contributed \$30.

Olathe, Kansas—"Olathe Group" should be credited with \$69, which was credited to "Newton Group."

Concordia, Kansas—"Concordia Group's" \$40 contribution was omitted.

Long Island City, N. Y.—Credit "Astoria Group" with \$64 which was credited to "Crescent Group," Astoria, N. Y.

(Continued from Page 1)

eye." The Brisbane Central Office carefully avoided becoming involved in controversy. Instead, arrangements were made for Queensland's largest daily paper to carry a series of three prominently-featured articles describing A.A.

From Brussels, Belgium, site of the famous Fair, Helene C. writes that the club set up for visitors has been forced to move. The new location had not yet been selected but visitors who seek out the old address (#50 rue de Ligne) will find a sign directing them to an A.A. contact.

Don B. secretary of the Paris, France, Group, visited the Fair early last month. "Do pass the word around that the Paris Group will welcome all visitors and do everything possible to help them during their stay in Paris," Don writes.

Growth is also reported from Baden-Baden, Germany, where the Albatross Group of the Royal Canadian Air Force unit

now lists an even dozen members.

Sandy S., secretary, writes that the commanding officer has made available two rooms (completely furnished) as group headquarters. The group has weekly closed meetings on Wednesday and an open meeting once a month.

Glowing reports of the A.A. Convention in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in April, have been received from Harold H., who drove 623 miles, dawn to dusk, from Durban to attend the meeting. Progress is being made in translating the *Big Book* into Afrikaans and translation of other A.A. material into Zulu is pending, Harold reports.

A.A. now has a "permanent" Lone Member in Singapore, Malaya. He is Dick D., who first learned of A.A. through David M. on one of the latter's visits to the city. Through Dick, a Singapore doctor has become interested in the A.A. program.

## QUERIES FROM GROUPS COVER BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS

Exchange of group experience is the key to growth and stability in A.A. Following are some typical queries presented to G. S.O. recently, each answered in the light of overall A.A. experience:

*Some members in our Area feel that the salary of the secretary in our Intergroup Office should not be raised by the Service Committee without consulting representatives of Area groups, or the members themselves. Is this viewpoint correct?*

In general practice, Service Committees are granted full responsibility for handling the "business affairs" of an Intergroup office. As elected representatives of the groups they would thus appear to be within the scope of their duties in exercising their best judgement on such matters as office salaries. However since group support

is essential to maintenance of an office, most committees are sensitive to majority wishes in such matters.

*Psychiatric treatment has helped me greatly to achieve happy sobriety in A.A. But most of the members of my group have cussed, me scolded me and given me just plain b--- for going to the clinic. They say it is an insult to A. A. Am I doing wrong?*

Of course not. Experience shows that it is not unusual for members to seek psychiatric help after they become sober. The pamphlet, *A.A. and the Medical Profession*, expresses a common viewpoint: "It would be unrealistic to suggest that the A.A. program is the only answer for the man or woman with a drinking problem—the only agency to which doctors can turn for help in individual cases . . ."

## 'Interest Group' Helps In Tampa

The DeSoto (Florida) Group has been helpful in guiding, counseling and conducting meetings of a distinctive group at the Southwest Florida Tuberculosis Hospital in Tampa, Peter Halpin, Social Service Director at the Hospital, reports.

The hospital unit is classified as an "interest group," meaning that about 50 per cent of the patients who attend prefer to regard themselves as individuals "interested in A.A. but not from the standpoint of their having a problem concerning alcohol."

Actually, Mr. Halpin points out, this 50 per cent has been the "mainstay" of the group since they attend all meetings while those with an acknowledged alcoholic problem do not attend regularly.

Recently more patients with a known drinking problem have been taking an active part in meetings. A number of patients who have pass privileges have attended closed meetings in the Tampa area with their A.A. sponsors.

"From first-hand experience, I can state that 'A.A. works, I've seen it here,'" Mr. Halpin concludes.

### LONER

Dick P. writes from Chuquicamats, Chile, to say that correspondence from G.S.O. has been a big factor in eight years of "happy sobriety." During that period Dick has been working for a company that had fired him three years earlier for reasons of "health."

### INTERNATIONALIST

"I have been attending meetings ashore and carrying the message on ship in my own way but now I realize how much I need to correspond with other Internationalist A.A.s though I am sober and reasonably happy." Sam G. says in a brisk note to G.S.O.