

BOX 4-5-9

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF A. A.

Vol. 17 No. 5

October-November 1972

Delegates from Fifteen Countries Hold Second World Service Meeting

From five continents, 29 delegates convene at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York, Oct. 5-7, in A.A.'s second World Service Meeting, with several trustees and the G.S.O. and GV staffs participating.

Superficially, such an international session may seem to contrast sharply with that Sunday in 1935 when a shaky, hungover Doctor Bob S. first consented to talk about his drinking to the sober Bill W. in Akron, or even to differ markedly from the average neighborhood A.A. group meeting in some church basement this evening.

At heart, however, all three gatherings represent exactly the same process: the sharing of experience, strength and hope in order that more and more alcoholics may find recovery, as those of us in A.A. already have.

For the first time, Ireland and Sweden, which did not send delegates to the first W.S. Meeting in 1969, will be represented. Holland, which participated in the 1969 session, will not take part this year.

Anonymity, Grapevine, professional relations, publishing and literature policies, finance, and service structure in the 15 nations represented will be reported on.

However, the agenda item of highest interest may well be the site and time for the next World Service Meeting — if there is to be one — as well as financing and voting procedures.

Dr. John L. Norris, nonalcoholic chairman of our North American G.S. Board, is also chairman of the world meeting. Bob H., G.S.O. manager, is vice chairman, and Beth K. of our staff, secretary.

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CALLING FOR HELP!

**Directory Deadline
One Month Earlier**

Nov. 1, 1972—moved up one month earlier than in the past—is the deadline for A.A.'s 1973 *World Directory Part I*.

Whether your group is correctly listed depends entirely on your Group Information card being returned to G.S.O. on time. Cards were mailed to groups Sept. 18.

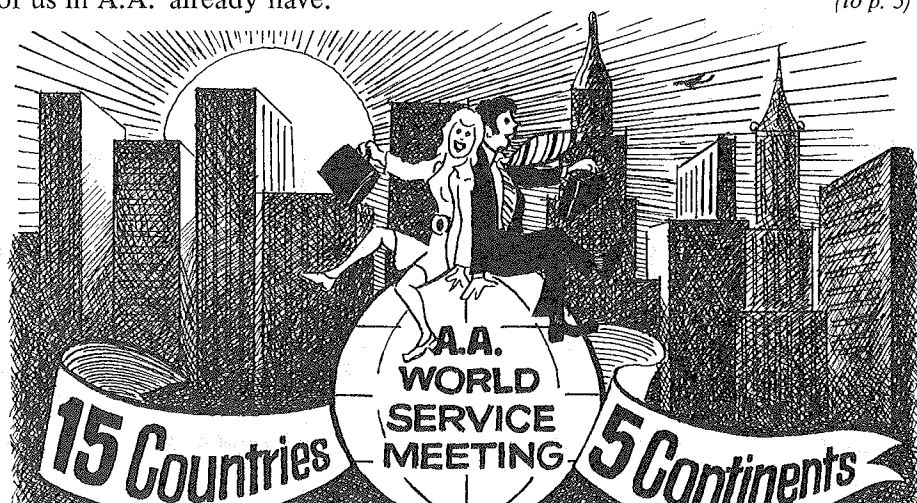
We ask especially that Conference delegates, area G.S. committee members and G.S.R.'s and secretaries take responsibility for seeing that cards are accurately and completely filled out and returned by **NOVEMBER 1**. Thank you!

NEW DIRECTOR FOR A.A.W.S.

We have a new director, Jerry D., for A.A. World Services, Inc. There are seven such directors who are responsible for the business affairs of G.S.O. At quarterly meetings, financial reports are given by the treasurer, and there are reports on G.S.O. activities, such as Professional Relations, Public Information, Staff, Conference, Literature, etc. Permissions to translate and reprint Conference-approved literature are considered, and any other matters which may come before this Board.

Jerry has served as a member of the New York Intergroup Public Information Committee, as co-chairman of the St. Thomas Group

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about AA

a newsletter for professionals and semi-professionals



From: The Committee on
Professional Relations of
The General Service Board
of Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10017

Summer, 1972

About the Committee on Professional Relations . . .

to clarify misunderstandings
new pamphlet

In 1970, the Committee on Professional Relations . . .

New A.A. Bulletin for Professionals

"About A.A." is the title of the newsletter recently mailed to about 1,000 professional and semiprofessional men and women who work in the field of alcoholism outside A.A.

A project of the G.S. Board's new Professional Relations Committee, the new periodical will be sent out occasionally to keep our professional friends informed and up-to-date about the Fellowship.

If you know anyone employed as an alcoholism counselor, be sure he or she gets the newsletter!

DISCOUNT PACKAGE FOR P.I. WORK

A new packet of A.A. materials found useful in Public Information activities has been put together to save P.I. Committees money.

The \$6.58 worth of material is available from G.S.O. at \$5.00.

It contains seven Guidelines and 25 pamphlets.

Also, the new P.I. Manual, background materials for TV, radio, and print media use, the Basic Fact File and other items.

P.I. Bulletin #31, sent to P.I. Committees in August, announced the discount package. It also told of exciting developments in public meetings in Vancouver, B.C., Spiritwood, Sask., Hartford, Conn., and Portland, Ore.

Mailed with the *Bulletin* was the new Memo on A.A. Cooperation in Research and Non-A.A.

The first issue told about Dr. Jack's participation in U.S. Army workshops on alcoholism and A.A., about his discussion of A.A. with Vatican officials, and about new A.A. publications.

Samples mailed with the newsletter included, "If You Are a Professional . . .," "Memo on Cooperation with Non-A.A. Surveys and Research Projects," "Guidelines for Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field (A.A.'s Who 'Wear Two Hats')," "Guidelines for A.A. Cooperation with Alcoholism Agencies and Facilities," and a statement, "A.A. and Problems Other Than Alcohol."

Survey Projects, as well as a pamphlet for social workers. It is a reprint of an article written by John Park Lee for the *Journal of the National Association of Social Workers*.

CLOSED MEETING TOPICS IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF GRAPEVINE

Can A.A. help the drug addict? The alcoholic with a "dual problem"? In "A.A., Drug Addiction, and Pills" (page 2), those questions are answered by a physician professionally involved with both heroin and alcohol addiction. Considering personal experience, how would members of your group answer?

"On Speakers and Speaking . . ." (pages 8-16) includes four articles on this vital means of carrying the

A.A. message. A group discussion, using these opinions just as a starter, might help to make future A.A. talks more valuable to the listeners and to the speakers.

When a member of your group has a slip, how do the other members react? The latest *Around the Tables* comment, "The Accidents That Don't Just Happen" (page 20), sets up one useful road warning. Any others?

It's time for the secretary's announcements, winding up with "No Dues or Fees, but . . ." Under that title (page 31), you'll find material to talk over at either a closed meeting or a business meeting. There are points, Bill W. reminded us, where spirituality and and money can mix.

**CALL FOR RESUMES OF
GENERAL SERVICE, U.S.,
TRUSTEE CANDIDATES**

For the new G.S. trustee, U.S., to be elected to the General Service Board next April, candidates' resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than Jan. 5, 1973.

Each G.S. Conference area may nominate one candidate, or areas in one state may jointly propose a single name. Resumé forms and full details of the election procedure were mailed to U.S. General Service delegates and committee members in August, so all groups affected could be informed.

Qualifications desired for the new trustee, according to the G.S. Board, include 10 years continuous sobriety, service experience in depth, and sufficient time to devote to the job. It is to be pointed out that approximately 25% of the A.A. membership is composed of women and that there is not now a woman on the Board.

Trustees are reimbursed for travel and related expenses.

The new trustee will serve a four-year term, succeeding the late Jim H., Huntsville, Ala.

We Get Letters!

Daily the mailbags pour onto our desks a fascinating array of mail of all kinds. Here is a sampling, to give you some idea of what A.A. members and other people write.

Are Loners More Active?

"I seem to be more active in A.A. since becoming a Loner," writes Ron M. from the Yukon Territory, Canada.

"Have been busy making good use of the Loner list. Not too many replies, but, anyhow, we carry the message.

"Through the letters I write to fellow members (and I have lots of time to write), my thoughts are daily on the A.A. program and the way it works as applied to me. With the lack of daily contact, my problems are resolved by personal action, such as reading the Big Book and acting on the suggestions it offers.

"In the past, I rarely looked at the book, preferring to ask someone else. Now in order to maintain my sobriety, I have to take note of what those that have gone on before me did to preserve *their* sobriety. A cheap price to pay for serenity.

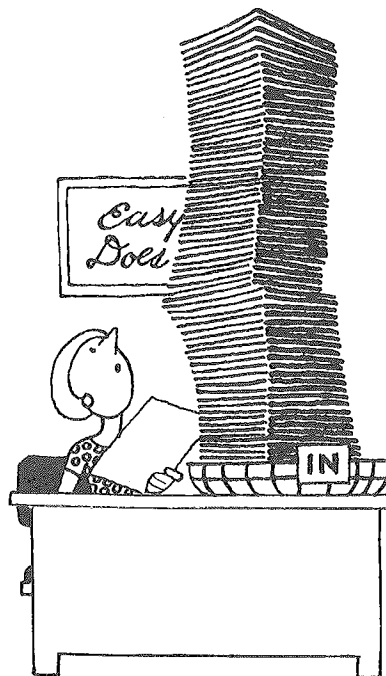
"The government just recently put me in their liquor store. Gave me the keys to the place! Will wonders never cease? Peace to all."
—Ron M.

Learning Young

"Dear Sirs:

I am in the seventh grade and am doing a project on alcoholism for our Science Fair. I am using mice for my experiment. I would be very grateful if you could give me any information on this subject. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,
Miss P--- B---
Arlington, Ohio"



Traditions Group Passes the Word

From the desk of Woody W., out in Oklahoma, comes this memo:

"We in Tradition Group 1 and Tradition Group 2 have been meeting together once a month the first Monday of each month for three years studying the Traditions.

"We believe this has been a way to teach the new people about General Service as well as the Traditions. If you would like to pass this on to someone else, do so."

Unfriendly Groups? Comment Welcomed

"Hi. Please forgive me if I seem critical, but I feel some sensitive alcoholic may get the wrong impression of A.A.

"I recently moved to another state. As an active member and G.S.R. back home, I was soon attending meetings in this area.

"They say not to judge by first impressions but my feelings just cannot be kept to myself. As a rather new and lonely stranger, in two of our three groups not one person put out their hand to say

welcome or even to introduce themselves.

"I didn't expect a red carpet, but I don't get the feeling they knew a newcomer or cared less. I just hoped someone would say, 'Hi, my name is ----, where are you from?' I made the initial effort a few times, but with no success.

"I thought the cold shoulder effect was because of the great number of groups in the area, combined with the population explosion and so many vacationers. Maybe they don't know old from new.

"I just feel that if a real new alcoholic were to come in he might get out the door without even one contact and that would be tragic."

(Name withheld)

Welcome To Our British Twin

Congratulations to the General Service Office of the United Kingdom on the appearance of their very attractive and interesting new newsletter, called *Box 514*.

If the first two issues are any indication, U.K. A.A.'s are in for a real treat.

Recently, in addition to news of their latest Conference and various conventions, there was a heartening report of Sterling area A.A. growth and a fascinating account of activities at the new Manchester Intergroup.

Plus the inevitable, such as "We need money," and also a working vacuum cleaner! As busy as you are at Redcliffe Gardens, how would you ever have time to use it?

DIRECTOR (from p. 1)

in Manhattan and is currently program chairman of the Metropolitan Group in New York. He is also serving on the Trustees' Public Information Committee and has had 5½ years of sobriety.

In his business life, Jerry has been a radio and television consultant for the past ten years. Prior to that, he was a vice president of N.B.C., both in radio and television.



OUR 'DR. JACK' TAKES A BRIDE

John L. Norris, M.D., known throughout the A.A. world as "Dr. Jack," nonalcoholic chairman of our General Service Board, will be married to Miss Eleanor McKay of Rochester, N.Y. on September 22nd in Rochester.

Miss McKay worked for Dr. Jack for 13 years at Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, where he was associate medical director before his recent retirement. After a short trip, the pair will be at home in New Hampshire.

We're sure A.A.'s everywhere join all of us here at G.S.O. in best wishes to the newlyweds. Anyone wanting to send personal greetings can send them to G.S.O., and we will forward them.

1971 Survey Reveals Profile of a Typical A.A. Meeting

Questionnaires filled out by some 7,000-plus A.A. members at U.S. and Canadian meetings in the summer of 1971 provide a "profile of an A.A. meeting." It is the theme of A.A.'s new Professional Exhibit (shown at *national* professional conventions *only*). The profile is also shown on the one-way (non-returnable) table top display available for regional and state A.A. conferences and conventions (2' x 4', \$9.50).

The sex, ages, occupations, lengths of sobriety and route to A.A. of members at a typical A.A. meeting are depicted with drawings.

An illustrated pamphlet is also being prepared to show highlights from this survey. It will be priced at .05¢.

Sixty per cent of those who completed the questionnaires reported from one to 20 or more years of sobriety. Sixty per cent also reported no slips after their first year.

Some other findings are:

One in four members is a woman.

Fifty per cent of those present are 31-50 years old; ten per cent are under 31, thirty per cent are 51-65, and ten per cent are over 65.

Occupations are distributed as follows:

MEN

- * Executive, professional, and technical, 30%.
- * Crafts, 20%.
- * Service and semi-skilled labor, 20%.
- * Sales, 20%, and all others, 10%.

WOMEN

- * Homemaker, 40%
- * Sales and clerical, 20%.
- * Executive, professional, and technical, 20%.
- * Service and semi-skilled labor, 10%, and all others, 10%.

Who sends people to A.A.? One member in 5 credited a physician or hospital, one in 6 said a counselor, employer, or clergyman was responsible.

The 1971 findings are fairly similar to those unearthed in A.A.'s first census, made in 1968. Although the earlier one included almost twice as many members, the 1971 version produced additional information not brought out in 1968, such as occupations.

Between 1968 and 1971, there is evidence that two trends may be underway in the Fellowship: (1) a slight decrease in the percentage of younger members at meetings, and (2) an increased proportion of alcoholics gotten into A.A. not by A.A. members but by members of the "helping" professions.

Both findings, however, could reflect only what is going on in the groups surveyed, and may not be true of the rest of A.A.

What is an A.A. Group?

How do *you* define an A.A. group?

Nowadays so many kinds of meetings are held for alcoholics (courtroom classes, therapy groups, retreats, encounters, insight groups, study meetings, etc.) that the question often arises: which of these, if any, is *really* an A.A. group?

Staff members here at G.S.O. have pooled their thoughts on this subject, and we have agreed on six points that describe what an A.A. group is. They are:

1. All members of a group are alcoholics.
2. As a group they are fully self-supporting.

3. A group's primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through the suggested 12 Steps.
4. As a group they have no outside affiliation.
5. As a group they have no opinion on outside issues.
6. As a group their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion and they need always maintain their personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, television and film.

If you have further ideas on this, please let us know.

Rotation Time at G. S. O.

Once again rotation time is coming up for staff members here at your General Service Office. Ever since we had a staff, we have passed the various office assignments around among us.

Rotation was originally co-founder Bill W.'s idea, and still a good one, we think. It helps keep all of us familiar with all the services at G.S.O., and also prevents any staff member from getting too much of a vested interest in, or feeling indispensable to, one particular service.

In addition to special assignments, staff members handle correspondence with groups in assigned regions of the U.S. and Canada.



As of Oct. 15, the line-up of new duties will be as follows:

MIDGE will be administrative assistant to the Manager, Bob H., a newly created post necessitated by the heavy service demands of a rapidly flourishing fellowship.

ANN will be staff coordinator, secretary to the G.S. Board, to the Trustees' Policy Committee and the Committee on Conference Policy, and will correspond with groups in Western Canada.

BETH will be the new service coordinator, editor of *Box 4-5-9*, secretary to A.A. World Services, Inc. as well as to the Trustees' and Conference Literature Committees.

CORA LOUISE's assignment will be the annual General Service Conference. She will also be secre-

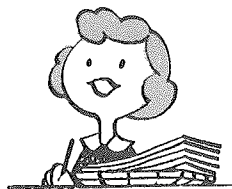
tary to the Conference Agenda/Admissions Committee, and will correspond with groups in the East Central U.S.

VALERIE will have the Public Information assignment, serving as secretary to the Trustees' and Conference P.I. Committees. Correspondence area: Eastern Canada.

MARY ELLEN's principal jobs will be the Professional Relations service and Spanish correspondence. In addition to being secretary of the Trustees' and Conference Professional Relations committees, she will correspond with groups in the Southwest U.S.

WANETA takes on the Overseas desk, plus the World Service Meeting and the 1975 international convention celebrating A.A.'s 40th anniversary year in Denver, Colorado. Correspondence area: Southeast U.S.

PHYLLIS will continue with the Institutions Service and take on the Internationalist services as well.



She will edit the *Round Robin* and *Institutions Bulletin*, and be secretary to the Trustees' and Conference Institutions committees. Correspondence: Pacific region U.S.

BETTY's primary responsibility will continue to be *Loners*. She will edit *Loners Meeting* and serve as secretary to the Trustees' Nominating committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees. Correspondence: Northeast and West Central U.S.



WORLD MEETING (from p. 1)

At the close of the 1969 meeting, those present unanimously agreed it had been worthwhile and voted to hold the 1972 session. The meeting is financed by all the participating countries.

As in 1969, at the close of the three-day gathering, delegates will be dais guests at the annual N.Y. Intergroup banquet held to commemorate the anniversary of co-founder Bill W., whose last public address was at the 1969 dinner.

Women delegates are Berenice F., Australia, who was the only woman delegate in 1969; Mireille R., France; Margret K., Germany; Inga-Britt S., Sweden; and Shirley S., North Madison, Ohio, U.S.A. The latter and Ben P., Pratt, Kansas, chosen at the 1972 G.S.O. Conference here in April, will represent the U.S. and Canada.

The three nonalcoholic delegates are Andries Van Staen, Belgium; Dr. Walter H. Lechler, Germany; and Alberto Del Corral, Colombia. They are trustees in their respective countries — counterparts of the seven nonalcoholic trustees on the General Service Board (U.S. and Canada).

Other delegates are Ted G., Australia; Andre M., Belgium; Juan A.M.D., Nicaragua (representing also Panama and Costa Rica); Gordon W. and Bill S., England; Veikko K. and Kalervo S., Finland, Charles A., France, Michael O. and Tony B., Ireland; Jorge V. and Adalberto L., Mexico; Tom P. and Snow C., New Zealand; Arne P. and Hans K., Norway; Geoff R. and Bill S., South Africa; Hector T., Colombia; and Karl N., Sweden.

A. A. Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 29- *Clinton, Mo.* 1972 Western Mo. Conf. Write: Conv. Chm., Box 61, Clinton 64735.
- 29- *Yuma, Arizona* 22nd Annu. State Conf. Write: 22nd Ariz. State Conf. 1895 Ave. A., Yuma 85364.
- 29- *Lake Yale, Fla.* Fifth Annu. Autumn Meetings. Write: Treasurer, Box 996, Merritt Island 32952.
- 29- *Lenox, Mass.* 9th Mass. Conv. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 44, West Bridgewater, Mass.
- 30- *Rapid City, S.D.* S.D. Annu. Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Com., Box 1026, Rapid City 57701.
- 30- *Minot, N.D.* State A.A. Roundup. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 953, Minot 58701.

OCTOBER

- 6- 8 - *Nova Scotia, Can.* Atlantic Conf. Write: Assembly Com., Box 554, Sydney, Nova Scotia.
- 6- 8 - *Sudbury, Ont., Can.* 16th Annu. N.E. Area Conf. Write: Com. Chm., 1132 Attlee St., Sudbury.
- 6- 8 - *Amarillo, Texas* Silver Ann., Top o' Texas Roundup. Write: Gen. Chm., 3317 Fleetwood St., Amarillo 79109.
- 6- 8 - *Dumfries, Scotland* 19th Annu. Blue-Bonnets Gathering. Write: Sec., County Bldg., Blue-Bonnets Gathering, Dumfries.
- 6- 8 - *Montreal, Que., Can.* 14th Bilingual Que. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 7210 St. Denis St., Montreal 327.
- 6- 8 - *Prince George, B.C., Can.* Roundup. Write: Roundup Sec., 23-2950 Range Rd., Prince George.
- 6- 8 - *Lake Couchiching, Ont., Can.* Georgian Bay District Conv. Write: Host Com., Box 331, Barrie, Ont., Can.
- 6- 8 - *Great Falls, Mont.* A.A. Al-Anon - Alateen Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 403, Great Falls 59401.
- 7 - *New York, N.Y.* Intergroup Dinner & Dance. Write: Dinner Chm., N.Y. Intergroup Association, 24 E. 22nd St., N.Y.C.
- 13-15 - *Nacogdoches, Tex.* 9th Annu. N.E. Tex. Area Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 961 Nacogdoches 75961.
- 13-15 - *Moose Jaw, Sask., Can.* Sask. Provincial A.A. Roundup. Write: Roundup Comm. Sec., 56 Elsom St., Moose Jaw S6H 4V1.
- 13-15 - *Atlantic Beach, N.C.* 3rd Semiannu. E. State Tri-Area Roundup. Write: Roundup Sec., RFD #1, Box 17-B, Bath 27808.
- 19-22 - *Macon, Ga.* 19th Georgia A.A. Conv. Write: 1972 Ga. State Conv. Box 6251, Macon 31208.

- 20-22 - *Fort Davis, Tex.* Semiannu. Davis Mt. Retreat, Indian Lodge. Write: Sec., Box 608, Alpine 79830.
- 20-22 - *Sacramento, Calif.* No. Calif. Conf. Write: N. Calif. Council of A.A., 166 Geary St., Rm. 84, San Francisco 94108.
- 20-22 - *Bakersfield, Calif.* 21st Annu. So. Calif. Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Box 747, Artesia 90701.
- 20-22 - *Hinton, W. Va.* W. Va. Bluestone Roundup. Write: Comm. Chm., Box 1416, Huntington 25715.
- 20-22 - *Palm Beach, Fla.* S. Fla. Election Assembly. Write: Chm., Box 684, Jupiter 33458.
- 20-22 - *Elko, Nev.* 2nd Annu. Elko Roundup. Write: Roundup Chm., Box 1230, Elko 89801.
- 21-22 - *Rock Falls, Ill.* 31st Ann. Twin City Fellowship. Write: Ann. Chm., Box 15, Sterling 61801.
- 22 - *Paramus, N.J.* Intergroup Comm. A.A. Groups of N.J., Inc. Write: Dinner Comm., Box 632 Maplecrest Station, Maplewood 07040.
- 26-28 - *Henry, Ill.* Study Session on "Working With Others." Write: King's House of Retreat, Henry 61537.
- 27-29 - *London, Ont., Can.* 19th Western Ont. Conv. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 725, London 12, Ont., Can.
- 27-29 - *Buffalo, N.Y.* 21st Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Conv. Comm., Room 534, Ellicott Square Bldg., 295 main St., Buffalo 14203.
- 27-29 - *Poconos, Pa.* Annu. Eastern Pa. A.A. Conv. Write: Chm., Box 418, Robesonia, Pa.
- 27-29 - *Kiamesha Lake, N.Y.* 2nd Northeast Region Conv. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 267, New City, N.Y. 10956.
- 27-29 - *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Can.* 1972 Manitoba, A.A. Conf. Write: Central Office, 457 Main St., Rm. 204,

NOVEMBER

- 2- 5 - *Shreveport, La.* 27th Annu. Tri-State Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., Box 495, Shreveport 71101.
- 3- 5 - *Gilbertsville, Ky.* 12th Annu. Tri-State A.A. Conv. Write: Tri-State Conv., Box 3086, Paducah 42001.

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Checks payable to A.A. World Services, Inc., Box 459 Grand Central Post Office, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10017.

- 3- 5 - *Edmonton, Alberta, Can.* 22nd Annu. Provincial Conv. Write: Conv. Chm., #3, 10237 - 98 St., Edmonton. T5J 0M7.
- 3- 5 - *Las Vegas, Nev.* 6th Annu. Sober Fun in the Sun Roundup. Write: Gen. Chm., Box 269, Las Vegas 89101.
- 4 - *Minneapolis, Minn.* 32nd Annu. Founders Day Banquet & Breakfast. Write: Banquet Chm., 2218 First Avenue, So., Minneapolis 55404.
- 9-12 - *Panama City Beach, Fla.* Gulf Coast Roundup. Write: Chm., Box 14056, Panama City 32401.
- 10-11 - *Vancouver, B.C., Can.* B.C. Yukon Area Assembly. Write: B.C. Conf. Comm., Box 38, Station A, Vancouver.
- 11-12 - *Atlantic City, N.J.* 8th Annu. So. Jersey Conv. Write: Chm. Box 267, Lambertville, N.J. 08530.
- 11-12 - *Fort Collins, Col.* Colorado Winter Regional Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., 136 S. Emerson, Denver, Colorado 80209.
- 17-19 - *Enid, Okla.* N.W. Dist. Conf. Write: Conf. Chm., Box 444, Enid, Oklahoma 73768.
- 18-19 - *Caulfield, Victoria, Australia* 25th State Ann. Write: Chm., Box 136, Melbourne East, Victoria, Australia.

DECEMBER

- 24-25 - *Phoenix, Ariz.* 12th Annu. Alcolthon. Write: Chm., Box 11494, Phoenix. 85061.



SPECIAL GIFTS TO G.S.O.

CALIFORNIA	
Eureka: Humboldt Del Norte Cen. Comm.	\$ 50.00
COLORADO	
International Doctors in A.A.	200.00
INDIANA	
Fort Wayne: State Conv.	632.37
MINNESOTA	
Hoyt Lakes: Upper Minn. Banquet	400.00
MISSOURI	
Jefferson City: E. Mo. State Roundup	153.00
NEW YORK	
Spring General Service Conf. Western N.Y.	600.00
Rochester: 9th N.Y. State Conv.	330.44
NORTH CAROLINA	
Raleigh: Tar Heel Mid-winter Conf.	300.00
Sanford: Wade Mecum Retreat	75.00
NORTH DAKOTA	
Fargo: State Conf.	301.50
CANADA	
B.C.: Kamloops Roundup	153.75