

Delegates Carry Message of 35th Conference to Folks Back Home

"What delegates accomplished at the General Service Conference is impressive," says G.S.O.'s senior adviser Bob P., "but it's not nearly so important as what has been happening since they arrived back home."

What has happened since the 91 U.S./Canada delegates returned to their areas is an outpouring of interest and sharing. Hawaii delegate Patrick W., for one, had been struggling since January, along with his area committee and area assembly, to set up guidelines for a service structure. He flew back to Honolulu from the Conference armed with guidelines shared by delegates from other areas and is now making headway. He reports that A.A. membership in Hawaii has tripled over the past five years. "On Maui," he says, "the Fellowship has grown so fast that an intergroup has just been formed."

As the delegates have traveled around their areas, presenting Conference reports to assemblies, roundups, stand-up meetings, and any A.A.'s who will listen, they have elicited numerous responses to Conference Advisory Actions and spin-off topics. Some report enthusiastic feedback concerning recognition of the A.A. Grapevine as an international journal of the Fellowship; others note that area members are looking forward to having "A.A. Comes of Age" on tape; and everyone, it seems, is pleased about having our anonymity reaffirmed, both in A.A. and at the public level.

There is wide enthusiasm for the decision to change the format of the A.A. directories to a three-column page minus G.S.R. addresses, zip codes, and membership figures in order to protect anonymity and avoid "the junk-mail people." U.S. delegates Eleanor B., District of Columbia; Harlan P., Arkansas; Emily R., Brooklyn, N.Y.; incoming delegate Conference chairperson Mary R., Massachusetts; and Christina H., Wisconsin, all report that their area A.A.'s have received a frustrating amount of junk mail and so are relieved by the Advisory Action.

In Canada, delegate Jim McK. dissents. "People here use the directory only for positive purposes and they weren't too happy about the change. But we still have our area directories which list addresses." Delegate Harold S., British Columbia/Yukon, has experienced a different response. "The 49th parallel has no bearing on A.A.," he comments. "There's abuse wherever you go, and our people are glad something's been done to stop it."

Several delegates are none too pleased with the failure to get the necessary two-thirds to pass the motion suggesting that A.A. groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office, the Grapevine, or other A.A. entities. Says Richard R., Rhode Island: "I was happy with the vote of 81 vs. 38



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for the motion, but the issue remains under a cloud of ambiguity because a vote of 90 was required to pass a motion with 'unanimity.' Certainly this method of voting raises procedural questions."

Texas delegate Pat R. also expresses concern because "a simple democratic majority of two-thirds is not enough to pass a motion." Her area, she says, feels the question should be resolved by a "group-conscience process."

Finances have proved a somewhat sticky wicket. Several delegates mention that their area A.A.'s will welcome a guideline on finance to be developed by G.S.O., as well as a cartoon or "pie" treatment showing how and to what extent group contributions carry the message. In northern Wisconsin, Christina H. points out, "People want to know where their money is going." From eastern Massachusetts, Mary R. reports that "we're low on the totem pole when it comes to supporting G.S.O. — only 50 percent of the groups contribute. We need to make them more aware of the importance of contributing to these important services."

Some delegates note concern in their areas over the fact that Fellowship services are being supported substantially by income from literature instead of the groups. Says Rhode Island's Richard R., "This was supposed to be a temporary arrangement that now appears permanent. Unfortunately, there's fallout: a growing disincentive to become involved at the service level."

Overall, the delegates feel that a strong spirit of cooperation and caring made the Conference a memorable experience. Some individual reactions:

Homer W., Maine, the "soberest" delegate at the Conference with 37 years in A.A.: "We have active members here. Most of them like Warranty Six of the Conference Charter, stating that 'A.A. shall perform no act of government.' But it really puts a splinter in some

'bleeding deacons' who figure they've 'been there' and have a right to run things. This reminds us that we don't lay down the law; there's no authority in A.A. but a loving God who serves as our group conscience."

Frank S., Mid-Southern California: "There's been much interest here in the Advisory Action permitting all Class B trustees to be elected for a full four-year term, regardless of when vacancies occur. I submitted a proposal whereby area assemblies would elect regional trustee alternates who could step in promptly to fill vacancies when they occur, but it died in committee. I still think it's a good idea."

Marian H., Utah: "I've given five district reports since the Conference, two of them more than 300 miles away. The whole week in New York was a spiritual experience; I came away knowing that A.A. makes me better than I am."

Dale S., Ohio, outgoing delegate chairperson: "I've delivered reports to three large groups already and people seem happy with the Advisory Actions. I'm especially pleased with the new, less complicated procedure for selecting a delegate chairperson and alternate: Put eight names in a hat and pull two. It leaves more time for sharing."

Frank Rice, Georgia: "The A.A.'s I've talked to feel comfortable with the Conference actions. There's a sense of unity, of being stronger than we've ever been."

New General Service Trustees

In April, the 1985 General Service Conference elected two general service trustees from the New York area. The A.A. General Service Board consists of 21 trustees: 14 Class B (alcoholic) and seven Class A (nonalcoholic). Four of the Class B trustees are called general service trustees and also serve as directors on the boards of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine.

Shepherd R., replacing rotating trustee Jacquelyn S., is an attorney, and has served as an A.A.W.S. director for several years. Of his election to the board Shep says, ". . . this is the highest honor ever accorded to me. The irony, which only fellow A.A. members can appreciate, is that it is an honor not fully comprehended by my family and closest non-A.A. friends. It is an election which will not be reported in the press. Only in A.A. could one be so honored and, at the same time, receive a lesson in humility."

Jim S., replacing the late Mary P. from the Grapevine board, remembers being very sick and praying, ". . . if I can get back to A.A. I will do whatever they ask me

to do." But, in fact, Jimmy asked first when, still very shaky, he went to the Dyckman Group (still his home group) and asked if he could make the coffee. That was over two decades ago and was the beginning of a long road of service—through the home group, area C.P.C. committees, many activities with S.E.N.Y., Panel 27 delegate, Grapevine director, and now trustee. On one hand, Jimmy "can't believe it"; on the other hand, he sees nothing strange about it: "It just happened—because I left myself open."

Resumes Due for Trustees

Two new Class B regional trustees — from the Pacific U.S. and Eastern Canada — will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 1986.

Resumes must be received at G.S.O. by January 1, 1986. (There would be insufficient time to circulate later arrivals for full consideration before the Conference.)

The new Pacific U.S. trustee will succeed Natalie S. of Bellevue, Washington; the new Eastern Canada trustee will fill the post presently held by Kenneth D. of Moncton, New Brunswick.

Class A trustees (nonalcoholic) serve three three-year terms; Class B trustees (alcoholic) serve a four-year term. Area assemblies in each of the two regions concerned will make the initial choices of the representational trustees. (All assemblies in the U.S./Canada participate in selecting their respective country's trustee-at-large.)

At the spring Conference (see "The A.A. Service Manual" for procedures), the assemblies' lists will be narrowed down and the candidate chosen by the Conference for each trusteeship will be elected by the General Service Board at its meeting immediately following the Conference.

Final Conference Report

The *Final Report* of the 1985 General Service Conference is in — a thick record of the service work achieved by delegates representing A.A.'s group conscience in the United States and Canada. It also gives a behind-the-scenes look at the unity, love, and humor that abounded throughout.

Copies of the *Final Report*, complete with illustrations that capture the spirit of the April Conference, are being sent by G.S.O., free of charge, to all area officers and D.C.M.'s. The Report also is available to individual A.A.'s at a cost of \$2 each. When ordering, please identify yourself as an A.A. member. Confidentiality is

paramount since the Report uses full names (as recommended by the 1975 Conference) to facilitate communication within the Fellowship.

Much has already been written about the "business" highlights of the Conference. But what happened on the way to the forum and between times? Some scenarios on the light side:

- Past-trustee Sam S., from Florida, expressed thanks for being invited to the Conference dinner each year. "However," he said dryly, "it's the only dinner that costs me \$700." Sam also recalled how his drinking had led him to share a shack with two skid row bums. Domestic bliss did not prevail and they showed him the door, yelling indignantly, "Get out of here, you skid row bum!"

- Delegate Jeff H., Twin Falls, Idaho, drew a burst of laughter when he remarked that "my wife is a blackbelt Al-Anon." Jeff also noted that "some critic said the Grapevine is not Conference-approved literature . . . I doubt the critic is either."

- Class A trustee Michael Alexander, New York, allowed as how during his nine years as a trustee, "A.A. has been the most time-consuming element in my life other than sleep."

- At one Conference session, trustee Garrett T., Washington, D.C., mused aloud about "the peculiar way some A.A.'s end their prayers at memorial services for fellow members: 'Keep coming back!'"

- Introduced by nonalcoholic General Service Board chairperson Gordon Patrick, Lyndhurst, Ontario, Canada, as a "spiritual giant," Dallas trustee-at-large David A. reflected: "A halo is only six inches from being a noose."

- California delegates Ann G. and Diane O. were walking to G.S.O. one afternoon, Diane singing and Ann carrying a coffee cup. An affable drunk stumbled up to them and dropped a penny in Ann's cup. They figured they'd hit on a new way to collect delegate out-of-pocket money.

- Before giving his presentation, G.S.O. archivist Frank M. confessed to a tendency to procrastinate in completing a presentation. He then referred to Class A trustee Jim Estelle, Huntsville, Texas, as "a world-class procrastinator," singularly adept at "finishing a presentation after delivering it."

- Delegate Millie B., Brown Deer, Wisconsin, told of an A.A. who had become disgruntled and stopped going to meetings. His sponsor came to call, and they sat before the fire without talking. After a while, the sponsor took poker in hand, extracted a live coal from the fire and placed it carefully on the hearth. Wordlessly the two men stared at the coal which glowed red, then went out. More silence. Finally, the sponsor got up and left. The next day, he saw his sponsee at a meeting.

- At the closing Conference brunch, a solicitous waiter slipped Ohio delegate George M. an extra sausage, explaining *sotto voce*, "Just one for the road!"

Portable A.A. Makes Moving Easier

Moving is seldom easy for most A.A.'s, attached as we become to sponsors, friends, and groups, never mind the familiar faces at the cleaner's and the supermarket.

The very thought of relocating brings back memories of those "geographic cures" we used to take while drinking, only to find that our problem selves had shadowed us all the way. But, as one A.A. discovered, moving in sobriety is a totally different experience. "When I moved from Sweden to the United States, I was drinking daily," recalls Kirsten M. "My life would be different in Chicago, I told myself — no broken relationships to stumble over, no creditors, no demands. But, before you could say 'Johnny Walker,' I was back in the same disastrous rut, only it was worse. I'd brought my addiction with me and it flourished even as I fell apart."

Now sober eight years, Kirsten says that she has moved several times since joining A.A. and has traveled extensively. "It's the difference between night and day," she exclaims. "I've found that A.A. is portable! It goes where I go — all I need do is connect with a meeting and, instantly, I'm among friends, whether in Sri Lanka, Bangkok, Hong Kong, or Paris, cities where I feel especially at home in the Fellowship."

Vicente M. was eight years sober in A.A. when he moved to Queens, N.Y., from Los Angeles. "I arrived armed with names of A.A.'s in the Hispanic community," he recalls. "The first one I called invited me to a meeting that night. People were so friendly — they invited me to speak, gave me their phone numbers, and even helped me find an apartment. It made the adjustment to living in a new place much easier, and I never had time to feel sorry for myself or overwhelmed by strangeness. The funny thing is that I didn't have to look for friends. I just took my body to the meetings, tried to identify, not criticize, and the support I needed was there for me."

Jenny D. didn't fully appreciate the talents of her A.A. friends until the June she moved, seven months sober, into an apartment three blocks away from her former one in Stamford, Connecticut. "There I was, still mokus, with three kids and only a couple of hundred dollars left after paying the rent and security," she remembers. "My husband, who was still drinking, stayed in our old place, threatening violence. Somehow I got packed up, thanks to the kids and my sponsor, who is a real mover and shaker. Every ten minutes I'd call her, wailing, 'I can't do it, I can't.' Then her magic words would crackle through the wires, over and over like a litany: 'Yes you can, you can do it. Now go pack the pots and pans. . . .'"

"Well, when I dragged myself into the new apartment, there were five A.A.'s, most of whom I knew only

slightly, busily unpacking cartons, washing dishes, and putting everything away. One, an elegant gray-haired lady who was always dressed to the nines, had stripped to the bare essentials and was attacking the filthy bathroom shower stall with cleansing powder, ammonia, and a knockout punch. I knew I was home."

Another A.A., Bill P., was three years sober when he moved from Minneapolis to New York City in 1983. "I went directly to the YMCA from the bus stop," he says, "and phoned the one person whose name I'd been given. He steered me to a meeting my second day in town. I shopped around for a group to join and, meanwhile, stuck with A.A.'s the whole time, like I still do mostly. It made my adjustment to a new environment a whole lot easier."

Not a few A.A.'s report that going to their first meeting in a new town is the hardest. Upon finding herself a newcomer to Seattle, Lee A., then sober 19 years, "just couldn't get myself going. Then all those 24's in the program came to my aid, like daily deposits in the bank, and I forced myself to get to a meeting. After that, it was a piece of cake; everyone was so warm and welcoming. But I think I would have been more scared had I had less sobriety under my belt."

June D., who moved to Florida from New Jersey when she was sober eighteen months, did indeed feel "very awkward and scared." But, she says, "it had more to do with me, not the move. I needed to open up, move around and interact with other A.A. members, and it took some stretching. Once I got going, I had plenty of help, yet I had to be willing to reach out in the first place. My life was at stake, for God's sake, so I did."

The hardest move isn't always a matter of distance. "My windows wouldn't stay up, there was no hot water, and the landlord raised the rent," says John C. of Charleston, South Carolina, "so I moved across the street and, man, that was a tough one. My home was my castle; I'd lived there drunk and sober and it held a lot of memories. But a couple of my A.A. buddies were there to help me. We moved things in dribs and drabs, a day at a time. And once I settled in, I realized it was a good thing. When you move sober, you can get rid of a lot of the past and open yourself to life in the now. Just by crossing the street."

Rotation Time at G.S.O.

"The spirit of rotation within the Fellowship serves somewhat the same spiritual purpose as the principle of anonymity at the public level. No one person becomes identified as the possessor of special knowledge or power. At the General Service Office, staff members

who deal with special A.A. assignments rotate every two years for just this reason.”

G.S.O.'s John B. succinctly sums up the reasons behind the biennial staff rotation (see new assignment sheet enclosed). Along with others experiencing assignment change, John himself has taken on new responsibilities. Besides serving as general manager, he has been named president of A.A. World Services.

John succeeds Bob P., who will stay on as senior adviser until his retirement in March 1987. In phasing out the duties he has discharged since the mid-70s, Bob practices his belief, voiced at the 1983 General Service Conference, that “when ex-servants in A.A. rotate out of office, it's not enough for us to obey the ‘letter of the law’; we must obey its spirit as well and *really* step down.”

At G.S.O., every staff assignment has necessarily expanded in scope with the rapid growth of the Fellowship. Since 1968, membership in the U.S. and Canada has tripled, with the greatest numerical increase occurring since 1980. Yet barely a handful of staff positions have been added to handle the extra workload — unless you count the silent, obliging, nonrotating computer system.

The changing of the guard still occurs every two years as smoothly as ever, even for those relinquishing assignments they have grown to love. They know they're not saying goodbye, just *au revoir*. In a few two-year time frames, they will be back again at the same, ever-changing posts.

New Grapevine Staffer Takes Byte Out of Computer Conversion

When she was a high school student at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., Grace H. didn't know that it was Lois Wilson's alma mater. Nor, probably, would she have cared. But time, sobriety, and her new position as circulation manager of the A.A. Grapevine have brought special meaning to the coincidence.

On staff since February 1985, Grace is tackling a high-tech assignment: converting the Grapevine's worldwide subscriber list — 124,200 names in all — to the computer shared jointly by the magazine and the General Service Office. “It's a huge task” she says, “but I'm working with wonderful people who are doing all they can to help me.”

The compliment is reciprocated. Retha G., managing editor of the Grapevine, observes that “Grace is exactly what we needed. We're having tremendous problems with the conversion to computer and Grace, with her super background, has arrived just in time to help. We're delighted to have her with us.”

Life looks good these days to Grace who, like so many A.A.'s, has known unhappy times. “I started out to be a C.P.A.,” she recalls, “but my drinking interfered, as did the death of a man I was very close to. I found A.A. in November 1971, just before Thanksgiving, and in sobriety I was able to complete work for my B.A. degree at Fordham University.” Before joining the Grapevine staff, she gained experience working with a C.P.A. firm and with a handicrafts magazine, for which she created a computerized subscription department.

The Fellowship threads the fabric of Grace's existence. In September 1984, she married an A.A. she had known for some time. “When he asked me out,” she remembers, “I said ‘yes’ and then ‘no.’ We wound up at the same New Year's Eve party and he asked me to dance — a scene right out of a Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers movie. I found out that I should never say ‘no’ in the program. I also found that we have much more in common than dancing, especially A.A.”

They share a love of their two cats as well — Francine, a black-and-white beauty; and Frieda, a gray-and-black “owl” of a cat, named for the Jacques Brel song, “Timid Frieda,” because she dives under the couch every time company comes.

What does Grace think of couples attending the same meetings? “My husband and I belong to the same group,” she says. “In fact, we both served as officers the first half of this year. But we go to meetings by ourselves, too. The important thing for me is to know that I'm at a meeting for my own recovery.”

For Grace, sobriety is a family affair. Her mother has been in A.A. for 22 years. “She is a very sensitive human being,” Grace says. “When I came into the Fellowship, she was careful to give me space in which to recover and grow. I'm grateful for her understanding.”

Souvenir Book Reprinted

“Fifty Years with Gratitude,” The family album and souvenir book of A.A.'s 50th Anniversary International Convention is available through G.S.O. for \$4.50.

Because so many Convention-goers were disappointed to find the supply depleted by Friday of Convention weekend, the General Service Board agreed to print 5,000 additional copies. First come, first served! Please see order form on page 7 of the enclosed supplement.

C.P.C.

Rhode Island Area Shares Experience

The R.I. Area C.P.C. Committee is notably strong and effective. Their organization and experience may help other local committees, especially those just beginning.

- *Organization & Guidelines.* The area C.P.C. chairperson is nominated by the area chairperson and is then formally elected, by majority vote, at the regular area election meeting. District C.P.C. coordinators are nominated and elected in exactly the same way in each district. An annual budget for C.P.C. activity is provided out of area funds.

District C.P.C. coordinators are expected to attend all C.P.C. committee meetings as well as area assemblies. They should also attend their own district meetings, thus maintaining a flow of communication, experience, and information. They are encouraged to become familiar with the C.P.C. Workbook and Conference-approved literature, particularly the pamphlets "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Other Community Efforts to Help Alcoholics," "44 Questions," "Problems Other Than Alcohol," and "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."

- *Contacting Professionals.* The C.P.C. coordinators are expected to contact the directors of in-service education at hospitals and mental health clinics within their districts. Through the G.S.R.'s at district meetings, group members are encouraged to submit names of doctors, lawyers, and clergymen they would like to see contacted by the C.P.C. committee by means of letters and literature. Treatment centers and outpatient clinics dealing with alcoholism are also contacted. The C.P.C. Workbook is helpful in this activity, but the letters are written by the C.P.C. committee and often the wording is reviewed with district C.P.C. coordinators before the letters are sent. The aim, of course, is to assure that the message stays within A.A.'s Traditions and that it is sensitive and effective.

Says Katie B., R.I. Area C.P.C. chairperson, "Through whatever method of contact we employ, it is our intent to explain what A.A. can do and what it cannot do. We offer to come and speak about how A.A. can help the alcoholic recover—especially by raising the professional's awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous. To accomplish the latter, we also offer to take the professional to an open A.A. meeting."

- *"Sponsor/Guide Program" for medical students and resident doctors.* Katie B. was particularly enthusiastic about how well this plan has worked within the C.P.C. Guidelines. Committee members make the initial con-

tact with the dean of a medical school to suggest how the teaching doctor can use A.A. to fulfill his course objectives as follows:

1. To create an awareness by the medical students of the signposts of the progression of alcoholism. This can be accomplished by putting them in contact with A.A. members from whom they can "hear," firsthand, the experience of our early drinking days.

2. To make medical students aware of what A.A. is, and what it is not. By understanding this they will be more comfortable about recommending A.A. to a patient, and be better able to overcome the patient's resistance to A.A. arising from misconceptions and denial.

Together, the dean or teaching doctor and the C.P.C. committee members agree on a procedure for taking the medical students to one or more open A.A. meetings. The teacher provides students' names and phone numbers (from 6 to 12 in a typical course), which are passed along to the district C.P.C. coordinator. The coordinator assigns the individual names to A.A. members who have volunteered and who have been selected to act as sponsor/guides. A pair of A.A.'s (a man and a woman) work together to sponsor each medical student.

These sponsors call their designated student and offer to take him or her to an open A.A. meeting. Some students opt not to attend—and the sponsor/guides do not persist. If the student accepts the invitation, arrangements are made to meet well before the meeting starts, to allow time to get acquainted, explain what to expect at the meeting, converse a little about A.A. Traditions (particularly anonymity), and give them some literature—"A.A. as a Resource for the Medical Profession," "44 Questions," "A.A. at a Glance," and "Understanding Anonymity."

After the meeting, the sponsor/guides may take the medical student out for ice cream and converse some more, trying to answer any questions he or she may have.

Finally, several C.P.C. committee members attend the last classroom session for each course. This allows feedback from the students who have attended an A.A. meeting, as well as an opportunity to reach the students who have chosen not to attend. Literature is again available.

The R.I. C.P.C. Committee has high hopes that this plan will help make the hand of A.A. more available through the next generation of doctors who have a firsthand knowledge of our Fellowship and our recovery program.

- *C.P.C. Speaking Commitments.* The R.I. committee follows these guidelines in fulfilling C.P.C. speaking commitments:

Two speakers go on each commitment, at least one of whom should be experienced and knowledgeable about A.A. Traditions and literature.

Preferably, the team should consist of a male and a

female. All speakers should have read the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings." Speakers should be properly dressed. They share only their own experience, strength and hope, always reflecting an amateur status and not attempting to speak for A.A. as a whole.

• *Questions Professionals Ask.* From its experience in speaking to non-A.A. audiences and in the sponsor/guide program for medical students, the R.I. committee has found that the following questions are asked most often:

Are you a religious movement?

Is A.A. membership open to drug addicts?

How was A.A. started?

How much does A.A. cost?

Are the speakers paid?

Why are you taking me to this meeting if you don't get paid?

How long do you have to keep going to meetings?

How do you get to A.A.?

How do you know you're an alcoholic?

What is a sponsor?

Are you substituting one addiction for another?

Therefore, it is helpful if C.P.C. speakers and sponsor/guides are prepared either to answer these questions or to refer the professional to the A.A. pamphlet with the answer.

Katie B. concludes that by their following the above guidelines, C.P.C. work has grown rapidly and steadily in Rhode Island.

Colorado C.P.C. Celebrates 1st Birthday

On the occasion of its first birthday, the C.P.C. Committee of the Grand Junction, Colorado, Central Office looked back on a year of solid organizational work and gratifying achievements.

The first step was for Irish W. and Norine H. to visit the 14 groups served by the central office to explain the committee's purpose and to invite any members interested in this kind of service work to volunteer. However, they warned any prospects that long hours of preparation would be necessary before meeting members of the professional community. As a result of the visits, 14 people showed up for the first committee meeting—including two from another town, Delta. Ten of these original members—including the two from Delta—are active today.

The first three months were spent studying the C.P.C. Workbook, the Traditions, the Concepts and other pertinent literature. The first commitment for the new committee was a panel presentation for the Mesa County Public Health Nurses. Encouraged by an overwhelm-

ingly favorable response, the group made a presentation to the counselors of a local halfway house, followed by four successive presentations to the Grand Junction Police Force.

Gathering confidence and experience, the committee went on to an ever-busier schedule of panel presentations for ministerial groups, nurses, and doctors. The latter professionals actually requested that the program be put on, and their response was particularly encouraging.

Word of this resource spread to other communities, with the result that the committee was asked to make similar presentations to professionals in these towns. "Our greatest challenge," says Norine H., secretary of the committee, "was a three-hour panel presentation and workshop to the middle school and high school counselors of the county school district. It was also our greatest joy. As an outgrowth, we have been invited to do the same for the state judges in September!"

Among the committee's other activities has been a mailing with personalized letter to 200 doctors. Also, through the presentations, thousands of pieces of A.A. literature have been distributed to professionals.

Perhaps the most heartwarming result of the C.P.C. work has been a steady increase in Twelfth Step calls to the central office traceable to this activity.

C.P.C. Desk

As noted elsewhere in this issue, Curtis M. has rotated out of the G.S.O. staff assignment on Cooperation With the Professional Community after the customary two-year term. "Although at first I felt uncomfortable among non-A.A. professionals and was unsure of myself," Curtis confides, "I came to enjoy C.P.C. work greatly and made many friends among the dedicated outside people. I will particularly miss my work with the A.A.'s on the local C.P.C. committees." During the past two years, 190 new C.P.C. committees have been formed!

Betty L. has rotated into the C.P.C. post, after serving on most of the other staff assignments, most recently as Staff Coordinator, Asst. Secretary of the General Service Board, and member of the A.A. World Service Board. "I'm very excited about the work," declares Betty. "Since I've been in the office I have seen the extraordinary growth in C.P.C. activity, particularly the number of area, district, and intergroup/central office C.P.C. committees. And I have seen the value of carrying the A.A. message to the sick alcoholic through third parties."

P.I.

'... at the level of press, radio and films'

Public information activities for A.A. begin with self-imposed caveats, often misunderstood by the press, radio, and television. The principal deviation from the norm is our devotion to the principle of anonymity at the level of the media. The second departure from the norm is that A.A. seeks to attract rather than to promote. Thus, the P.I. committees of A.A. entities are to serve the press, to carry the message, and yet to live within the self-imposed rules which apply to every member of the program.

The task of P.I. committee chairperson is thus a sensitive one as regards anonymity, and the delicate distinction between attraction and promotion is oft-times difficult to discern.

However, we have as a model the almost revered magazine article, written by Jack Alexander in 1941 and published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, at that time a weekly fixture in millions of American homes. Alexander and the *Post* editors did it all. The writer had obviously been well briefed, and his writing indicated a sensitivity and an understanding of A.A.'s mission. A.A. co-founders Bill and Dr. Bob helped Alexander with facts that enabled him to formulate an accurate and inspiring story. In doing so they stayed within the Traditions, respected the principles we survive by, and obviously enlisted the media in helping to carry the message.

Since that time the media have been of great value, and we owe them our gratitude for the respect they have shown. This is not to say that there have not been anonymity breaks in newspapers, books, radio and television, but it must be recognized that most "breaks" come largely as the result of disrespect for anonymity by individual members of A.A. itself.

At the 1985 International Convention at Montreal, the cooperation of the people from each medium was exemplary. In the few instances where full faces appeared in print, first names only appeared in the captions, and upon inquiry at the city desks the answer was that the individuals said that it was alright to take their pictures. None of the stories emanating from the Convention newsroom violated A.A. Traditions.

The procedure adopted for press, radio and TV coverage at Montreal was designed to "serve," rather than "promote." Several months prior to the Convention a memorandum to editors and news directors was prepared and dispatched to the principal media in both the United States and Canada. This memorandum stated that an International Convention of A.A. would

be held in Montreal and that it would mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Fellowship. It stated that there would be a press room to "assist reporters, photographers, and commentators." It also stated that press credentials would be issued to those wishing to cover.

The preconvention activity and the plan for press room operations was carefully coordinated with public information representatives in the host city, and a highly skilled group of both French- and English-speaking persons was assembled. Orientation sessions were held, the rules of the game were detailed, and responsibilities were assigned.

A press briefing was held on the day before the opening of the Convention. At this session both French and English presentations were made describing A.A., the Traditions were outlined, and our willingness to serve the press in covering the event within the prescribed limits was clearly stated. Media people from all parts of the world were present and readily agreed to cooperate. From there on the press room staff filled literally hundreds of requests for special interviews and stories, which resulted in the publication and airing of highly constructive articles and programs in line with the Traditions of the Fellowship.



The handling of television coverage is somewhat more difficult than that for press and radio, but the cooperation of both the directors and the cameramen themselves produced some excellent footage which caught the spirit of the event.

Based on successful experiences in dealing with the press, not only at the Convention but throughout the year, various A.A.'s have found that when they extend themselves to cooperate with the legitimate needs of the media, favorable and sympathetic treatment is forthcoming.

The General Services Office and various regional and local P.I. people find that as A.A. grows, more editors, writers, and commentators have an interest in running stories, doing interviews, and producing shows about A.A. and its work. Sometimes their requests, based on

lack of knowledge, are out of step with our requirements. Usually, after an explanation of what can and cannot be done, the writers or producers will alter their approach, providing we assist with constructive suggestions.

Secondly, when regional conferences or other events become publicly known, we should take steps to notify the media and invite them to work through us. Such a mode is not "promotion," but rather "service," and helps to assure that coverage will be in line with A.A. principles. Failure to extend a helping hand may lead to uninformed, vague and random coverage that will prove harmful.

Such events as a regional or area conference, or huge banquets or luncheons, that may elicit interest from media sources should be of prime concern to P.I. people.

It is suggested that prior to the opening day of such events, an invitation be addressed to the area media to attend a press briefing at which a spokesperson would explain A.A., and its Tradition of anonymity, and suggest ways that the story can be covered. Whenever possible, a P.I. committee member should be detailed to accompany photographers, writers, and TV cameramen as they go about their coverage. This serves several important purposes. First, it assures members, who

may "get up tight" when they see a cameraman, that the activity is being monitored; secondly, it guides the media person in staying within bounds, and, lastly, it usually produces a better story or picture.

There are some requests that are so "far out," so completely foreign to our way of life, that they must be rejected. The usual reply from a belligerent newspaper person will be "if we can't do this, we won't run any story." They are very surprised when we tell them that we're really not interested in the story. Unlike most press agents, we are not seeking coverage. We welcome coverage; we will help well-disposed media people to get an accurate, interesting piece; we will attempt to meet all of their legitimate requests, but we do not crave publicity. We do not "set-up" stunts to create stories. We are not promoters.

Serving the media can be a constructive A.A. activity, and properly carried out can be another way to fulfill A.A.'s primary purpose—"to carry the message to other alcoholics."

Note: The above article was written by the A.A. member, a journalist and public relations executive, who was in charge of the press room at the International Convention.

Correctional Facilities

Raleigh Prison Group Celebrates 32 Years

The Triangle Group at Central Prison, Raleigh, North Carolina, recently celebrated its 32nd anniversary. Member John P.'s vivid account lets us share as if we'd been there:

"Chairperson Charles B. invited Ralph S. to ask the blessing before the meal. We then partook of a fine dinner prepared by group members on the cooking committee and kitchen staff. Our feast included roast beef and gravy, cooked to perfection; niblet corn; baked potatoes stuffed with the steward's special cheese sauce; rolls and butter. For dessert, we had sheet cake with ice cream and, of course, plenty of iced tea and coffee.

"After everyone had settled down with another cup of coffee, Charles B. called the meeting to order and we prayed the Serenity Prayer. This was followed by Ron H. reading 'How It Works' and Johnnie H. reading The

Twelve Traditions. Gratitude and appreciation were expressed to our honorary members and their guests for coming to share with us, and for their active support. We were then entertained by the Silver Eagle Band, with Charles B. and Randall S. singing songs. They received a standing ovation.

"Our guest speaker was Wade J., from Greensboro. First, Wade shared with us some of his experiences as an alcoholic before finding A.A. Then he told us of his struggle to work the program in the beginning of his sobriety. One day, he visited a founder of A.A. and became aware that he had not fully accepted the idea of turning everything over to a Higher Power. Nor had he given much thought to a spiritual consciousness of his Higher Power. His life changed, and today he reflects an inner peace, determination, and strength that are a direct result of his personal relationship with his Higher Power.

“Wade stressed the spiritual nature of the Fellowship, saying that alcoholism is a disease which destroys one physically, mentally, and spiritually. To say the least, his sharing met with overwhelming concurrence and heartfelt appreciation.

“As we neared the end of this happy evening, Charles asked Pete J. to read the Thought for the Day. We then joined hands and prayed the Lord’s Prayer. Afterward, we exchanged addresses and phone numbers and shared friendship and fellowship.”

What Is Our Commitment To the Suffering Alcoholic?

His topic was “Fifty Years of Caring and Sharing,” and Class A trustee Jim Estelle Jr. wasn’t pulling any punches.

“Collectively,” he told the 35th General Service Conference, “the Fellowship has achieved some degree of maturity, but there are still signs of our residual adolescence as we wrestle with the problems of dual addiction, age (‘too young’), and treatment center and court referrals. Also, like adolescents, we profess love and deference to our ancestral heritage, but we have not made quite the same degree of commitment to the still-suffering alcoholic we as yet haven’t even met.”

Within the last three years, he noted, the U.S. Department of Justice released a research report indicating that about 80 percent, or 360,000, of our adult prisoners should be classified either as problem drinkers or as alcoholics. Applying the same yardstick to Canada, the figure jumps by another 20,000 prisoners having trouble with alcohol. And the numbers continue to grow.

As sober members of A.A., we can and should change the situation, Estelle urged, echoing co-founder Bill W.’s stated belief that in the Fellowship, “the chain of recovery is as strong as its weakest link. It grows in strength to the extent that it is able to reach its weakest links.”

For those of us in A.A., Estelle said, “the next 50 years can be a mission in which, if we accept the challenge, the most severely suffering alcoholics in North America can be reached.” Then, stressing *willingness* as the key, he suggested five specific ways in which members can pursue this mission:

- Share, without reservation or prejudice, the joy of sobriety with the youths who are suffering alcoholics (most crime is committed by males aged 17-27).
- Carry the A.A. message to suffering alcoholics in the ghettos and barrios of our major cities. (A significantly disproportionate number of our prisoners come from black and Hispanic neighborhoods in metropolitan areas.)

- Go into jails and detox centers in greater numbers.
- Establish a cooperative relationship with our over-worked probation officers who need the kind of support for their alcoholic probationers that only effective A.A. sponsors can provide.

- Be ready to test our collective maturity as we change our attitudes about referrals from treatment centers and the lower courts.

Concluding on a note of optimism and hope, Estelle pointed to A.A.’s first 50 years of caring and sharing in correctional facilities as “a sound foundation for what could be a golden era during the next 50 years. Part of the future of our Fellowship — too much — is right now locked up in jails, prisons, and juvenile detention centers. If that thought bothers you even a little bit, let’s change it.”

From the Mail Bag

Jim M., a member of the Institutions Correspondence Service, writes from Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada: “In 1948, when I contacted A.A., alcoholism was looked upon more as moral degeneracy than as a disease. If you mentioned ‘alcoholic’ to the average person, it immediately called up visions of skid row and pathetic figures clad in rags, huddled in doorways over in the seedier parts of town.

“Today, largely owing to the public information work of A.A., that impression has been corrected. It is now generally known that persons of wealth and influence may contract this strange disease which causes them, after use of alcohol, to commit acts of an insane nature.

“I started drinking while still in my teens and suffered depressions so acute as to cause me to attempt suicide on two occasions. It was during World War II that I first learned of A.A. Somewhere, while overseas with the Canadian Army, I read, and no doubt had a laugh as I read, about these fellows who beat the habit by sitting around drinking coffee and talking about it.

“In 1948, I tried to stop drinking; each time, I’d end up going on a colossal drunk for days and wind up with the same old depression and jitters. Once, while I still had them, I sent an appeal letter that was published in the *Calgary Herald* — a humble appeal for help. In response, I heard from two men who were members of what was then a small A.A. group of men meeting together in Calgary. They had been brought together by a nonalcoholic, Jack J., who had obtained literature from the States on behalf of his brothers, both alcoholics.

“From that time on I have been active in A.A., and sober for 37 of my 77 years. For me, the Fellowship and its philosophy are the answer to all life’s problems.”

BOX 4|5|9 BULLETIN BOARD

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.'s — Via G.S.O.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1985

Calendar of Events

October

- OCTOBER DEADLINE** — Miami, Florida: Friends of Bill W. Cruise. Feb. 2-8, 1986, M/S Starward. Write: Ch., Box 201 Buckland Sta., Manchester, CT 06040
- 1-3 — *Evansville, Indiana.* 25th Annual Tri-State Conv., Write: Host Com., Box 2241, Evansville, IN 47714-0241
- 4-6 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia.* Jackson's Mill Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 4-6 — *Boyer Falls, Michigan.* — The 33rd State Conf. Write: 33rd State Conf., Box 3273, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
- 4-6 — *Rochester, New York.* Fifth Annual Conv. Write: Rochester Conv. Com., 183 E. Main St., Suite 1035, Rochester, NY 14604
- 4-6 — *Invermere, British Columbia, Canada.* Invermere and Dist. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2333, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0
- 4-6 — *Butte, Montana.* Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 682, Whitehall, MT 59758
- 4-6 — *Olympia, Washington.* Area Assy. Write: WA Area Assy., Box 4206, Tum Water, WA 98501
- 4-6 — *Boyer Falls, Michigan.* 33rd State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3273, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
- 4-6 — *Brooks, Alberta, Canada.* Brooks A.A. Group Roundup. Write: G.S.R., Box 2103, Brooks, Alta. T0J 0J0
- 4-6 — *Utica, New York.* Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire Conv. Write: Ch., G.P.O. Box 91, Whitesboro, NY 13492
- 4-6 — *Bakersfield, California.* 34th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2094, Chino, CA 91708
- 4-6 — *Duluth, Minnesota.* 40th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 6771, Duluth, MN 55806
- 4-6 — *Columbus, Indiana.* Third Annual Men's Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 644, Columbus, IN 47202-0644
- 5 — *Lima, Ohio.* Fellowship Day. Write: West Central OH Intgrp., Box 8067, Lima, OH 45802
- 5-6 — *Santa Rosa, California.* Fourth Annual "In Celebration of Life" (gays and lesbians in A.A.) Write: Ch., Box 1184, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
- 5-7 — *Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada.* Madawaska Valley Dist. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 91, Barry's Bay, Ont. K0J 1B0
- 10-13 — *Columbus, Georgia.* 32nd Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7841, Columbus, GA 31908
- 11-12 — *Athens, Texas.* 35th Anniversary. Write: Treas., Box 1045, Athens, TX 75751
- 11-13 — *Schreiber, Ontario, Canada.* Annual Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 201, Schreiber, Ont. P0T 2S0

- 11-13 — *Orillia, Ontario, Canada.* 20th Anniv. of the Georgia Bay Dist. Conv. Write: Host Com., Box 103, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 6G5
- 11-13 — *Tucson, Arizona.* Arizona Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5351, Tucson, AZ 85703
- 11-13 — *Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada.* 21st Annual Assy. Write: Ch., Box 554, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H4
- 11-13 — *Fort Dodge, Iowa.* State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Fall Conf. '85, Box 268, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
- 11-13 — *North Bay, Ontario, Canada.* 30th Annual Northeastern Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1165, North Bay, Ont. P1B 8K3
- 11-13 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* Sixth Annual Gratitude Conf., (lesbian & gay men in A.A.) Write: Ch., Suite 2220, 45 Dunfield Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4S 2H4
- 11-13 — *Santa Barbara, California.* First Annual Conv. Write: Conv., Box 91731, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1731
- 11-13 — *Stockton, California.* 38th Annual Fall Conf. Write: Conf. Secy., 1046 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122
- 11-13 — *Casper, Wyoming.* Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 90207, Casper, WY 92609
- 11-13 — *Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.* 29th Annual Northern Lites Roundup. Write: Ch., 320 N. Ogilvie St., Prince George, B.C. V2M 3H8
- 11-13 — *Montego Bay, Jamaica.* Discovery Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 138, Reading, Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies
- 11-13 — *Hope, British Columbia, Canada.* Ninth Annual Thanksgiving Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 876, Hope, B.C. VOX 1L0
- 11-13 — *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.* 1985 Freedom Roundup (lesbians and gay men). Write: Freedom Roundup, Box 15978, Philadelphia, PA 19103
- 11-13 — *Grenada, Mississippi.* Tenth Annual North MS. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2025, Big Creek, MS 38914

Planning a December, January, or February Event?

Please be sure to send your information on December, January, or February events in time to reach G.S.O. by *October 15*. This is the calendar deadline for the Holiday issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed November 15).

Naturally, G.S.O. cannot check on all the information submitted. We must rely on local A.A.'s to describe the events accurately.

Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

From more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

October (page 23): Traditions; self-pity; personal responsibility; spiritual awakening.

November (page 35): Group unity; A.A. and other addictions; anonymity; institutions; happiness.

- 13 — *Burlington, Massachusetts.* Dist. 21 Roundup. Write: Ch., 894 Boston Rd., Billerica, MA 01821
- 16-18 — *Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.* Third Annual Maritime Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1026, Moncton, N.B. E1C 8P2
- 16-18 — *Buffalo, New York.* Sixth Annual P.I., C.P.C., Inst. Workshops. Write: Ch., 310 Willardshire Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127
- 18-20 — *Claresholm, Alberta, Canada.* 12th Family Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 45, Claresholm, Alta. T0L 0T0
- 18-20 — *West Palm Beach, Florida.* Agape Weekend, #47. Write: Ch., 16750 S.W. 300th St. Homestead, FL 33030
- 18-20 — *La Crosse, Wisconsin.* '85 Fall Conf. Write: Treas., 1225 Caledonia St., La Crosse, WI 54603
- 18-20 — *Lafayette, Louisiana.* Second Annual Cajun County Conf. Write: Ch., 330 Feu Follet, Apt. #254, Lafayette, LA 70508
- 18-20 — *Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada.* Spruce Grove-Stony Plain Unity Roundup. Write: Secy., 9 Beechmont Cresc., Spruce Grove, Alta. T0E 2C0
- 18-20 — *Buffalo, New York.* 44th Annual Fall Conv. Write: Ch. Rm. 603, Ellicott Square Bldg., 295 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203
- 20 — *Altoona, Pennsylvania.* Western PA Conf. (Fall Day of Sharing). Write: Ch., Box 308, Altoona, PA 16601
- 25-27 — *London, Ontario, Canada.* 32nd Annual Western Ontario. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 725, London, Ont. N6A 4Y8
- 25-27 — *Nederland, Texas.* Ninth Dist. Conf. Write: Treas., Box 2243, Nederland, TX 77627
- 25-27 — *Monterey, California.* Sixth Annual Conf. by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box A-211, 177 Webster, Monterey, CA 93940
- 25-27 — *Vancouver, Washington.* Tenth Columbia River Young People's Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1594, Portland, OR 97207
- 25-27 — *Downingtown, Pennsylvania.* Eighth Annual Young People's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1962, Media, PA 19063
- 25-27 — *St. Cloud, Minnesota.* Third Annual Cloudy Town Roundup. Write: Roundup, Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302

Flip up this end of page — many more events listed on reverse side

- 25-27 — *Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 931, Lillooet, B.C. V0K 1V0
- 25-27 — *Duncan, British Columbia, Canada*. 16th Annual Rally. Write: Ch., Box 662, Duncan, B.C. V9L 3A1
- 25-27 — *Casa Grande, Arizona*. 29th Sahuaro Agape Weekend. Write: Secy., Box 43096, Tucson, AZ 85733
- 25-27 — *Rapid City, South Dakota*. Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 5086, Rapid City, SD 57709
- 25-27 — *Thief River Falls, Minnesota*. Tenth Annual Harvest Festival. Write: Ch., Lot 79, NW Tr. Ct., Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- 25-27 — *Hays, Kansas*. Fourth Annual Northwest Kansas Conf. Write: Ch., Box 326, Hays, KS 67601
- 31-Nov. 3 — *Rogersville, Alabama*. Riverside Roundup II. Write: Ch., 300 Spring Valley Ct., Huntsville, AL 35802

November

- NOVEMBER DEADLINE — *New Orleans, Louisiana*. Cruise Without Booze. Dec. 7-17. Write: Ch., 3459 E. 58th St., Tulsa, OK 74135
- 1-3 — *Branson, Missouri*. Annual Western Area Conv. Write: Ch., 1457 Forrest Ct., Liberty, MO 64068
- 1-3 — *Shreveport, Louisiana*. Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5395, Shreveport, LA 71105
- 1-3 — *Yosemite National Park, California*. Second Annual Yosemite Summit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1243, Mariposa, CA 95338
- 1-3 — *Lincoln, Montana*. 16th Wilderness Agape Weekend. Write: Coord., 23 Konley, Kalispell, MT 59901
- 1-3 — *Hagerstown, Maryland*. First Conf. of Young People in A.A. Write: MCYPAA, Box 13, Perry Hall, MD 21128

- 1-3 — *Evansville, Indiana*. 25th Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., Suite 14, Court Bldg., Evansville, IN 47708
- 2 — *New York, New York*. Intergroup Annual Dinner-Meeting & Dance in Honor of Bill W. Write: Dinner Com., 175 5th Ave., Rm. 219, New York, NY 10010
- 7-9 — *Ocracoke, North Carolina*. 13th Ocracoke Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 355, Ocracoke, NC 27960
- 7-10 — *Honolulu, Hawaii*. 24th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., 3933 Niou Pl., Apt. B, Honolulu, HI 96816
- 8-10 — *Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. 35th Annual Area 78 Conv. Write: Area 78, Box 31, 1331 44th Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alta. T2E 7A1
- 8-10 — *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada*. Dist. 4 Seventh Annual Lighthouse Roundup. Write: Ch., Nova Grp., Box 542, Yarmouth, N.S. B5A 4B3
- 8-10 — *St. Petersburg Beach, Florida*. Third Annual Meeting (Medical-Professional Grp.). Write: Ch., 1201 5th Ave. N., #505, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
- 8-10 — *Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada*. Third Annual Roundup. Write: Com., Box 6896, Wetaskiwin, Alta. T9A 2G5
- 8-10 — *Kiamesha Lake, New York*. 15th Northeast Regional Conv. Write: Ch., Box 364, Glenwood Landing, NY 11547
- 14-17 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 43177, Las Vegas, NV 89116
- 15-16 — *Windsor, Quebec, Canada*. Congress A.A., Dist. 88-10. Write: Congress, 250 rue St-George, Windsor, Que.
- 15-17 — *Burley, Idaho*. Area Fall Assy. Write: ID Area Fall Assy., Box 1073, Burley, ID 83318
- 15-17 — *Frederick, Maryland*. First Century Roundup. Write: Roundup Com., Box 563, Walkersville, MD 21793
- 15-17 — *Houston, Texas*. Spirit of Houston Conf. Write: Treas., Box 7727, The Woodlands, TX 77387
- 15-17 — *Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Second Annual A.A. Family Roundup.

- Write: Ch., 152 Grandview St. W., Moose Jaw, Sask. S0H 5K7
- 16 — *Phoenixville, Pennsylvania*. 30 Year Homecoming. Write: Ch., 326 Nut Rd., Phoenixville, PA 19460
- 16-17 — *Paris, France*. 25th Anniversary of A.A. in France. Write: Services Generaux France, 21, rue Trousseau, 75011 Paris, France
- 22-24 — *Jonesboro, Arkansas*. 31st Annual Thanksgiving Festival. Write: Ch., Box 2394, Jonesboro, AK 72403
- 22-24 — *Wichita, Kansas*. Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 18093, Wichita, KS 67218
- 24 — *Helena, Montana*. 31st Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Write: Ch., 107 13th St., Helena, MT 59601
- 27-28 — *Auburn, California*. Fellowship Thanksgiving Alkathon. Write: Coord., Box 6447, Auburn, CA 95604-6447
- 28-Dec. 1 — *New York, New York*. Sixth Annual Big Apple Roundup (sponsored by lesbians and gay men in A.A.). Write: Secy., Box 451, Village Sta., New York NY 10014
- 29-Dec. 1 — *Muskegon, Michigan*. Seventh Conf. of Young People in A.A. Write: MCYPAA, Box 934, Muskegon, MI 49443
- 29 - Dec. 1 — *Trujillo, Peru*. Third National Get-Together. Write: Comité Organizador, Apartado 986, Trujillo, Peru

December

- 6-8 — *Dallas, Texas*. Southwest Regional Forum. Write: Ch., Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10163
- 24-25 — *Auburn, California*. Fellowship Christmas Alkathon. Write: Coord., Box 6447, Auburn, CA 95604-6447
- 31-Jan. 1 — *Auburn, California*. Fellowship New Year's Alkathon. Write: Coord., Box 6447, Auburn, CA 95604-6447