



AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

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“THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART”

“The Road Back,” American edition of Joseph Kessel’s book, “Avec les Alcooliques Anonymes,” was published last month by Random House—Knopf. Based on his series of twenty articles on A.A. which had appeared in 1960 in “France Soir,” a leading French daily newspaper, M. Kessel’s book was published in France the following year. It was an immediate best seller and was translated into English, Spanish and German. The English translation has also been published in Great Britain.

M. Kessel first became interested in A. A. when one of his friends joined and stayed sober. During a trip to New York in 1959, he visited G.S.O. to find out about A.A. at first hand. Bill W. and several Staff members and Trustees talked to him at length. The Staff at the New York Intergroup Office and local A.A.’s also cooperated to help him see what went on “inside A.A.” M. Kessel then went home to France to write the series for “France Soir.” He thus became the courier of the A.A. message to Frenchmen as Jack Alexander had been to Americans back in 1941 with his historic “Saturday Evening Post” article.

G.S.O. is now in touch with five French A.A. groups in France. The Paris Group has more than a hundred members. From the German Group in Karlsruhe, too, we understand the Kessel book’s German edition is bringing in new members there. And in Spain and South America the Spanish edition is bringing us inquiries.

As this Bulletin goes to press we hear that Joseph Kessel will shortly pay us another visit at G.S.O. It will be good to see him and say “Thanks.”

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TRADE COUNCIL ELECTS A.A. TRUSTEE

L. Ivan Underwood of Republic Steel Corporation, and a nonalcoholic Trustee of the General Service Board, has been elected a Director of the National Foreign Trade Council.

Set up in 1914 as a nonprofit, nonpolitical association, the Council is composed of executives of com-

This issue introduces the “Exchange Bulletin’s” new type style. Besides being easier to read, the “Bulletin” will now have considerably more news space. We hope you like it.

panies that are engaged in international trade. With its experience of nearly half a century, National Foreign Trade Council now speaks with a voice of authority on such matters as the over-all policy and techniques of American business in its conduct of world trade.

There are few areas in the world where Mr. Underwood’s travels do not take him. Speaking French and Spanish fluently, he makes a practice of visiting A.A. in those countries where these languages are spoken. He has done much to establish communications between overseas A.A. and G.S.O., and we are fortunate to have his devotion to the Fellowship.

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A REPORT ON THE BIRTHDAY PLAN

After reading about the Birthday Plan in the “Exchange Bulletin” last June, Al, the G.S.R. of the Bethlehem, Pa. Group, suggested that they try it. The Group agreed and letters were sent out to 100 members, inactive as well as active. Enclosed with the letter was the G.S.O. leaflet, “What Happens When You Put \$3 in the Hat for G.S.O.” Seventy-four of the hundred replied. The Group’s 1961 contribution was \$686, an increase of \$232 over that of 1960.

Al writes: “Maybe other groups might use such a letter to boost their regular contributions.” The Birthday Plan gives the individual A.A. member his chance to help foot the bill for A.A. world services by contributing \$1.00 a year to G.S.O. for each year of his A.A. life, up to a limit of \$10.00. It supplements the group contribution of \$3.00 per member.

G.S.O. has special envelopes for Birthday Plan contributions. They are available, without cost, to groups and to individual members who ask for them.

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G.S.O. SERVICE MATERIAL

G.S.O. has mimeographed suggestions and displays for organizing area conventions. This material will be sent, gratis, to any local conference, convention or area committee that requests it.

The following letter from Bill R. in Phoenix, Arizona, expresses his group's appreciation: "Thanks for your guidance on how to put on our 1961 Convention. I have had absolutely no experience at this kind of thing. Neither had anyone on my committee. Here is how we did it.

"We used the material sent by G.S.O. to the letter. We observed the Twelve Traditions and followed Third Legacy procedure. And finally we asked God each day to please help us through that day only. Well, we had the usual amount of criticism, crises, etc., but came through with flying colors. Results: over 750 people at our big Saturday night meeting. This is almost double any attendance in the past. We had wonderful speakers, good food and lots of coffee. We were solvent from the first day we met and paid as we progressed. Advance ticket sales took care of this.

"Thanks once more for G.S.O. guidance and assistance. If there is anything I can do to help anyone else through my experience, please don't hesitate to ask."

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A.A. IN BANGKOK

From Bangkok, Thailand, came this letter from Dick, a Loner: "...last July, I began to run A.A. notices in the 'Bangkok World' (English edition) to try and get a group started. A.A. is badly needed here. Mr. Berrigan, the 'World's' owner and publisher, is now running the A.A. notices five days a week, gratis, and has also given us a P.O. Box number at no charge. He would like to do a Sunday magazine story on A.A. so any material G.S.O. could send him to use would be greatly appreciated. He will pass along the Sunday magazine story to the Thai papers which will give A.A. a tremendous start here in Bangkok.

"I have been making 12th Step calls on all the people who have written to the A.A. P.O. Box and several of them are making real progress. The last two letters have been from Thai's and were headed 'Dear Doctor.' A.A. is evidently entirely new to them here.

"All three missionary pastors are cooperating and we have been invited to hold our meetings at the International Church. God willing, we will soon have a group registered in Bangkok. Thank you for all your help."

A REMINDER

Dennis Manders, non-A.A. head of our Accounting Department, has asked us to run a reminder that checks and money orders are the only safe ways to send contributions and payments for literature by mail.

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"Grapevine's" Present to Non-Subscribers

In order to introduce the "Grapevine" to newcomers in A.A. who may not know about it, the magazine is doing a test promotion in California, Ohio and Michigan. To all non-subscribing A.A. groups in these three states, five copies of the March issue have been sent, with no charge. Included also were a display rack, a poster listing the contents of the March issue, and a letter of explanation addressed to the Group Officer.

GRAPEVINE REPRESENTATIVES have also been sent samples of the test letters and asked for suggestions as to how a test of non-subscribing groups in their areas might be made.

If these local tests are successful they will be extended to include all non-subscribing A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada.

The April GV will contain a round-up on some spectacular "BLACKOUTS," "The Golden Rule in Action" by a non-A.A. clergyman who had sponsored A.A. years before the time when his own son and daughter finally joined and, appropriately for Easter, "Humbly Asked Him," J.E.'s 7th Step Revisited.

QUERY TO OVERSEAS GROUPS

Some A.A.'s in the U.S. have asked G.S.O. to send them the addresses of overseas groups who want to share taped meetings. Will those overseas groups that are interested please send G.S.O. the answers to the following questions:

1. Are you now using tape recordings to share A.A. experience?
2. If so, what speed and reel size do you use?
3. In what language are your tapes?
4. Would you like to swap tapes with groups in other countries?

Most of the "tape swappers" are English-speaking, but we know a few who make Spanish, French and German tapes.

INVITATION TO OVERSEAS A.A.'s

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The A.A. Service Committees in five countries overseas have again been invited to send observers to participate in the 1962 General Service Conference to be held April 25 - 29, in New York City. Their participation, without vote, in all Conference discussions will be very welcomed. Their expenses cannot be assumed by the General Service Conference and overseas A.A.'s will, therefore, have to pay their own way.

Picked up by G.S.O's press clipping bureau, this newspaper story is reprinted here as an example of how one group's public information activity made the front page.

In the eleven years since the Conference began, five A.A.'s from overseas have been on hand to take part in Conference activities. We hope this linkage with A.A. service centers throughout the world will continue to grow and strengthen A.A. unity as time goes on.

NEW CONFERENCE DELEGATES

We welcome three more new Delegates who have been elected to serve during 1962 - 63:

California (Northern Interior) . . .Cliff J., Sacramento
DelawareLoyal L., Wilmington
New HampshireGlen S., Portsmouth

A.A. - HOSPITAL COOPERATION

A letter from George G. reports: "...we in the Buffalo area are fortunate to have the cooperation of the staff at E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital. This county general hospital accepts over 1,000 alcoholics every year. Here, thank God, alcoholics are not arbitrarily thrown into a 'psycho ward' but are assigned to an 'alcoholic ward' and treated as sick people.

"Dr. Jennie Klein, head psychiatrist, cooperates 100% with A.A. and is constantly asking us to talk with patients. During 1961 she countermanded the commitment to a state institution of twenty alcoholics who had attempted suicide. Fifteen of the twenty are now active members of A.A.

"The North Buffalo Group finances 99% of the cigarettes and A.A. literature passed out to the patients. 'Grapevines', old and new, are worth their weight in gold. We have six Big Books in the hospital library and they never get old.

"There are over 100 members in the hospital group here, most of whom are former patients. In the past fifteen years we have received over 4,000 requests for hospitalization for sick alcoholics. Not a single one has been refused or sent to psycho ward."

SIDNEY, MONT.
HERALD
No. 3,750
JAN 24 1962
MURKELLES
PAGE ONE
CERTIFIED

LOCAL AA GROUP DONATE BOOK TO COUNTY LIBRARY

In the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" which the Yellowstone Group of Alcoholics Anonymous donated to the public library, a co-founder of AA tells how members recover and how the society functions.

The Fellowship takes no position whatsoever on the so-called temperance question. Their main aim is to concentrate on staying sober themselves, and to help others who have a drinking problem which they wish to control.

AA has no quarrel with those who drink. The Fellowship does not actively recruit adherents to their program. Only when people seek help and admit to themselves that they have a problem, can they be helped.

AA is not a religious society or movement in the denominational sense, although the recovery program includes suggestions that reflect the insights of many spiritual leaders.

Although most AA members do not mind if their friends learn that they have achieved sobriety within the fellowship, traditionally all AA's are careful to respect fellow members' anonymity.

CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM G.S.O.

"Alcoholics Anonymous"
\$4.50 (Group Price, \$4.00)

"Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions"
\$2.75 (Group Price, \$2.50)

"A.A. Comes of Age"
\$4.00 (Group Price, \$3.50)

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SEATTLE WORLD'S FAIR

The Century 21 World's Fair will run in Seattle, Washington, from April 21 to October 21. Visitors are cordially invited to join in the A.A. activities in Tacoma, some twenty miles to the south on Puget Sound.

It goes without saying, of course, that Seattle A.A. will be spreading the red carpet for visitors too.

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ERROR IN JANUARY BULLETIN

Ed M. writes, "We have meetings every day of the week. Some days several meetings. The Alano Club's address is 1310 South L Street and the phone number is MARKET 7-9787. We welcome and need speakers."

Our apologies to the A.A.'s in MAINE'S DISTRICT 1. In the January A.A. "Exchange Bulletin", your \$59.31 contribution from your OPEN MEETING was credited to New Hampshire. Please excuse our bookkeeping error. It's straightened out now.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO G.S.O. from SPECIAL A.A. MEETINGS and A.A. COMMITTEES

12/18/61 - 12/29/61

CALIFORNIA	San Diego - Area Assembly	\$ 55.09
	San Diego - Central All	100.00
COLORADO	State of Colorado	45.00
FLORIDA	Pensacola - 1961 Alabama Northwest Florida State Convention	638.50
ILLINOIS	Chicago - First Chicago Intergroup Conference	30.00
LOUISIANA	1961 Louisiana State Convention	200.00
	New Orleans - Open Meetings	21.00
MASSACHUSETTS	General Service Committee of Eastern Massachusetts	50.00
MICHIGAN	9th Michigan State Conference	150.00
MINNESOTA	St. Paul - Annual Gratitude Day Banquet	79.03
NEW JERSEY	2nd Panel of New Jersey	10.00
OREGON	North Bend, District 7	7.00
WASHINGTON	Seattle - Annual Gratitude Meeting	82.07
	Yakima Intergroups	9.00
BRITISH COLUMBIA	British Columbia Conference Committee	147.33
ONTARIO	8th Western Ontario Conference	100.00
	Quinte Area	15.00
SASKATCHEWAN	Oklahoma Birthday Party	251.75

1/3/62 - 2/14/62

ARIZONA	Phoenix - 1961 Convention	\$327.37
CALIFORNIA	Covina - 13th District 3rd Legacy Meeting	15.00
	Santa Barbara - 23rd District Central Office	41.10
FLORIDA	Miami - 11th Step Meeting	10.00
GEORGIA	Georgia State Assembly	53.11
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Area New Year's Party Proceeds	20.00
NEW YORK	Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Conference	280.00
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Vancouver - New Year's Party Proceeds	53.50