

■ ‘Children of Chaos’: The Birth of A.A.’s Traditions

“Moochers mooched, lonely hearts pined, committees quarreled, new clubs had unheard-of headaches, orators held forth, groups split wide open, members turned professional, sometimes whole groups got drunk, and local public relations went haywire.” (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 149)

Such, according to A.A. co-founder Bill W., was the state of affairs in many of the Fellowship’s fledgling groups during A.A.’s pioneering time. With little or no experience to speak of in the harrowing new adventure of sobriety, A.A. groups were flying blind.

Like wildfire, A.A.’s program of recovery, principally contained in the Twelve Steps as outlined in the Big Book, was spreading from one alcoholic to another, crisscrossing the nation and even jumping to foreign lands with alarming speed and facility. Helped by high profile media accounts and the growing support of medicine and religion, A.A. was well on its way to becoming a household name. People were getting sober and the good news traveled fast.

Nevertheless, A.A.’s collection of burgeoning groups often had little to hold onto beyond the deep desire of their members for individual sobriety. Everything was being defined on a day-to-day, person-to-person basis, with trial and error discovery of what worked and what didn’t. Rules were made and broken; policies were introduced and soon discarded; and, inevitably, powerful, sometimes bitter, disputes broke out regarding the relations of A.A. members one to another and to the outside world.

Problems were many in A.A.’s first decade, and while membership climbed higher and higher with each year, the challenges of living and working together not only as individuals but as groups began to pile up. With success and exposure also came suspicion, jealousy, and resentment. There was conflict over every conceivable issue: the use of money, the operation of clubhouses, misuse of A.A.’s name, leadership and personal romances. Meeting

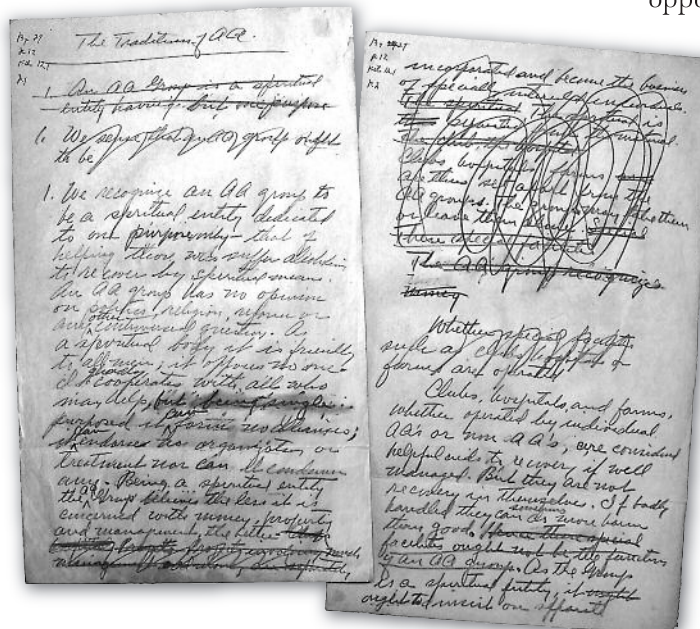
rituals varied from one group to another; some meetings aimed at low-bottom drunks, some featured those of the high-bottom variety; some allowed “slippers” to return to the fold, others thought they should be excommunicated.

As Bill recounted in *A.A. Comes of Age* (p. 203): “It seemed as if every contestant in every group argument wrote us during this confused and exciting period.” The problems articulated by these A.A. members threatened to overwhelm the nascent Fellowship, and Bill confessed in a 1950 letter to an A.A. member in Michigan, “When letters describing the growing pains of the early groups came across my desk... I used to lie awake nights. It seemed certain that the forces of disintegration would tear our pioneering groups apart...”

A.A. was not the first organization, however, to find itself foundering on the reefs of conflict and perilous success. The Washingtonian Society, a movement for the reclamation of drunkards a century earlier, had nearly discovered an answer to alcoholism. At the outset, the society, which originated in Baltimore, was composed entirely of alcoholics trying to help one another. They had notable success and the movement thrived. Their membership passed the five hundred thousand mark. Yet, the Washingtonians permitted politicians and reformers, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, to use the society for their own purposes and, in spite of their stated aims to avoid politics, religion and commercialization, many members took

opposing sides publicly on questions of alcohol reform and other issues of the day. Within eight or nine years it was reported that the Washingtonians “had lost their thunder.” Said Bill W. at an annual A.A. banquet in New York City on November 7, 1945, “In short, the Washingtonians went out to settle the world’s affairs before they had learned to manage themselves. They had no capacity for minding their own business.”

The Oxford Group, a religious organization from which the seeds of A.A. grew



Pencil draft, as Bill began to sketch out the First Tradition.

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and which supplied some of the Fellowship's basic spiritual principles and precepts, also provided an example of what not to do. In *A.A. Comes of Age*, (p. 39), Bill wrote: "Early A.A. got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, restitution for harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Groups and directly from Sam Shoemaker, their former leader in America." However, while Oxford Group members were deeply interested in the plight of alcoholics, some of their practices made Bill and others uncomfortable. Serving as a spiritual springboard for many of A.A.'s fundamental concepts, the differences between the Oxford Group and the fledgling Fellowship ultimately prompted a separation of the two groups. As Bill once put it, "The Oxford Group wanted to save the world, and I only wanted to save drunks."

Utilizing the example of the groups that had come before and the growing body of experience from its own internal struggles in the Fellowship's first decade, A.A. inched closer to a set of working principles that could guide and protect the group life of A.A.

In 1946, in the A.A. Grapevine, these principles were codified by the founders and early members as the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and were published under the title "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future." They were accepted and endorsed by the membership as a whole at the International Convention of A.A., in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950. Later, in April of 1953, the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was published, providing for the Fellowship a blueprint for individual recovery and a roadmap for how to survive as an organization.

"Children of chaos," wrote Bill in Tradition Four, "we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today."

According to Bill, the reception of the Traditions in the late 1940s was underwhelming. "Only groups in dire trouble took them seriously," he said retrospectively in the June 1955 Grapevine, and "from some quarters there was a violent reaction, especially from groups that had long lists of 'protective' rules and regulations. There was much apathetic indifference."

But time presently changed all that and just a few years later at the 1950 Cleveland Convention, several thousand A.A. members declared that A.A.'s Traditions constituted "the platform upon which our Fellowship could best function and hold together in unity for all time to come. They saw that the Twelve Traditions were going to be as necessary to the life of our Society as the Twelve Steps were to the life of each member. The A.A. Traditions were, the Cleveland Convention thought, the key to the unity, the function, and even the survival of us all."

Echoing that thought J.B., a member from Modesto, California, noted in the April 1984 Grapevine, "The Twelve Traditions are not a bunch of guidelines set up by 'them' and handed down to us with the directive 'This is what you are going to do, or else.' The Traditions are the result of mistakes that almost tore our Fellowship apart, and we voluntarily accept them."

"When speaking of the Traditions, we are speaking of life or death. I cannot live without A.A. You cannot live without A.A. Yet you and I *are* A.A. In spite of ourselves, we have to be responsible for ourselves. In spite of myself, I have to be responsible, and responsibility is what the Traditions are about."

■ Deadline Extended on "A.A. and the Armed Services"

In the Winter issue of *Box 4-5-9* a call went out for new stories to update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services," with a deadline of February 2011. This deadline has now been extended to *July 15, 2011*.

This request for stories was in response to the 2010 General Service Conference Advisory Action that "the trustee's Literature Committee update the pamphlet 'A.A. and the Armed Services' to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services...'"

The trustee's Literature Committee is seeking stories from A.A. members. Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced. Please attach your name and address on a separate piece of paper. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please send your sharing, by *July 15, 2011*, to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, or e-mail: literature@aa.org.

■ Annual General Service Conference

Once more it is time for A.A.'s annual General Service Conference, which will take place May 1-7, 2011, in New York City. The theme of the 61st Conference is "We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future—Let It Begin With Us."

The General Service Conference is widely accepted as the medium through which A.A.'s membership makes its voice heard. Some suggest it is the closest thing to a Fellowship-wide group conscience in the U.S. and Canada. Membership consists of A.A. members representing the 93 service areas in the United States and Canada, along with trustees, directors, and General Service Office and Grapevine staff members.

Conference week will be very busy. There will be presentations, followed by discussions, on many topics, including A.A. in a Digital Age, An Informed Group Conscience, and Diversity in Alcoholics Anonymous. A workshop will address "How to Increase Participation in A.A.—Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs."

Most important will be the Conference committee recommendations, which may result in Conference Advisory Actions. Some of the items which will be discussed at this year's Conference include:

- The Finance and Budgetary Committee will consider various ways to communicate self-support.
- The Literature Committee will review a revised draft of "The A.A. Member—Medication and Other Drugs," as well as a progress report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality.
- The draft of the proposed pamphlet, "A.A. for the



A session of the 1955 General Service Conference, held at Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri. This Conference was a part of the International Convention and the only Conference held outside of New York State. The second edition of the Big Book was introduced and the Third Legacy of Service was accepted.

Alcoholic With Special Needs" will be reviewed by the Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee.

- Public Information will put the finishing touches on the questions for the A.A. Membership Survey.
- International Conventions/Regional Forums will discuss a report on the 2010 International Convention, held in San Antonio last July.

The summer issue of *Box 4-5-9*, mailed in late May, will contain more information on the Conference, and a partial list of Agenda Items. A complete report of the Conference will be in the *Final Conference Report*, available in the summer.

■ An Option for French-speaking A.A.s

The A.A. French Audio Internet Group—Vivre Sans Alcool (Living Sober)—celebrated its fifth anniversary online this past February. The group now has more than 70 French-speaking A.A. members from over a dozen countries, including Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Brazil, India, Australia and the United States.

As Andre L., from Quebec, the group's co-founder, reports, "Online meetings are a good complement to A.A. meetings, but they cannot replace a handshake, a smile, or a hug. We don't want to replace face-to-face meetings; we just want to help more, in a different way and with different tools."

The growth of this group has been steady and long in the making. Andre first presented the idea of incorporating the Internet with A.A. service at the A.A. Regional Forum in Alma, Quebec, in 1995. In 1999, unable to leave his home due to illness, he learned about Voice Online Meetings. Though there were several meetings a day held in English, there was only one meeting a week held in French, and that meeting closed in 2003.

In February 2006, Andre and a Belgian A.A. member—Philippe V.—began the online group, "Vivre Sans Alcool," and a homepage Web site for the group was created the following month, when the group also registered with the Online Intergroup of A.A. (OIAA) as a nonvoting member in the Audio section of meetings.

The group celebrated its first anniversary with ten members participating online. As the group grew, so did technology and a Quebec "Room" was created on "Paltalk," with a full and continuous reading of both the French translation of the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve online. This elicited messages from several A.A. members around the world willing to have their spoken messages rebroadcast online.

In October 2007, the official Web site of A.A. in French-speaking Belgium offered the Vivre Sans Alcool Group a link on its site, attracting yet more members. In December

of that year a counter was installed on the group's Web site; by the following June it was determined that the group's Web site had had 2,412 unique visitors.

The group continued to expand, and in 2008 they celebrated their second anniversary with ten members; in May two new meetings were opened, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 am, Eastern Standard Time. By the third anniversary in 2009, twenty members were celebrating. In 2009, the group's treasurer also opened a Paypal account in the group's name to further the group's ability to perform the Seventh Tradition.

September 2009 brought confirmation of Area 89, Northeast Quebec, hosting the group's Web site online and, as of December that year, Vivre Sans Alcool Group has a representative to the Online Intergroup of A.A.

The Web site for the group is <http://aa89.org/vivre-sansalcool/>

■ A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Welcomes Ami B.

Ami B. has been named the executive editor/publisher of A.A. Grapevine. Ami, who began her career at Grapevine in November of 2010, brings to Grapevine her extensive background in advertising and publishing, both in print and on the Web.

Ami, who has been sober 28 years, holds a B.S. in Hispanic Civilization and a Masters of International Business Management. She is fluent in Spanish, and is also assuming responsibility for publishing *La Viña*, the Fellowship's Spanish language magazine. She finds that her Spanish-language skills are useful in this position: "I am able to read *La Viña*, cover-to-cover," says Ami, "and I enjoy my interactions with the Spanish-speaking members and staff of *La Viña*."

According to Ami, her career has evolved along with the changes that the publishing industry has undergone. Indeed, many A.A.s are familiar with the changes within the publishing industry and have adjusted their reading habits to better utilize the technology. Some younger members of the Fellowship and fans of Grapevine's Digital Archive have wondered when a digital copy of A.A. Grapevine would become available.

Ami was happy to report that digital Grapevine and *La Viña* were released for the first time in December 2010—a milestone for Grapevine. The new executive editor/publisher is quick to reassure members, "Of course, A.A. Grapevine magazine will still be available in its original print format." She notes that the populations who do not have access to digital platforms, or those who simply choose not to use it, will not lose this valuable tool of sobriety.

In discussing Grapevine and *La Viña*, Ami is positive, focused, and realistic. She hopes that the success of the magazines will continue to be a collaborative effort—the support of the Fellowship is essential for Grapevine and *La*

Viña to thrive as effective and wide-reaching tools that share the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. This support, Ami notes, not only includes subscribing, utilizing, and contributing material to the magazine, but also in visiting aagrapevine.org. Ami says, "Thanks to A.A. we are part of society and it would be meaningful to see Grapevine continue to embrace the tools that society is using in order to better serve the Fellowship."

A.A. Around the World

■ It's '1939' for A.A. in Thailand

Under the theme "How It Works," the first annual Thai Round Up was held in Bangkok, Thailand, last October 30th and 31st. The majority of attendees were Thai A.A. members, and the workshops and meetings were conducted in Thai, with some English translations for travelers and English-speaking members who also attended.

English-speaking meetings have been held in Thailand since 1971; indeed February 25-27 of this year, English-speaking A.A. in Thailand held their 16th Annual Round Up in Pattaya, Thailand. There are also A.A. groups in Thailand conducted in German and Finnish. But until now, there was only a brief period in 1979 when the Bangkok Group expanded into a Thai-speaking A.A. group.

Gerry R., from the Hua Hin Group, reports that "it is roughly year 1939 for indigenous Thai A.A." Gerry further reports that English-speaking A.A. members in Thailand introduced A.A. to Thais at a treatment center in Kohn Kaen, "where a nonalcoholic Thai nurse—informally nicknamed 'Thailand's Sister Ignatia'—has facilitated its introduction and growth."

In addition to the first annual Thai Round Up, the Big Book is now available in Thai, as well as five basic recovery pamphlets. More information on English-speaking meetings in Thailand can be found on their Web site at <http://www.aathailand.org>

■ Coming to a Region Near You...

Northeast Regional Forum, May 20-22, 2011, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, 366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Forum details and online registration are available at www.aa.org

■ Is Your Group Listed with G.S.O.?

A.A. members sometimes joke that a resentment and a coffeepot are all you need to start a new A.A. group. But there's one additional ingredient that can appreciably increase a group's chance for success.

Listing a new group with the General Service Office can provide a vital connection to A.A. as a whole and link the new group to a wide network of resources. "No man is an island," said the poet John Donne, and the same could be said about an A.A. group.

New groups listed with G.S.O. are automatically an integral part of A.A.'s "group conscience" in the U.S. and Canada and are included in mailings of information and shared experience from the General Service Office that can help the group establish a firm foundation. And, over time, as the group grows a channel of communication can develop, providing G.S.O. and the local, district and area service structure with critical information about how A.A. is doing in the community.

When a new group forms, the members usually take time to decide on a name, elect trusted servants, plan the time and format of the group's meeting(s), and obtain A.A. literature from the nearby intergroup/central office. Then, the process of listing the group begins. By providing some basic information using the Alcoholics Anonymous New Group Form, and supplying contact information for the group's General Service Representative (G.S.R.) or mail contact, the group is assigned a unique service number that becomes part of the group's record. The New Group Form, as well as other forms for changing existing group information, are available online at G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site (www.aa.org) and can be returned to G.S.O., once completed, via postal mail, fax, or e-mail.

A big part of listing a new group is the linkage it provides with the wider general service structure, and once G.S.O. receives the New Group Form the information is shared via the area delegate with the area assembly where the group is located. After allowing thirty days for the area to welcome the group the group receives its service ID number and a "Group Handbook" from G.S.O. with important information on how a group functions and how to get started.

A.A.'s Traditions suggest that a group not be named after a facility or member (living or deceased), and that the name not imply affiliation with any sect, religion, organization or institution. So, when information on the New Group Form is first received, the Records Department at G.S.O. reviews each group's proposed name, also checking through existing group records to ensure there is no other group in the same locality with the same name.

"If there's any problem with the group name," says Migdalia Ingenita, a nonalcoholic member of the Records Department, "we send it to the G.S.O. staff." A

staff member responsible for correspondence with groups in that particular area will then work directly with the proposed new group, addressing any concerns there may be.

As noted in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins," "Each group is as unique as a thumbprint, and approaches to carrying the message of sobriety vary not just from group to group but from region to region. Acting autonomously, each group charts its own course. The better informed the members, the stronger and more cohesive the group—and the greater the assurance that when a newcomer reaches out for help, the hand of A.A. will always be there.

"Most of us cannot recover unless there is a group. As Bill said, 'Realization dawns on each member that he is but a small part of a great whole.... He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.'"

It has often been said that the home group is the heartbeat of A.A. And while there are many reasons for starting a new group—it doesn't always have to involve a resentment or even a coffeepot—listing a new group with G.S.O. can help to keep that heartbeat strong and to establish important connections with other groups throughout the A.A. world.

■ Vacancy on G.S.O. Staff

Applications are now being sought for a G.S.O. staff member. G.S.O. staff are members of Alcoholics Anonymous who rotate through various assignments such as Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Facilities/Special Needs, Literature and Conference. They also correspond with A.A.s on all aspects of recovery and service. Additionally, they represent the General Service Office at A.A. functions throughout the U.S. and Canada and provide the primary staff support for the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference.

Desirable qualifications include excellent communication and organizational skills, good computer skills, as well as the ability to work independently and as a team member. A.A. service experience will also be taken into consideration in addition to a willingness to relocate to New York City, if necessary. A minimum of six years sobriety is required. This opening will be available mid to late summer of 2011. Interested and qualified members may request an application form by contacting: Director of Staff Services, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163. The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2011.

■ ‘Regional Forums?’ –Who Knew!'

“What an amazing, eye-opening weekend!” wrote Liz A. from Los Angeles, who attended the Pacific Regional Forum in 2010. “I am so grateful to the G.S.R. of my home group who nudged me into attending my first Regional Forum. When she announced that all A.A. members are welcome at Forums, especially first-time attendees, that caught my attention! I always thought Forums were only for members involved in general service and avoided them. Now I know better, and I know so much more about A.A.!”

A past trustee from Western Canada had a favorite saying: “A.A. is the only organization I know where the members don’t know what they belong to!” He was referring to the fact that oftentimes, members not involved in service may know very little about the Traditions and Concepts, A.A. history or the service structure. Forums, he pointed out, are a way to correct that.

Unlike A.A. gatherings such as conventions and roundups where there are A.A. speaker meetings, banquets and dances, Regional Forums are designed as weekend sharing sessions. While there is no formal business conducted at Forums, they provide unique opportunities for exchanging information and asking questions. It is where A.A. members get to meet trustees of the General Service Board, directors of A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, and staff members from the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and the Grapevine office, as well as area delegates in the region. As one new and enthusiastic G.S.R. stated at the Eastern Canada Regional Forum in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, “I cannot believe that I got to shake the hand of the chairman of the Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. I even got to meet and talk with our area delegate about a group concern. I may have not gotten the answers I wanted to hear, but overall it was a very informative weekend. I now have lots to share with my home group.”

A Forum program usually consists of presentations on the roles of Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, Class B (alcoholic) trustees, A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine and La Viña, G.S.O. staff, A.A. around the world and A.A. finances. Following each presentation there is time for questions and answers. On Saturday morning, delegates give presentations on topics they have selected. General sharing sessions are scheduled throughout the weekend, which give members and trusted servants an opportunity to ask questions or make comments from open microphones placed throughout the room. On Saturday evening several workshops are held simultaneously on a variety of topics; they are often moderated by delegates and trusted servants in the region. A.A. videos are also shown, such as “Markings on the Journey.” Sunday morning first-time Forum attendees are invited to share

their comments, followed by talks from past trustees. At the end of the Forum everyone receives an “early bird” newsletter that summarizes board and staff presentations. A Final Forum Report is later assembled and sent to all who attended. This report includes the delegate presentations, workshop summaries and past trustees sharing.

From the very beginning, Regional Forums have been a function of the General Service Board, where the idea originated. The board pays for the meeting space, literature displays and complimentary service material. There is no registration fee, and no organized meals for participants. Whether it is in the heart of French-speaking Quebec or in an area with a large Spanish-speaking population, simultaneous translation is available. One participant, following the recent Southeast Forum, e-mailed G.S.O. “I had no idea that the Big Book was available in over 60 languages. Seeing all of the A.A. literature displays, especially the Big Books in all the languages, brought tears of gratitude to my eyes. I also got a copy of the Grapevine’s *La Viña*, which I gave to a friend who is new to A.A. and speaks only Spanish.”

Whose idea was it? Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris (nonalcoholic), then chair of A.A.’s General Service Board. Forums were to be weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the boards and Grapevine and G.S.O. staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure. Today, there are four Regional Forums a year, spread among the eight regions of the U.S. and Canada. There is also one Additional Forum held each year on a rotating schedule. At the annual General Service Conference, area delegates from the scheduled region meet together and select where a future Forum will be held in their region. At the 61st General Service Conference in May 2011, four regions will be selecting locations for Regional Forums in 2014, and one region will select an Additional Forum.

New to Regional Forums since 2009 is the Orientation for first-time attendees, which is held on Friday evening before the opening session. It is, as some might describe, an “ice-breaker” or “meet and greet” session that includes a brief introduction on what to expect at Forums. Attendees receive a Regional Forum Orientation packet that includes a brief history on Forums, descriptions of Forum sessions and service terminology, along with pages for note taking. The Regional Forums coordinator, Eva S., recently shared, “First-time attendees get a star placed on their name badge, and in 2010 there were 1,577 shining stars at Regional Forums! I think it is safe to say that last year’s Conference Committee on International Conventions/ Regional Forums discussion on ways to encourage interest in Forums and attract first-time attendees really worked!”

The local host committee plays a big role in the success of Forums. Whether it is greeting at the doors,

staffing the registration tables, setting up G.S.O. and Grapevine literature displays, putting up workshop signs, distributing hand-outs, and much more, local A.A.s always rise to the occasion to help out. It is not uncommon that the local host committee organizes a hospitality room.

G.S.O. has come a long way in communicating about Forums since 1975. Information on Regional Forums is a click away on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site (www.aa.org) There you will find a Forums schedule, Regional Forum flyers, a Forum calendar poster, along with Online Registration and, where available, links to online hotel registration. For planning purposes, preregistration is encouraged and on-site registration is always available.

Phyllis H., G.S.O.'s general manager, shares, "With the speed and distance in which we often communicate today, Regional Forums provide that rare opportunity for us to meet face-to-face, in towns and cities, to share who we are, where we are now and where we need to be. From the time we arrive at a Forum, through workshops, presentations, discussions and endless cups of coffee, we gain a greater understanding of one another, and return to our areas and groups re-energized and unified in our common purpose and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous."

■ You've Got Mail: G.S.O.'s Digital Delivery Service

As the electronic chime indicates arrival of a new e-mail on your computer, you could be receiving the latest issue of one of G.S.O.'s informational newsletters. With digital delivery available for *Box 4-5-9*, *About AA*, and the Archives newsletter, *Markings*, G.S.O. has found another way to make its services more readily available through e-technology. As the importance of communication with the Fellowship through the Internet has been steadily increasing over the years, this service from G.S.O., which has been in development for a number of years, is intended to make these publications more widely and, in many cases, more easily available.

While reducing costs and facilitating distribution for those A.A. members and friends of A.A. who are interested in digital delivery, subscriptions may be ordered through G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site (www.aa.org). The service is free and requires only a brief online registration to determine delivery preferences and to set up a password-protected account. *About AA* and *Box 4-5-9* are still available in their print versions through a postal subscription, while *Markings* is available in digital format only.

Says Charlie Shell (nonalcoholic), G.S.O.'s information technology consultant, "As people look for more and more information electronically, either through e-mail or various Web sites, it seemed like a good way for us to get our newsletters out more quickly and economically. It's been pretty successful so far.

"Through this digital delivery service, we currently send out about 4,500 copies of *About AA*; for *Box 4-5-9* it's 7,500 copies; and for *Markings*, it's about 6,800. Since we've put the system in, we seem to be picking up about 300-400 new people a month."

Wherever possible, digital information exchange is proving to be a benefit both to G.S.O. and to the Fellowship, and G.S.O. is encouraging G.S.R.s and other trusted servants to update their information, either with area registrars or at G.S.O., with an e-mail address to facilitate future communications.

"Over time, we're hoping our electronic deliveries will grow," says Charlie, "and at some point, for some services, we'd like to shift over entirely to digital delivery. But it's a complicated process and for now we're just happy to see the growth continue."

So, why not check it out? And the next time you've got mail, remember, it could be the latest issue of your favorite G.S.O. newsletter.

■ Reaching Remote Communities in Manitoba

Heading north, beyond the populous Canadian cities of Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, and Saskatoon, a traveler will soon encounter the subarctic and arctic climate zones. In the popular imagination, these northern reaches are often depicted as stark, frozen land, buffeted by fierce winters, populated—if at all—by tough individuals beyond the reach of civilization. In fact, however, many of civilization's problems have arrived in isolated areas. Like people all around the world, many in Canada's far northern communities have seen alcohol overshadow their lives.

The communities within these northern reaches are often called "remote." By general standards, they are indeed distant and at least somewhat isolated from the more populous cities to the south. However, when A.A.s refer to remote communities, they are specifically referring to any community separated by language, culture, or geography. In the remote communities within Canada, they are set apart by all three factors. Thus, separated by language, culture, and geography, the A.A. message is often difficult to carry into these communities. As a result, those who would have the help of A.A. are often cut off from it.

Ex-drunks, however, are often noted for their tenacity and stubbornness. Once declaring: "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." They will not be deterred.

Making sure the hand of A.A. is extended to remote communities is by no means a new or unique development in Alcoholics Anonymous—many areas can relate a history

of such Twelfth Step work. For instance, Area 90 (NW Quebec) documents a 1977 reply from a G.S.O. worker to a Claude L. concerning his inquiry about A.A. meetings in the language of the Inuit. The reply to Claude was in the negative—there were no known A.A. meetings in Inuktitut, the language of the Inuit. In a letter dated a year later, we find that Claude had forwarded Inuktitut translations of “20 Questions” and Chapter Five of the Big Book.

In the many years that followed, A.A.s within (and outside of) Area 90 continued to question what could be done to better share the A.A. message with the First Nations members and with the Inuit living in the land of the permafrost.

According to Bob P., past Eastern Canada regional trustee, by 1994, at the Area 90 Committee meeting, when the issue was raised for further discussion, it was decided that Area 90 would embark on this Twelfth Step work with the Native Population. During the discussion, Native members of the Area committee shared that A.A.s were attempting to communicate with a different culture, language, and geography. Therefore, it was suggested that rotation be avoided—the development of trust and confidence was essential to successful Twelfth Step work. The project would be named “Work Group—Remote Communities.” The words “Work Group” were chosen specifically in order to avoid rotation and any confusion with the word “Committee” as per *The A.A. Service Manual*. Thus, the first Remote Communities Work Group was formed. Today, this Work Group continues to carry A.A.’s message to those in remote communities searching for a way out of their alcoholic darkness and despair.

A.A.s throughout the world have benefited from the trials, errors, and successes of those who came before by following in their footsteps and taking to heart the essence of Tradition Five: “Indeed, our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission—to carry the A.A. message to those who don’t know there’s a way out.” (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 151)

To this end, Area 80 (Manitoba) formed their own Remote Communities Work Force in order to carry the A.A. message and assist their Northern remote communities in starting and maintaining A.A. groups. John C., of Area 80 (Manitoba), reported that the Work Force was launched after a November 2008 cross Canada sharing session in Misty Lake attended by members from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba. It was here, John said, that he “first heard about carrying the message to the remote communities and how it was done by other provinces in Canada.” He continued, “These people were carrying the message to communities in their area as well as traveling to the Northwest Territories via air, road, and any other means possible. A few people (including myself) were astounded by the lengths that A.A.s in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia had gone to carry the A.A. message.

“Our efforts in carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic in southern Manitoba meant that we had to

call on the phone or drive for ten to twenty minutes. Sometimes we made a two-hour journey to communities further north in Manitoba. Oh, boy. We were carrying the message, but not going to any lengths to do it. I thought of the kind people in A.A. who brought the message to us in Manitoba and how they traveled, once a week, from the northern states in the U.S. to Manitoba in order to help A.A. get a foothold in our province.”

A.A.s understand the value of the experience, strength, and hope of fellow members, so Area 80 decided to form their Remote Communities Work Force using the knowledge shared by those who had gone before them. The fledgling Work Force reasoned, “What was the point of trying to reinvent the wheel? Other people in Canada were having success in working with remotes. We decided to use their experience.”

John C. became coordinating chair of the Work Force and with fellow members, they jumped in and got to work. A year after Area 80’s Remote Work Force had been launched, these A.A.s reported success beyond their expectations: “We have visited with... Northern Manitoba communities such as Thompson, Gillam, Bird, Split Lake, York Landing and Norway House. Except for Thompson and Gillam, there were no meetings being held in these communities prior to our visits. Now we have contacts in all the communities and meetings are being held on a regular basis. Books and literature have been given to each locale and are being used.

“Along with our visits, teleconferencing has taken off in the North. Many of the above have joined in and we now have weekly meetings via teleconferencing. These meetings are all A.A. structured, closed and always chaired in each location by an A.A. member. Some meetings are attended by people in treatment centers, similar to what happens in Winnipeg. As a result, we have had calls from various communities when the people go home from treatment asking us for help and information about how to bring A.A. to their areas.”

The Work Force, of course, does not operate in a vacuum. Essential to its success are the support and help of other areas with a common goal. John C. reports, “We cooperate with all across Canada and Alaska. Recently, we received a request from Quebec regarding a PSA (Public Service Announcement) for Nunavut (Iqaluit) and Nunavik (Kuujuaq—formerly Northwest Territories) to approach Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) about airing these PSAs. Permission had to be given from the head office in Winnipeg. The station graciously agreed to do so and asked for English versions to air on their east and west feeds.”

John sums up with one of the many benefits of Twelfth Step work: “We went from not knowing what we were getting ourselves into, to feeling that we were useful members once again. We, the people involved in the Remote Communities Work Force in Manitoba, continue to try to carry A.A.’s message of hope and recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

■ G.S.O.'s Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the criteria for listing A.A. conferences, conventions and similar events in *Box 4-5-9* and the A.A. Grapevine?

A. We generally try to list all A.A. events of two or more days in length, provided we are informed in time. There would not be enough room to list one-day events.

Q. Okay, then what is an A.A. event?

A. As far as we are concerned, any event which is run by A.A.s, about A.A., and for A.A.s is an A.A. event. Some are under the auspices of regions, areas or districts; others of central offices or intergroups or even groups; and still others of a committee of A.A. members. Al-Anons are included in some events. Many of the events are service-connected, others are purely for A.A.

Q. We are putting on an A.A. roundup, and some A.A. members are saying that since we are charging a registration fee for attendance at an A.A. function, we are not acting in accordance with A.A. Traditions.

A. There is a big difference between “no dues or fees for A.A. membership” and a registration fee for an A.A. roundup. The word “fee” is a strange one in a self-supporting Fellowship, but someone has to pay the bills! There are many, many A.A. roundups, conventions, and conferences (see the Bulletin Board Section of *Box 4-5-9* or the Calendar of Events in the Grapevine) and in most cases, registration fees are charged to cover the expenses of the event. Often a special event, such as a banquet, is put on for the purpose of raising additional funds to support a central office or the work of an institutions committee.

Depending on the situation, and in the judgment of the planning committee, sometimes special arrangements are made for A.A.s who would like to attend but cannot afford to. There are also events, such as a banquet, which only ticket holders attend, but after the meal the room is opened up to everyone, with or without a ticket, to hear the speaker. But again, this decision is made by the planning committee as they are the ones responsible for covering costs.

Q. Are raffles within A.A. Traditions?

A. Past General Service Conferences have been asked this question. The Conference has not come forth with a recommendation in regard to raffles. A show of hands usually indicates that about half the delegates think they are all right and about half the delegates think they should be discouraged. So the best we can do when asked is to reply that it is up to the group conscience.

Q. We are planning to hold a roundup in our city, and wonder if it's okay to ask the groups for seed money?

A. This can be answered only by the group conscience of the groups concerned. However, if the group agrees to take a collection at its meeting to support the roundup, a

separate basket for this specific purpose is often passed for those who wish to give, rather than taking money from the group funds.

Q. Is it okay to hold a dance (no meeting) as a fund raiser for an A.A. function?

A. If tickets for the dance are sold within the Fellowship, it's up to the group conscience; if they're sold outside, it's a clear violation of the Seventh Tradition. Dances themselves are a popular feature of A.A. conventions and get-togethers.

■ P.I./C.P.C. Committees Share Experience

Cooperation with professionals has been essential to A.A. since its beginning. Without the help of Dr. Silkworth, Sister Ignatia, and the Reverend Sam Shoemaker, the development of Alcoholics Anonymous would have doubtless been more difficult. Bill W., in his 1958 Grapevine article, “Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends,” writes with gratitude to professionals in the fields of (among others) alcohol treatment, health care, education, religion, law, and social work. Bill stressed the importance of friendly cooperation with these professionals and encouraged A.A.s to “work alongside all these projects of promise to hasten the recovery of those millions who have not yet found their way out. These varied labors do not need our special endorsement; they need only a helping hand. . . .”

Today, in keeping with this spirit, members of C.P.C. committees in the U.S. and Canada make special efforts to ensure that local professionals and agencies working with alcoholics know about A.A. and how to refer problem drinkers to Alcoholics Anonymous.

In Connecticut (Area 11), the C.P.C. committee is not only friendly with our friends; it also endeavors to be helpful, accurate, and informed. A page circulated among area groups asks, “Is your home group an ‘open’ A.A. meeting?” Connecticut A.A.s are reminded that “open” meetings are open to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous’ program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers, while only those with drinking problems may attend “closed” meetings: “Nursing students, social workers, and many other professions are often encouraged to attend open A.A. meetings so that they may experience Alcoholics Anonymous firsthand and may in turn recommend it to others who may have a drinking problem. With that in mind, it's important for us to ask ourselves whether or not our home groups that host open meetings are welcoming to both alcoholics and nonalcoholics.” The C.P.C. committee shares a few suggestions on how to ensure that meetings are nonalcoholic friendly, such as: “Greet everyone with a warm welcome, and don't make

any assumptions”; “Make it clear that the Seventh Tradition basket is for contributions from A.A. members only”; and “For topic discussions, introduce topics which are easy to understand.”

Within the province of Ontario, in Area 84, C.P.C. activity was revitalized when Peter K. filled a long-vacant position of chair for District 1 C.P.C./P.I. He soon found four other A.A.s with lengthy sobriety and lots of service experience. They got down to business at once and at their first meeting decided that the medical profession would be their first venture. Peter relates that the C.P.C. committee noticed some “doctors seem to have little knowledge of alcoholism and are often at a loss as to what to do We decided we wanted to have information available to all patients who entered the office and we wanted the pamphlets to look neat and professional.” Groups in the district provided funds for literature racks. Peter relates, “Since that time we have now got literature in every G.P.’s [General Practitioner] office, all clinics, and hospitals We have people who go around monthly to replenish them.” The committee continued to pursue avenues of cooperation and communication and included local high schools in their efforts.

Since alcoholics often wind up in hospitals and emergency care rooms, the odds are good that a nurse will encounter someone with a drinking problem. In Arizona, the C.P.C./P.I. Committee of the Tucson Area Intergroup supports an initiative called “Take a Nurse to a Meeting” and invites local A.A.s to volunteer in order to help inform and educate student nurses about Alcoholics Anonymous. As Bill W. wrote in the Twelve Concepts, “To reach more alcoholics, understanding of A.A. and public goodwill towards A.A. must go on growing everywhere.” (p. 51) Efforts like these show that Bill’s suggestion is followed earnestly.

■ When an Alcoholic Calls...

In May of 1935, Bill W., downhearted at the grim conclusion of a business venture, found himself pacing the lobby of Akron’s Mayflower Hotel. As he recalled, “The bar at one end of my beat was filling up rapidly. I could hear the familiar buzz of conversation in there. Down at the other end of the lobby I found myself pausing before a church directory. Then I was seized with a thought: I am going to get drunk. Or no, maybe I won’t get drunk; maybe I’ll just go into that bar and drink some ginger ale and scrape up an acquaintance. Then I panicked.... I remembered that in trying to help other people, I had stayed sober myself.... I thought, ‘You need another alcoholic to talk to. You need another alcoholic just as much as he needs you!’” (A.A. *Comes of Age*, pp. 65-66) With this thought, Bill looked up at the church directory and — at random — phoned the Reverend Tunks, who put him in touch with Henrietta

Sieberling, who would put him in touch with Dr. Bob. Bill’s phone call not only set a significant series of events in motion, but for the first time in A.A. history, an alcoholic picked up a telephone instead of a drink.

In recounting their experience, strength, and hope, many A.A.s relate how a particular phone call requesting help — a call made to an A.A. member, intergroup/central office, hotline, or any other helping agency — signaled the beginning of their journey of recovery.

The state of Connecticut (Area 11), embraced the importance of phone calls to an alcoholic and, over a three-to-five year period, implemented an easy-to-remember statewide toll-free number that helps to make A.A. more accessible when a sick and suffering alcoholic reaches for assistance.

In an Area with many Answering Services, Area 11’s Answering Service Committee sought to determine if there was sufficient interest. Assessments were done at three Area A.A. events and all districts were asked to have an active Answering Service Representative so that their district would have a voice in any decisions. The Answering Service Committee created a questionnaire and distributed it at all area events and at G.S.R. meetings in every district.

The response to the questionnaires showed significant interest in having A.A. members answer the phones, an interest in a statewide toll-free number, and some districts expressing a desire to maintain their autonomy. The Answering Service Committee voted to explore the option of a statewide toll-free number and have A.A. members answer calls to A.A. in Connecticut. Ultimately, it was decided to create a routing number that would direct callers to the appropriate local district. It then became the district’s responsibility to field the call and respond to the request. This number, 1-866-STEPS12, and the design of the routing system that directs callers to the appropriate local district, also enables each district in Connecticut to maintain their autonomy.

Once 1-866-STEPS12 was up and running the information was made available to those who may need it. The number was published in the white pages for each town in Connecticut and in the yellow pages for each major directory. In addition, the number was also prominently displayed on the Area Web site.

Like most service endeavors in A.A., many benefits resulted from this initiative. The area found that the level of telephone service was improved, redundancy was reduced, and many districts were compelled to update their Twelve Step Call volunteer list. Districts also shared their information sheets for “Area Twelve Step Guidelines” using the best of the district material, as well as information from the General Service Office. Finally, but most importantly, the entire project raised awareness about the absolute importance of having someone answer the phone when an alcoholic calls. As many A.A.s are aware, the request for help is often the first step in a long journey for an alcoholic.

Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

March

- 4-6—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. PRAASA. Write: Ch., Box 25777, Honolulu, HI 96825; www.praasa.org
- 4-6—*Dearborn, Michigan*. March Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2843, Southfield, MI 48037; www.aa-semi.org
- 4-6—*Nisswa, Minnesota*. West Central Reg. Svc. Conf. Write: Ch., 5917 Long Lake Rd., Makinen, MN 55763
- 4-6—*Rochester, New York*. Flower City Fellowship Conv. Write: Ch., 10 Manhattan Sq Dr., Ste D, Rochester, NY 14607; www.rochester-ny-aa.org
- 11-13—*Albany, Georgia*. Flint River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 7461, Bainbridge, GA 39818; www.flintriverroundup.org
- 11-13—*Jekyll Island, Georgia*. 24th Unity Wknd. Write: Ch., Boc 7056, St. Petersburg, FL 33734; www.jekyllislandaa.com
- 17-20—*Ruston, Louisiana*. LA Upstate Conv. Write: Ch., Box 505, Ruston, LA 71273-0505; www.rustonaa.org
- 18-19—*Wichita, Kansas*. Wichita Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1814, Wichita, KS 67201
- 18-20—*Portland, Maine*. NE Fellowship of The Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., 29 Taylor St., #2, Portland, ME 04102; www.nefots.org
- 18-20—*Rapid City, South Dakota*. 27th Rushmore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 8472, Rapid City, SD 57709; rushmoreroundup@gmail.com
- 18-20—*Weirton, West Virginia*. Area 73 Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., 245 S. Circle Dr., Weirton, WV 26062; www.aawv.org
- 25-27—*Ames, Iowa*. Aim for Ames. Write: Ch., Box 2522, Ames, IA 50010; www.aimforames.org
- 25-27—*Cherry Hill, New Jersey*. 47th Area 45 Gen. Svc. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 8603, Turnersville, NJ 08012; www.snjaaconvention.org
- 25-27—*Morehead City, North Carolina*. Crystal Coast Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 206, Harkers Island, NC 28531; ccr2011@ec.rr.com
- 25-27—*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*. 19th Area 60 Get Away Wknd. Write: Ch., Box 353, Warren, PA 16365; www.wpaarea60.org

April

- 1-3—*Lafayette, Louisiana*. Fellowship of the Spirit South. Write: Ch., Box 53312, Lafayette, LA 70505; www.fotssouth.com
- 1-3—*Niagara Falls, New York*. 3rd Cataract City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2006, Niagara Falls, NY 14301
- 1-3—*Independence, Ohio*. 36th NE Ohio Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., Box 22660, Beachwood, OH 44122; miniconference@area54.org
- 1-3—*Mayagüez, Puerto Rico*. 55ta Conv. Del Area 77. Inf.: Com. Org., Box 7075, Caguas, PR 00725; www.aa-pr.org
- 2-3—*Tower, Minnesota*. Area 35 Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., 1927 E. 21st Street, Hibbing, MN 55746; www.area35.org
- 8-9—*Roberval, Quebec, Canada*. 32e Congres. Écrire: Prés., 425 F. X Bouchard, Roberval, QC G8H 1K2
- 8-10—*Montgomery, Alabama*. Area 1 Assembly. Write: Ch., 3981 N. W St., Ste. 35, Pensacola, FL 32505; area1secretary@aaarea1.org
- 8-10—*North Conway, New Hampshire*. 45th Area 43 Conv. Write: Ch., 1330 Hooksett Rd, Hooksett, NH 03106; www.nhaa.net
- 15-17—*Sheffield, Alabama*. 4th Sweet Home Jubilee. Write: Ch., Box 1301, Killen, AL 35645
- 15-17—*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii*. Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 390727, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739; www.bigislandbash.com
- 15-17—*Fairmont, Minnesota*. Sunlight of the Spirit. Write: Ch., Box 748, Fairmont, MN 56031
- 15-17—*Erie, Pennsylvania*. 36th Spring Into Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1357, Erie, PA 16512-1357; erieconf@aol.com

- 15-17—*Corpus Christi, Texas*. Area 68 Pre-Gen. Svc. Conf. Write: Ch., 1417 Ramfield Rd., Corpus Christi, TX 78418; ccaa@stx.rr.com
- 15-17—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada*. Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., 21-4th Ave. NW, Dauphin, MB R7N 1H9
- 21-24—*San Diego, California*. San Diego Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 12186; La Jolla, CA 92039; www.sandiegospringroundup.com
- 21-24—*Perth, Western Australia*. 46th Nat'l Australian Conv. Write: Ch., Box 212, Hamilton Hill, WA 6963; www.aanatconperth2011.cjb.net
- 22-24—*New Haven, Connecticut*. 5th New Haven Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 791, North Haven, CT 06473; www.newhavenspringconference.com
- 22-24—*Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. North Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91086, W. Vancouver, BC V7V 3N3; www.northshoreroundup.com
- 29-1—*Chipley, Florida*. Chipley Country Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 677, Chipley, FL 32428; chipley_countryroundup@hotmail.com
- 29-1—*Grand Rapids, Minnesota*. 41st Iron Range Get Together. Write: Ch., 22109 State Hwy 65, Goodland, MN 55742
- 29-1—*Orangeburg, South Carolina*. Orangeburg Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., 423 Lawton Rd., Orangeburg, SC 29115; filledbylite@yahoo.com
- 29-1—*Mont-Tremblant, Québec, Canada*. 38e Congres des Laurentides. Écrire: Prés., 551 Alouette Montée, Ste. Agathe-des-Monts, QC J8C 2Z7

Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the Bar 4-5-9 Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. four months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to Editor: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or literature@aa.org

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 20____

Name of event: _____

Location: _____ CITY STATE OR PROVINCE

Planning Committee address: _____ P.O. BOX (OR NUMBER AND STREET)

CITY STATE OR PROVINCE ZIP CODE

Web site or E-mail: _____ (NO PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: _____ NAME PHONE # AND OR E-MAIL

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

May

6-8—*Albuquerque, New Mexico*. 18th Red Road Conv. Write: Ch., Box 20292, Albuquerque, NM 87154; www.newmexicoaa.org

12-15—*Ronkonkoma, New York*. 6th Internat'l Seniors In Sobriety. Write: Ch., 317 Village Dr., E. Patchogue, NY 11772; www.seniorsinsobriety.org

13-15—*Cottonwood, Arizona*. 7th Verde Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 781, Cottonwood, AZ 86326; www.verdevalleyroundup.com

13-15—*Great Falls, Montana*. Area 40 Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1614, Great Falls, MT 59403

13-15—*Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin*. Area 74 Conf. Write: Ch., 3318 S. Illinois Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207; www.area74.org

13-15—*Cheyenne, Wyoming*. Area 76 Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Box 20481, Cheyenne, WY 82003

13-15—*Kaiserslautern, Germany*. 33rd Rheinland Pfalz Round-up. Info: www.aa-europe.net

20-22—*Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*. 51st DE State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 830, Clayton, DE 19938; www.delawareaa.org

20-22—*Crestview, Florida*. First Sunshine Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1404, Crestview, FL 32536; sunshineconvention@hotmail.com

20-22—*Sturbridge, Massachusetts*. NE Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org

20-22—*Port Angeles, Washington*. 12th Olympic Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1081, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0204; www.olympicroundup.com

20-22—*Brookfield, Wisconsin*. 60th Area 75 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 657, Brookfield, WI 53008-0657; www.area75.org

20-22—*Little Current, Ontario, Canada*. 40th Rainbow Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 921, Little Current, ON POP 1K0; rainbow.roundup@yahoo.ca

20-22—*Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada*. 37th Whitehorse Roundup. Write: Ch., 51 MacDonald Rd., Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4R1; whitehorseroundup@hotmail.com

20-22—*Killenard, Portarlington, County Laois, Ireland*. European World Hello Conf. Write: Ch., 31 Retirement Village, Moneen Lane, Clonmullion, Athy, County Kildare, Ireland

27-29—*Oakland, California*. XXXVI Conv. Hispana del Estado de CA. Inf: Com. Org., Box 7689, Oakland, CA 94601

27-29—*Grayling, Michigan*. Northern MI InterArea Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., 7661 Anthony St., Fife Lake, MI 49633

27-29—*Romulus, Michigan*. EACYPAA9. Write: Ch., Box 2778, Ann Arbor, MI 48106; www.eacypaa9.org

27-29—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Gopher State Roundup XXXVIII. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165-0295; www.gopherstateroundup.org

27-29—*St. Louis, Missouri*. Third Spring Fling Conv. Write: Ch., 5663a Golf Ridge Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128-3349

27-29—*Dallas, Texas*. 25th Gathering of Eagles. Write: Ch., Box 35865, Dallas, TX 75235; www.dallasgatheringofeagles.org

June

3-4—*Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada*. 27^e Congres 89-18. Écrire: Prés., CP 1341, Trois-Rivières, QC G9A 5L2

10-12—*Waterloo, Iowa*. Area 24 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2642, Waterloo, IA 50704

10-12—*New Orleans, Louisiana*. 43rd Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 638 Papworth Ave., Ste. A, Metairie, LA 70005; www.bigdeepsouth.org

10-12—*Akron, Ohio*. 76th Anniversary & Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309-1200; <http://foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org>

10-12—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. 30th Calgary Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., CSO #2, 4015 1st St. SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4X7; aaoffice@telusplanet.net

17-18—*Richmond, Québec, Canada*. 29ieme Congres 88-10. Écrire: Prés., 1214, du Baron, Sherbrooke, QC, J1E 1C8 ; www.aa-quebec.org/region88

17-19—*Mobile, Alabama*. 30th Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36691

17-19—*Mills, Wyoming*. June Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2714, Mills, WY 82644

24-26—*San Antonio, Texas*. 65th TX State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 17932, San Antonio, TX 78217; www.texasaaconvention.org

24-26—*Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada*. First Canadian Eastern Arctic Conv. Write: Ch., Box 11612, Iqaluit, NU X0A 1H0; www.aa90.org

24-26—*Sept-Îles, Québec, Canada*. 32^e Congres Du 89-10. Écrire: Prés., 456, Arnaud, Sept-Îles, QC G4R 3B1

July

8-10—*Montgomery, Alabama*. Area 1 Assembly. Write: Ch., 3981 N. W St., Ste. 35, Pensacola, FL 32505; area1secretary@aaarea1.org

22-24—*Huntington, West Virginia*. 59th Area 73 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2862, Huntington, WV 25728

August

5-7—*Jefferson City, Missouri*. MO State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4871, Springfield, MO 65808

5-7—*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*. 18th PA State Conv. Write: Ch. 357 Big Spring Rd., Etters, PA 17319; www.aapastateconvention.com

19-21—*Woodland Hills, California*. Pacific Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; Regionalforums@aa.org

19-21—*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*. PENNSCYPAA XXIII. Write: Ch., Box 8105, Philadelphia, PA 19101; www.pennscypaa-xxiii.org