

## Anonymity— Humility at Work

In the 1990s, when Alcoholics Anonymous is seen as a force for good, more and more well-meaning members, including a raft of high-profile celebrities, seem to be naming A.A. names in the media and touting their sobriety in the Fellowship—all with the intent of helping the suffering alcoholic. Either they don't know about the Anonymity Tradition, shrug it off as "outmoded," or think it's more important to "get the message out there."

This is nothing new. As A.A. co-founder Bill W. wrote more than 40 years ago, in the January 1955 Grapevine: "The old files at A.A. Headquarters reveal many scores of such experiences with broken anonymity. Most of them point up the same lessons. They tell us that we alcoholics are the biggest rationalizers in the world; that fortified with the excuse we are doing great things for A.A. we can, through broken anonymity, resume our old and disastrous pursuit of personal power and prestige, public honors, and money—the same implacable urges that when frustrated once caused us to drink; the same forces that are today ripping the globe apart at its seams. Moreover, they make clear that enough spectacular anonymity breakers could someday carry our whole Society down into that ruinous dead end with them."

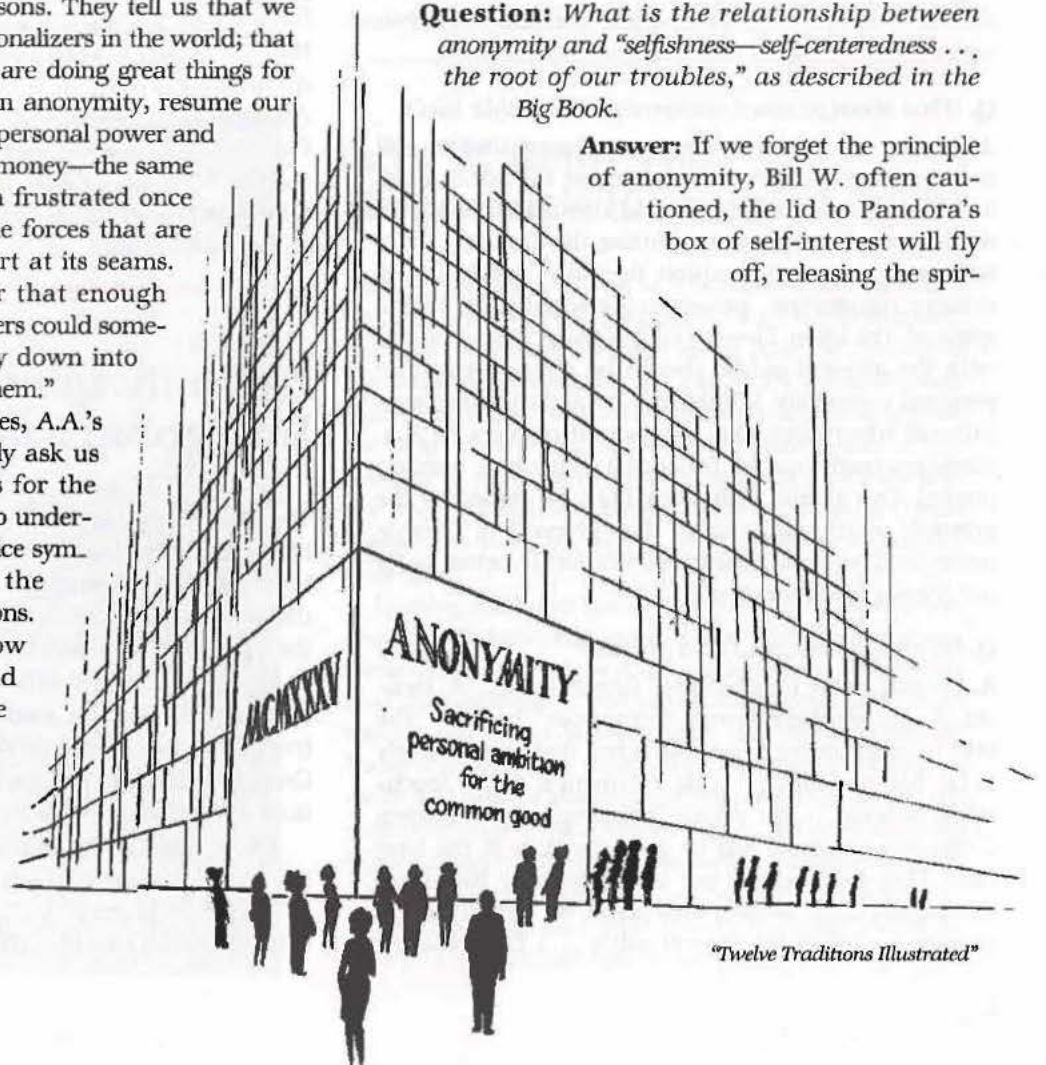
As the A.A. literature notes, A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, bringing us to understand that the spirit of sacrifice symbolized by anonymity is the foundation of *all* the Traditions. Well and good, but just how can we as individuals and group members best practice this principle? How do we judge when *not* to be anonymous, and what can we do to avoid an anonymity break?

Back in 1988 a rash of anonymity breaks brought

about the formation of a special subcommittee of the trustees' Public Information Committee. Its assignment, which had nothing to do with blaming the media and everything to do with the Fellowship's inventorying itself, was twofold: to raise members' consciousness "of what anonymity is about and why it is vital to our survival as a Fellowship; and to appeal to A.A.s everywhere for help in protecting this safeguard." Some months ago, as the committee prepared to disband after seven years of intense effort, its members concluded that the more A.A. groups, districts and areas share their experience with the Anonymity Tradition, the healthier it—and we—will be. Toward this end, the committee has suggested a number of topics for discussion. Here are a few, along with some of the many responses available in A.A. literature:

**Question:** *What is the relationship between anonymity and "selfishness—self-centeredness . . . the root of our troubles," as described in the Big Book.*

**Answer:** If we forget the principle of anonymity, Bill W. often cautioned, the lid to Pandora's box of self-interest will fly off, releasing the spir-



"Twelve Traditions Illustrated"

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its of worldly ambition so fatal to our survival. Thus, he explained, “the spiritual substance of anonymity is the sacrifice of our personal desires for the common good.”

**Q.** *How do we handle anonymity within the group?*

**A.** Usually, we are not anonymous with each other in our groups and meetings. However, it is the right of each individual and group to use their own methods. Within the spirit of the Traditions, we need to understand that the principle of anonymity is good for all of us, and to remember that the future safety and effectiveness of A.A. depends upon its preservation. At the same time, it should be the privilege of all A.A.s to cloak themselves with as much personal anonymity as they desire.

**Q.** *What about personal anonymity at the public level?*

**A.** At the personal level, anonymity insures that we will not be identified as A.A. members; at the public level, including press, radio, TV and film, it stresses the equality of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power or personal gain. In the spirit of Tradition Eleven (long form), “Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.”

**Q.** *Do we put some A.A.s on a pedestal?*

**A.** Writing in the October 1947 Grapevine, Bill W. tackled the pedestal syndrome: “Somehow,” he said, “the title ‘founder’ seems to have attached itself almost solely to Dr. Bob and me . . . This sentiment is deeply touching to us both . . . but we are beginning to ask ourselves if this overemphasis will be good for A.A. in the long run.” That they thought not is evidenced by Bill’s clear declaration that, “as individual A.A.s, we should remain anonymous before the general public . . . Dr. Bob and I

feel this sound doctrine should apply to us as well. There seems no good reason to make an exception of ‘the founders.’

“The more we early members continuously occupy the center of the A.A. stage, the more we shall set risky precedents for a highly personalized and permanent leadership. To insure A.A.’s future, is this not the very thing we should carefully avoid? . . . While we would like always to keep the wonderful satisfaction of having been among the originators, we hope you will begin to think of us as early A.A.s only, not as ‘founders.’ So, can’t we join A.A., too?”

Dr. Bob died in November 1950; Bill, in January 1971—and his name, picture and story were carried worldwide in the public media for the first time. That spring, the General Service Conference determined that “it is unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his death, but that in each situation the final decision must rest with the family.” The 1992 Conference reaffirmed this view, adding that “the A.A. Archives shall continue to protect the anonymity of deceased A.A.s as well as other members.”

Considering the size of today’s A.A. membership—approximately two million worldwide—the number of public anonymity breaks overall, though most disconcerting and sometimes potentially dangerous when they do occur, remain comparatively few and infrequent. According to a report on “The Origins of Anonymity” presented at the 1989 General Service Conference by the trustees’ Archives Committee, “this may be because, as A.A. matures, its members more fully understand the value to themselves of anonymity at the public level.”

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## Eleventh Annual Intergroup Seminar

The 11th. Intergroup/Central Office Seminar will be held November 8-10, 1996, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Co-hosted by the Minneapolis and St. Paul central offices this weekend of sharing and fellowship will be held at the Radisson Hotel South in Minneapolis.

Intergroup/central office managers and employees from across the U.S. and Canada will be joined by trustees of the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors and staff. Workshops and presentations will focus on situations unique to intergroups.

The registration fee is \$20. For further information or to register, please contact: 1996 Intergroup Seminar, 6300 Walker, Room 215, St. Louis Park, MN. Telephone (612) 922-0880; Fax: (612) 920-1061.

## A Spanish Grapevine? Yes, It's Really Here!

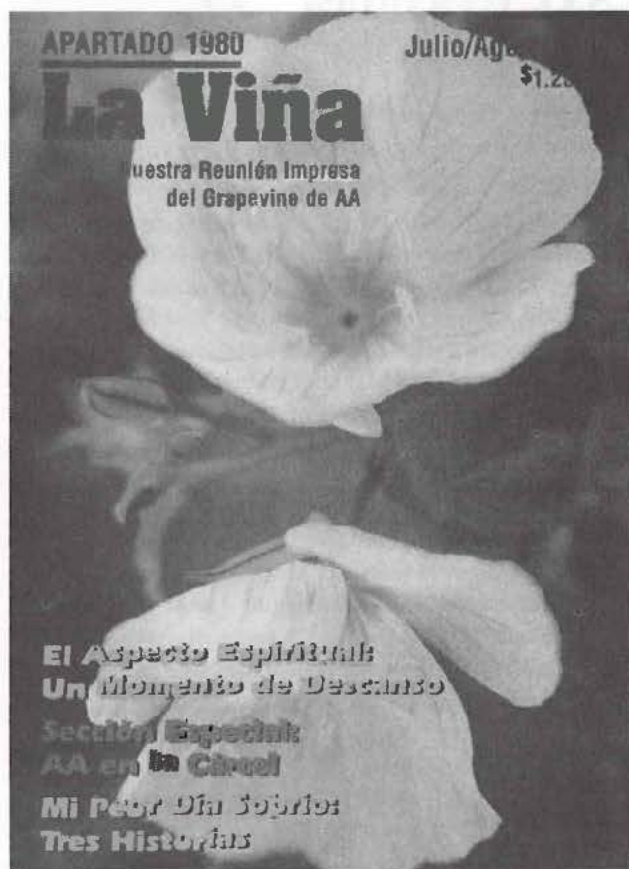
The July/August issue of La Viña de AA (the Spanish-language edition of the A.A. Grapevine)—a historical first—has been welcomed by thousands of Spanish-speaking members throughout North and South America and Spain. Says Jaime M., the new editor on staff: "When a pilot edition was distributed at the International Convention in San Diego last year, it met with great enthusiasm, so the reception does not come as a complete surprise. Still, it is heartwarming that so many readers have expressed their gratitude. Some have been submitting stories of their personal experience in recovery, others have sent in thanks for specific articles, and almost all have expressed delight about having a calendar that reflects events happening in Spanish-speaking A.A."

Basically the new magazine, published bimonthly for now, resembles its 52-year-old English counterpart. The covers and general layout will be the same, but some modifications are necessary because the two languages occupy different space. The Spanish version will contain translations of material from the English Grapevine, as well as some original material in Spanish (which in turn

may be translated for inclusion in an English edition). It is anticipated that the initial run of 10,000 copies will climb rapidly as more and more people learn of the magazine's availability.

Jaime's official title is editor, Spanish resources. Born and raised in Colombia, he emigrated to New York City in 1980. "Six years later I sobered up in A.A.," he says, "and with the support of the people in the program, I hope to celebrate my 10th anniversary on October 4." A writer-teacher, Jaime has taught courses in English and Spanish at the New School for Social Research. In his new position he will be involved in every phase of production, from the selection of articles to the translation of all material selected for inclusion in the long-awaited publication.

For years in the talking stage, the proposal to publish the Grapevine in Spanish received a green light from the 1995 General Service Conference (with the understanding that the monthly Spanish articles be removed from the English-language Grapevine; and that if, after five years, the Spanish edition is determined to be no longer feasible, publication will be discontinued). The new magazine will cost \$7.50 for one year, \$14 for two. Those who wish to can transfer their English-language subscriptions to the Spanish version simply by notifying the Grapevine circulation department.



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## Ann W. Retires as Grapevine's Executive Editor

Ann W., executive editor of The A.A. Grapevine since October 1987, retired on April 30. "I've been fortunate," she says, "to gain knowledge about how the Traditions are lived out in everyday life simply by going through manuscripts from the A.A. members who actually write the Grapevine, whose shared experience makes it 'our meeting in print.' These past years, when problems in my own life seemed beyond thorny, I often found insight into them no farther away than my in-box. I'll miss that."

Looking back over her 20-odd years at the Grapevine, Ann says, "When I first came on staff, the magazine was narrower in focus. Many A.A.s would tell me, 'Oh, I don't read the Grapevine, it's all just sweetness and light.' But I haven't heard that in some time, and there's a reason: Today it's livelier and deals with real issues. For instance, we've had articles discussing everything from the proliferation of drug addicts at meetings to the pros and cons of specialized meetings and the surface manifestations of cultural changes as they impinge on the Fellowship.

"Additionally, and with thanks to Ames [Ames S., who has succeeded Ann as executive editor], we've

recently included more articles spotlighting service and the work of intergroups, the General Service Office and the General Service Conference. We carry special features for young people, oldtimers, A.A.s online and much more. Our goal has been to make sure that the interests of as many A.A. members as possible are represented regularly in the pages of the magazine."

Here Ann notes that the Grapevine, which was established in June 1944, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a triple whammy: a new design, a 96-page double issue in June 1994, and the transition to desktop publishing. "Response to the new look has been overwhelmingly positive," she reports, "and single-copy sales of the anniversary issue exceeded 20,000 copies. Throughout the anniversary year, all new subscribers received a bonus issue [Nov. 1993], which emphasized A.A. history." Recently, she adds, "we've all been excited about the Spanish-language edition of the Grapevine. After several years of discussion and planning, it became a bimonthly reality with the July/August issue."

Those who know Ann well respect not only her editorial skills and vision but her ability to get things done. "I think that's because she's always up front and cooperative," observes old friend Don S., of Peekskill, N.Y., a fellow member of Ann's original home group, Park Madison, in Manhattan, who worked alongside her in group service in the '70s. "When I think of Ann," he adds, "I think first of her bright smile and sense of humor. Then I think of how you could depend upon her to target all sides of a problem and tell it like it is, very clearly. She inspires confidence."

According to Ann herself, she hasn't always. Born and raised in Ridgewood, N.J., she graduated from Mount Holyoke and decided to live in New York City. "I was drinking," she remembers, "and looking for an easier, softer lifestyle. Needless to say, I didn't even stumble upon it." After holding a series of jobs in publishing, she joined the Grapevine staff as an associate editor in 1981, then served as editor before assuming her latest post.

What developments at the Grapevine during her tenure does Ann find most gratifying? "For one thing," she says, "the Grapevine is more widely known throughout the membership, and it seems to be more integral to the A.A. service structure. This is evidenced in a number of ways, including the increasing numbers of group Grapevine representatives.

"We've published a wide range of audiovisual materials and literature, including the popular *Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings*—available in English and Spanish and, more recently, *The Home Group: Heartbeat of A.A.*, a booklet that also has met with a positive response from the Fellowship. I'm especially pleased with the success of our program of distribution of back issues of the Grapevine, which we furnish for the cost of postage only—not counting the thousands of

copies sent free for the use of service committees across the U.S. and Canada."

For her successor, Ames S., Ann has only admiration. "Ames has been with us since August 1985," she says, "first as associate editor, then as managing editor. He has a superb grasp of what the Grapevine is about and where it's going. I expect the transition to be seamless." Ames welcomes the challenge. "Basically," he says thoughtfully, "we want to do an even-better job of reaching new members with information about the magazine and encouraging older ones to subscribe. On another front, we're scrambling to keep up with new technology; we have an e-mail address for the editorial department and will be looking into putting the magazine on CD-ROM down the road."

Right now Ann is creating a new life after the Grapevine in Asheville, N.C., where, she says, "I have it all—the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains, family and friends nearby, great A.A. and time for my hobby, creating ornamental eggs a la Faberge." She has a computer and expects to do some freelance writing and editing, but "in my own time." Meanwhile, in the Grapevine offices and at G.S.O. she continues to be appreciated and missed.

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## G.S.O. Welcomes Delegates to the World Service Meeting

New York is the host city for the Fourteenth World Service Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan Hotel, October 27-31. The theme, "Love and Gratitude in Action," will be explored in numerous workshops and sharing sessions as delegates from near and far explore related subthemes: How Do Our Nonalcoholic Friends Help Us to Carry the Message? Are We Attracting Newcomers into Service Through Our Personal Example? How Do We Continue to Carry Our Message in a Changing World?, and more.

At the General Service Office, John Kirwin, G.S.O.'s nonalcoholic assistant controller/business administrator, is lending a hand with advance preparations and on-site schedules for everything from delegates' travel plans and hotel accommodations to meetings, meals and special requests. He and other G.S.O. personnel are dusting off the welcome mat for the delegates' visit to the office on Fri., Nov. 1, followed by a bus trip to Stepping Stones, the home of late co-founder Bill W. and his wife, Lois. Following the W.S.M., delegates will be guests of the General Service Board during their quarterly meeting, Nov. 2-4.

Held biennially, the World Service Meeting seeks ways to carry the message to alcoholics anywhere in the world. Countries with a general service board and/or literature distribution centers are invited to send two delegates who, ideally, have at least five years of continuous sobriety in A.A.

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## Estimates of Overseas Groups and Members

In the June/July 1996 *Bar* 4-5-9, we noted that, although there was every indication that A.A. overseas was growing rapidly, our data was too incomplete to be published. Since then, however, we have had virtually 100% response from the overseas offices contacted. The total number of groups reported from overseas is now 37,082, as compared with 32,578 for 1995, with a total membership of 614,466, as compared to the 516,015 reported in 1995.

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## Truck Stop Meeting Offers Support for The Long Haul

Truck stops are famous for their good food and camaraderie. And so, reasoned a couple of A.A.s in Maryland, why not provide some hearty recovery fare as well?

Writes Peter B. in the Feb. 1996 newsletter of the Northern Delaware Intergroup: "When approached in spring '94 with the idea of holding two meetings a week on the premises, the management of the 76 Liberty Bell Truck Stop in Elkton, just off I 95, thought it was a great idea. A comfortable board room with a 12-chair capacity was assigned for the meetings, and a sign was posted on the doors of the truck stop's two entrances that read, "Friends of Bill W., second floor, Tues. and Thurs., 5:30 p.m."

There was just one problem, as Peter learned when a founder of the new group asked him to chair some meetings. "I showed up, but nobody else did," he relates. "The truck stop manager stopped by, saw me sitting all alone and felt sorry for me, but he needn't have. I used the time to re-read my Big Book, Twelve and Twelve and some pamphlets, which did wonders for my sobriety. This scenario continued for a number of weeks, and then one day a trucker from Texas showed up. Small miracles never cease to happen in A.A.

"My lone trucker was delighted to find someone to talk to because he had a heavy load to carry—not in his truck but on his mind. He usually was unable to make meetings due to the demands and uncertainties of his job; he told me he hadn't been to a meeting, not through his fault, for several weeks. Just the two of us had an extra-long one, and then we had dinner and more talk—one drunk to another sharing our experience, strength and hope. I understood his dilemma since I too had been a trucker from 1952-68, so Mingo, as I'll call him, and I had a lot to share."

Many other friends of Bill have followed Mingo, who now relies on Peter as his "northern sponsor." Now, more than two years later, Peter reports, "we have a full house of locals and truckers at every meeting. The truckers have hailed from Florida, Wisconsin, Nebraska, California, Virginia, the Carolinas, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Maryland and a few more that escape me right now. Both men and women truckers have said that our meeting is an oasis for truckers who thirst for a meeting. They can also rest, refuel, eat a good meal and, most of all, get the fellowship they need.

"So, if you see a need for truck stop meetings in your area, know that you can make them happen. Please keep in mind, though, that it takes time for the word to get around. Don't give up too soon, just hang in there and chances are, your experience will be like mine, which has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable of my entire A.A. life."

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## 1996 A.A. Membership Survey

Once again it is time for a survey of A.A. membership, which will be conducted in certain groups throughout the United States and Canada. The information gathered by this survey will be used as the basis for the Public Information pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous 1996 Membership Survey." This informational pamphlet has been very successful in introducing and explaining A.A. to nonalcoholic professionals.

If you are asked to fill out a Survey Questionnaire between August 1st-14th this summer, you will be helping to provide information about our membership to our fellow A.A.s and anyone who would like to know more about us.

If you have any questions about the Membership Survey, call the Public Information desk at G.S.O. Should you have questions regarding outside surveys, usually conducted by friends in the professional community, please ask for the C.P.C. desk.

## Three New Trustees Have a Wealth of Service in A.A.

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees have joined the General Service Board: two regional trustees, Carl B., West Central U.S., and Garry McC., Western Canada; and Chuck C., a general service trustee. All three share a common bond in their commitment to sobriety and the wide world of A.A. Without exception they speak of having benefited from hands on sponsors and mentors who introduced them to service when they were barely dry behind the ears.

Carl B., of Rock Springs, Wyoming, says that he is "excited about the opportunity to serve as West Central regional trustee, the first ever from the state of Wyoming." When notified that he had been elected to succeed Les L., of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Carl says, "I was grateful for the opportunity to carry the message in yet another area of service. But the title is not what matters. I've always been committed to one drunk talking to another. I am active in my Rock Springs Group, and making Twelfth Step calls is still important to me."

Carl sobered up in A.A. in January 1968, and "had good mentors who raised my service conscience within the first months of my sobriety. When I was barely two years sober, then delegate Hank E. collared me and saw to it that I went to the state assembly. In '70, when Hank attended the International Convention in Miami, he somehow found the time to share his enthusiasm with me in an inspiring three-page letter. Thanks to him, I was hooked on service—not a bad ending for a fellow who ran away from home at age three." Over the years, Carl has served variously as a general service representative, district committee member, area chairman and a Panel 30 delegate from 1980–81.

Personally, Carl notes, "I've had many fringe benefits in recovery. It meant a lot to me that my father followed me into A.A. three years after I sobered up, and I sponsored him. In 1991 he died close to his 90th birthday after 20 years of sobriety." Carl's wife, Audrey, "is a past trustee of Al-Anon and understands what the job entails," he says. "We are very supportive of each other. When I retired last year [from his position with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management], we planned to build a summer home, travel some and get away from it all. Looks as though that scenario will have to wait."

Western Canada regional trustee Garry McC., of Stettler, Alberta, steps into shoes worn these past four years by Gerry F., Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Like Carl, Garry was introduced to service early. "When I was dry about six months, in June 1975," he remembers, "I

found myself at my first area assembly. I looked around at all the clear-eyed, concerned and smiling faces and shook my head: I could never drink with those people! So, I stayed sober." He is big on sponsorship—"proper sponsorship. Good sponsors, to my way of thinking, involve newcomers not just in the Steps but in all three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

Garry has served in a roster of service capacities, from G.S.R. to D.C.M. He helped to introduce a Bridge the Gap temporary contact program in his area and served as a Panel 40 delegate from 1990–91. He is especially interested in the work of Public Information and C.P.C. committees because, he says, "the more people we can reach with the A.A. message, inside the Fellowship and out, the greater are our chances of connecting with the alcoholics who need our help. I am very aware of the importance of getting information out about what A.A. can and can't do because here in the Northwest Territories, reaching out can be hard. We're talking about an area half the size of the U.S. that spreads over four time zones, yet is sparsely populated by 50-odd-thousand people, not a few of them with a serious drinking problem. Many areas are downright impassable in winter, and even in summer you can get to some of them only with difficulty by air or water. As it is, I often drive 8 hours or longer round-trip just to participate in a meeting."

For Garry, retirement was on the horizon until the call to service as a trustee came. "I guess God had other plans," he says with a smile. Again like Carl, Garry is blessed with a wife, Wendy, "who has been active for years in Al-Anon. Like me, she is committed to maximum service for success in life and sobriety. That means throwing the lifelines we once were given back out to those who desperately need them now."

On the General Service Board there are 21 trustees—seven who are Class A (nonalcoholic) and 14 Class B (alcoholic). Included in the latter category are eight regional trustees, four general service trustees and two trustees-at-large. As *The A.A. Service Manual* explains: "While no trustee can be said to 'represent' a geographical section of the country—since all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole—it is true that regional trustees bring to the board's discussions a regional point of view which is invaluable. General service trustees, on the other hand, are chosen for their special experience, talents or background."

Unlike regional trustees, prospective general service trustees are already serving (or have served) on one of A.A.'s corporate boards, so their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards. Such is the case with Chuck C., of Chandler, Arizona, who was in his third year as nontrustee director of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board when he was tapped to succeed Fran P., of Spokane, Washington. For the past 26 years he has worked in the computer field and is gener-

ous in sharing his expertise at a time when both the Grapevine and G.S.O. are rapidly undergoing a series of technological transformations.

An active member of the Ahwatukee Group in Phoenix, Chuck was in the Fellowship barely six months when he was introduced to service by "some dedicated guys. I started by carrying the message into correctional facilities in Georgia years ago and haven't stopped; I still take a meeting into a local prison every other Monday evening I'm in town. I've been a G.S.R., an Intergroup rep and board member, an area Grapevine chairman, and a Panel 40 delegate, 1990-91. Garry and I served together, and it's great to jog alongside him again as a fellow trustee."

He notes that the first year of his delegate term overlapped that of his brother Roger, a Panel 39 delegate from Central Michigan who served in 1989-90. "I believe that on the delegate front, our 'sibling revelry' was a first," Chuck says. "It was a lot of fun." He also feels fortunate in having a wife, Michele, who "strongly encourages my A.A. service. Even though it's time consuming, I still mow the lawn, though not on schedule, and Michele and I see to it that we do something for ourselves at least one weekend a month."

Chuck says that "good friends taught me to always say yes to service. It's the most effective way I know of to stay sober ourselves and make sure that A.A. as we know it today will still be here for the alcoholics to come."

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## Going the Distance on A Dream and a Prayer

"A journey of some 43,000 steps (the distance of a 26.2 mile marathon) begins with the first step," says Canadian Eugene S. of Downsview, Ontario, with a certainty born of his own recent experience.

"Last June I attended the Founders Day Conference in Akron, Ohio, which was especially uplifting for me," he recalls. "During the conference I would run a few laps around the track, very slowly, because I had a painful stress fracture in my left leg, which normally is my stronger one!" As he loped gingerly, Eugene worried about whether he would be able to make his goal: to qualify for the 100th Boston Marathon the following April.

In mid-October, he reports, "I missed qualifying for Boston by 10 minutes, 4 seconds. That same night I scanned the list of remaining qualifying marathons for the year and chose one to be held in Vandalia, a suburb of Dayton, Ohio, in early December.

"The night before the race saw me with new friends at an A.A. discussion meeting in Dayton. During marathon runs, I always say over and over again to

myself the Serenity Prayer, the Steps and the prayers that go along with Steps Three, Seven and Eleven. Thanks to the endurance given to me by my Higher Power, I ran the Vandalia race in 3 hours, 37 minutes, 47 seconds. Since my necessary time to qualify for the Boston Marathon is 3 hours, 40 minutes, I just squeaked in. Surely the grace of God through A.A. allows us to pursue many dreams, and sometimes to achieve them!"

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## A.A. Support Is Pure Gold to an A.A. in Cuba

In Old Havana, Cuba, lives an A.A. member named Antonio, who proudly wears a medallion around his neck with the Roman numeral IV. In this poor country where "demon rum runs riot," according to one physician, and A.A. has a tentative foothold at best, Antonio goes to any lengths to stay sober and carry the message to other alcoholics.

Tirelessly he travels from town to town, visiting struggling groups with words of encouragement and distributing what literature he has, including a directory of the 38 A.A. meetings available in all of Cuba that he has laboriously written by hand. Why? The reason echoes the O'Henry tale of the poor young woman who chopped off her luxuriant locks and sold them to buy her husband a fob for his watch—which he meanwhile had sold for a comb for her long hair. Similarly, Antonio, faced with a scarcity of A.A. literature, sold his beloved typewriter for money to buy the necessary paper and printing ink—and had to let his fingers do the typesetting.

Antonio reports that not only is it difficult to find paper and ink, but once you do, it's hard to pay for them. The first A.A. group in Cuba was formed in 1992. Four years later the Fellowship operates largely through the aegis of government agencies. While the acceptance of the program by an increasing number of medical professionals has contributed to its growth in Cuba, the groups have a hard time holding on to their meeting place, owing largely to thin purses made even thinner by up and down attendance at meetings. Members rarely have more than a few cents, if that, to contribute to group expenses, and just getting literature into the country can be difficult too, especially if the package is large and bulky. Meetings are often conducted without basic tools such as the A.A. Preamble and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Not long ago, Antonio received an offer from a cable news network in the U.S. to purchase rights to his A.A. experience in Cuba; he declined because "it would have violated A.A. Tradition," but couldn't help thinking how much

help the money would have been in providing group support and literature.

Recently an A.A. visitor from the States gave Antonio copies of the A.A. Directory and the Grapevine in Spanish. "His eyes lighted up," she said later, "as if they were treasures of gold. For a recovering alcoholic with few 'tools,' I suppose they were. May I remember this and strive not to take all we have available to us at home for granted."

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## Viewpoint

### Availing Ourselves of All A.A. Has to Offer

"If you'd just won \$3 million in the lottery, would you go to the money folks and say, 'I think I'll just take one-third of my winnings and let the rest go'? Of course not; yet isn't that what so many of us are doing with our sobriety—we dry up, use the Big Book and the Twelve Steps, and forego the rest of the collected wisdom of the Fellowship."

Adds Canadian Jacques F., of Pointe Claire, Quebec, who in May retired from his office as a nontrustee A.A. World Services director: "Isn't it time that we live in 1996 instead of 1939? That we avail ourselves of the experiential interest accumulated over the years and communicate it to the next generation? I personally could not have survived in service without the Twelve Traditions, the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. I always wanted to be boss, and without the spiritual principles embodied time and again in our literature, I know I would have been the director of my group. We all know how long that, and my sobriety, would have lasted."

Full utilization of the rich storehouse of A.A. literature stimulates communication, Jacques notes, "but before we write another pamphlet or crank out another video, let's rely on the wealth of material we already have. As an example, for the past five years our area has conducted a monthly weekend service seminar in which participants are introduced to the richness of our A.A. literature from the historical *A.A. Comes of Age* to *As Bill Sees It*, *Daily Reflections*, and much more.

"We share our experience, strength and hope through verbalization of the information in the literature; at the same time we share our ignorance, weaknesses and fear. As Cecil C., a past trustee out of Western Canada once said, 'The only thing that can destroy A.A. is ignorance and apathy.' Cecil was speaking the language of A.A., which is communication. He invited us to fight ignorance

by ceaselessly working to educate and inform. Once we members understand the spiritual principles that are the heartbeat of A.A. the world over, we find it hard to be indifferent. In the same way that knowledge of A.A.'s existence 'spoils' an alcoholic's drinking, so does awareness of the importance of each and every one of us to the continuation of the Fellowship spoil individual apathy. We have seen this happen over and over again in our service seminars."

Interestingly, Jacques reports, "anonymous, postseminar forms filled out by attendees show that a majority of them initially were far more interested in discussions concerning their immediate A.A. group than in those about the district, area or A.A. World Services. What we try to make them understand is that one sturdy tree does not make an A.A. forest, that it takes an enormous number of them to assure that A.A. will always be there for the alcoholic who reaches out for help. It's called consciousness raising, and our books and pamphlets do much of it for us, if we give them a chance."

As Jacques is quick to point out, "hundreds of thousands of A.A.s never get a chance to attend a service seminar. Many, however, do hear about what's going on in A.A. from their general service representatives, or from their delegates." Therefore, he emphasizes, "it is important to strengthen the channels of communication linking these trusted servants to every entity in the A.A. structure, from the group on through to the General Service Conference.

"I'm reminded of something Bill W. wrote in a letter to a friend, the substance of which ran in the January 1958 Grapevine. (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 236): 'I think that many oldsters who have put our A.A. "booze cure" to severe but successful tests still find they often lack emotional sobriety. Perhaps they will be the spearhead for the next major development in A.A.—the development of much more real maturity and balance (which is to say, humility) in our relations with ourselves, with our fellows, and with God.'"

A seasoned service veteran, Jacques believes that we can meet future challenges by making use of the communications platforms we have. "For instance, we hear that 'A.A. is free,' which is pretty silly," he says. "Surely the message is free, but not the meeting room, not the literature, not our service committees nor the help that G.S.O. gives to struggling Loners around the globe and indeed in our own hospitals and correctional facilities. We have a live-saving, life-giving message to carry; at the same time we must pay our own way in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. By absorbing our literature and transmitting its messages verbally, from one A.A. to another, we become aware of how spirituality and money make for an essential mix. Keeping A.A. alive and well for the alcoholic to come requires a commitment from all members to pass on spiritually and in the bas-



ket all that we've been given. The commitment doesn't come from experiencing A.A. cafeteria style. It comes from availing ourselves of all that A.A. offers. Our survival depends upon our common effort, and communication is the key. We are still learning how to use it to unlock our future."

## Self-Support: Are We Totally Committed?

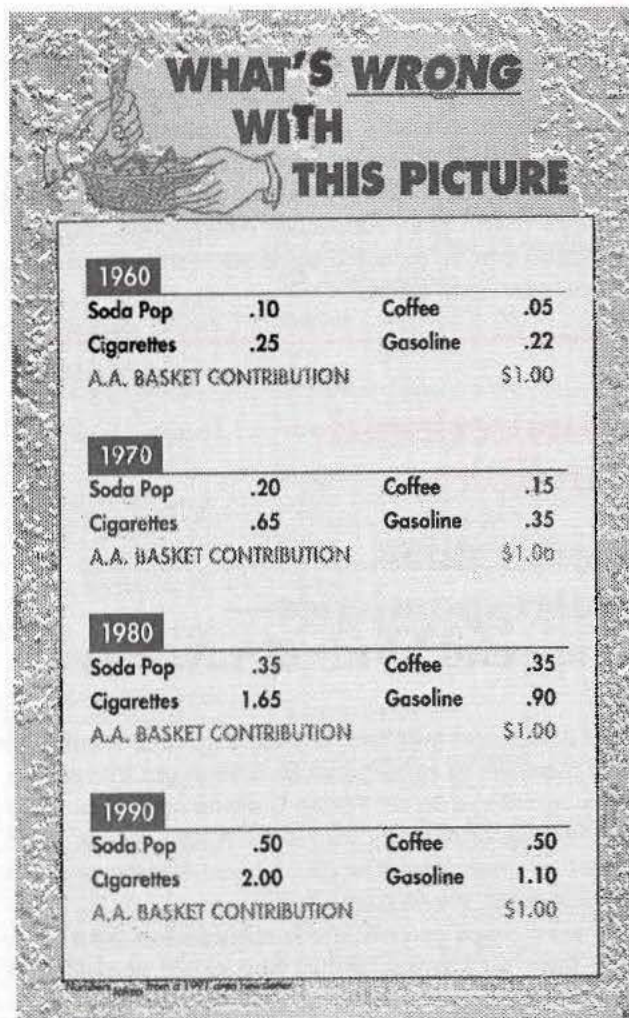
"In 1979," says Oklahoma delegate Phyllis McC., "our area was proud to be among the top three contributors to the General Service Office and proud of the responsibility for self-support that we took. This has changed, and I keep wondering what we've been doing differently to drop in our percentages of contributions at all levels of service." Believing firmly that "communication is the beginning of all understanding," Phyllis speaks her mind because, she says, "it is my experience that when we alcoholics are educated to the need, we rise to the responsibility."

Item: "With the ever-changing face of A.A., new challenges have developed. Many groups now meet in homes and so are much smaller. Smaller groups have less money, after expenses, to contribute to *any* service level. Many of the groups meet in clubhouses. Confusion and lack of understanding arise as to where contributions go, to the clubhouse or to A.A.?"

Item: "Are petty group splits creating weaker, less effective groups? We are cautioned in Tradition One that '...no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship... that the clamor of desires and ambitions... must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.' Are members leaving their groups because their 'friends' weren't elected to service positions? Are they taking negative inventories of the group? Are they not accepting the ultimate authority as expressed in the group conscience?"

Item: "Do groups and districts have a unified allocation of funds to all levels of service? Or are we remaining selfish and self-seeking by 'earmarking' funds to serve a special pet project, thereby tying the hands of our trusted servants? Have we allowed one service committee to become more important than another? And, on a personal level, have I told the people I sponsor the importance of giving back to A.A., both of ourselves and our money?"

Looking back at her own journey in sobriety, Phyllis continues, "I saw that in the beginning my vision was limited—appropriately so—to my own recovery, my



own home group, my own central service office. When sober three years, I met then Oklahoma delegate Elizabeth E., who became my sponsor. Through her example and sharing, I became involved in service at the district level and started to learn the deeper meaning of A.A.'s responsibility statement, 'I am responsible ... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible.' That deeper meaning is gratitude in action. As Tradition Nine clearly states, 'Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within the reach of all who want it.' As the years went by, I began to fully comprehend how large A.A. is, and to understand G.S.O.'s role in carrying the message worldwide. They can't do it without the support of the membership because they *are* the membership."

By example and communication, Phyllis stresses, "the importance of self-support becomes clear. When I go to a restaurant, I leave a tip—a gratuity—a monetary expression of my appreciation for good service. In the Fellowship, I've been given sobriety and a way of life that

is indescribably wonderful. How much do I owe God and A.A. for that? My gratitude is shown by passing on the recovery message to another alcoholic, one-on-one, and by making the message available through my contributions at all levels of service. I have found that the key to a happy and useful life is to be involved in something greater than I am—Alcoholics Anonymous. The A.A. program can be summed up in six words: Trust God, clean house, help others.”

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## Correctional Facilities

### Corrections Correspondence— a special kind of A.A. service

One of the most important Twelfth Step tools we offer to our members in correctional facilities is our Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). Unfortunately, because of the volume of requests we receive from inmates, these pleas go unanswered or are delayed—at times up to three months. We need your help!

Ninety-seven percent of our requests are from men. Are there men in your group who would be willing to share their A.A. experience, strength and hope with someone on the “inside”? Here is a sampling of some passages from letters we have received about our CCS:

• *Andrew C., Southeast region:* “I would like to attain some information pertaining to a sponsor. I am currently working on the first three Steps. I need some help. I have been in and out of jails and institutions most of my life. I’ve now reached a point where I would like to change and realize that I need the program and the Steps. Tell me if you can help me with a correspondence sponsor. I will appreciate any help that you can provide.”

• *Ricky C. from the Northeast region* shares: “Thank you for writing back. It really means a lot to me when I get a letter from you. When I wrote last time I told you a little about myself and asked for information about A.A. sponsorship behind the walls... somebody being my sponsor and writing to me while I’m incarcerated; you know, helping me out with my Steps. Right now I’m having a really hard time on Step Four. I read the Big Book and I read a pamphlet on Step Four, but I’m having a hard time doing it. And that’s what I need a sponsor for.”

• From the *Southwest, Dallas L.* reports: “I got your address out of the Grapevine and I really need some sponsors! I have left or sacrificed all of my old friends

and have no one; just me and God—and although God is great, he never writes back!”

If your group has a post office box number, the men volunteering might prefer to use the group post office box as their address. We match correspondents from different states or provinces. Those interested should write to: Corrections Correspondence Service, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. We will send some helpful guidelines for this service along with the name of an inmate who is waiting to hear from you.

A copy of the CCS service folder, which includes Guidelines and a request form, is enclosed with this issue. If you would like more copies of this folder for your group’s literature rack, please let us know; you are also free to reproduce copies.

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## P.I.

### Annual Anonymity Letter

As with so much in life (and A.A.), the more things change the more they stay the same.

For instance, in 1949 the first recorded “anonymity letter” went out from the General Service Office to the media, thanking them for their “friendly support and cooperation” and asking, in several hundred words or more, that they preserve the anonymity of individual members in stories concerning the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Every year since, a similar letter has been sent to an ever expanding media list that today includes nearly 6,000 daily and weekly newspapers and radio and TV stations in the U.S. and Canada. Over time the letter has been cosmetically enhanced with a streamlining tuck here, a lift there, but long or short its message basically stays the same: that, as the ’96 version simply states, “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our Fellowship and assures our members that their recovery will be private.... [Therefore] we seek your continued support by presenting A.A. members only by first name; and by using no recognizable pictures.”

The letter also explains that A.A. “is not affiliated with any other organization, although many have adapted our Twelve Steps for their own use. A.A. is self-supporting, declining any outside contributions; and we are non-professional, offering only the voluntary support of one alcoholic helping another.” A concluding paragraph notes that “throughout the world, favorable media coverage has been a principal means of bringing alcoholics into our Fellowship. You have helped make this possible, and for that we thank you.”

## 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.

### August

- 2-4—*Tiel, Holland*. 10th Annual Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 87959, 2508 DJ The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2-4—*Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada*. 23rd Annual Rally. Write: Ch., Box 652, Campbell River, BC V9W 6J3
- 2-4—*Elbow, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Family Campout. Write: Ch., Box 173, Elbow, SK S0H 1J0
- 2-4—*Hayti, Missouri*. Second Annual Bootheel Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 365, R#1, Caruthersville, MO 63830
- 2-4—*Richmond, Virginia*. 47th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1291, Midlothian, VA 23113
- 2-5—*Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia*. 1996 "Top End" Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 40760, Casuarina, NT 0801, Australia
- 8-11—*Harrison, Arkansas*. "Old Grandad" Arkansas Conv. Write: Ch., Box 506, Harrison, AR 72601
- 9-11—*Katherine, Northern Territory, Australia*. 1996 "Top End" Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 40760, Darwin NT 0801, Australia
- 9-11—*Squamish, British Columbia, Canada*. 23rd Roundup. Write: Ch., 656 W. Keith Rd., N. Vancouver, BC V7M 1M6
- 9-11—*Tulameen, British Columbia, Canada*. 15th Annual Camp-out. Write: Ch., Box 3C, C-3, Tulameen, BC VOX 2L0
- 9-11—*Ucluelet, British Columbia, Canada*. 12th Annual West Coast Rally. Write: Ch., Box 854, Ucluelet, BC VOR 3A0
- 9-11—*Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada*. Algona District Campout. Write: Ch., 4 East St., #602, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 6W9
- 9-11—*Oakhurst, California*. Mini Conf. Write: Ch., Box 23, Oakhurst, CA 93644
- 9-11—*Rosemont, Illinois*. 23rd State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 81388, Chicago, IL 60681-0388
- 9-11—*Moorhead, Minnesota*. Red River Valley Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 558, Moorhead, MN 56560
- 9-11—*Reading, Pennsylvania*. 11th Annual Reading Area Conv. Write: Ch., RAAAC, Box 12821, Reading, PA 19612-2821
- 9-11—*Wentachee, Washington*. Third Annual Aqua Fun Thing. Write: Ch., Box 365, Monitor, WA 98836
- 10-11—*Hantsport, Nova Scotia, Canada*. 32nd Mini Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 533, Hantsport, NS B0P 1P0
- 14-18—*Biloxi, Mississippi*. 50th State Conv./52 Southeastern Conf. Write: Ch., Box 684, Columbia, MS 39429
- 15-18—*Omaha, Nebraska*. Cornhusker Roundup XIX. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005

- 16-18—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. 24th Annual Lake Shore Conf. Write: Ch., c/o Alano, 200 Thornton Rd. N., Oshawa, ON L1J 6T7
- 16-18—*Paso Robles, California*. 28th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13308, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
- 16-18—*Corning, New York*. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 861, Corning, NY 14830-0861
- 16-18—*Beaumont, Texas*. District Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Box 222, Port Neches, TX 77651
- 16-18—*Clarrington, Pennsylvania*. Eighth Campathon. Write: Ch., Box 1567, Washington, PA 15301
- 17-19—*Cartersville, Georgia*. Allatoona Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 200856, Cartersville, GA 30120-9009
- 23-25—*Orlando, Florida*. 16th FCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 547414, Orlando, FL 32854-7414
- 23-25—*Joplin, Missouri*. "Summer Hummer." Write: Ch., Box 2075, Joplin, MO 64803
- 23-25—*Chautauqua, New York*. 43rd Annual Tri-State and Canada Assembly. Write: Ch., 21 First Ave., Franklinville, NY 14737-1318
- 23-25—*Scranton, Pennsylvania*. Third Scranton Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 8, Nicholson, PA 18446-0008
- 29-Sept 1—*Nashville, Tennessee*. 15th Annual Music City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 17373, Nashville, TN 37217
- 29-Sept. 2—*Beaver, Utah*. Beaver Camp-vention. Write: Ch., 29070 Landau Blvd. #1, Cathedral City, CA 92234
- 30-Sept. 1—*Chapleau, Ontario, Canada*. 29th Anniv. Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 634, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
- 30-Sept 1—*Jackson, Mississippi*. 10th Annual Old Timers Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 68662, Jackson, MS 39286-8662
- 30-Sept. 1—*St. Louis, Missouri*. 13th Annual Fall Classic. Write: Ch., Box 190026, St. Louis, MO 63119
- 30-Sept. 1—*Sparks, Nevada*. 19th Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup. Write: Ch., 700 E. Peckham Lane #272, Reno, NV 89502
- 30-Sept. 1—*Abilene, Texas*. Big Country Conf. Write: Ch., 2850 Southwest Dr., Abilene, TX 79605

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

August (page 37): An Old-timer's view.

September (page 31): Tradition 9

- 30-Sept. 1—*Seattle, Washington*. Sponsorship Conf. Write: Ch., Box 99945, Tacoma, WA 98499-0945
- 30-Sept. 2—*Maple Hill, Kansas*. 11th Anniv. Campout. Write: Ch., Box 8, Olsburg, KS 66520
- 30-Sept. 2—*San Antonio, Texas*. Bridging the Gap Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 15993, San Antonio, TX 78212

### September

- 5-8—*Anaheim, California*. 39th Annual ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 775, Placentia, CA 92670
- 6-8—*Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada*. 37th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 165, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7E8
- 6-8—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada*. 30th Conv. Write: Ch., Box 163, Dunnville, ON N1A 2X5
- 6-8—*Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada*. Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 6-8—*Westlake Village, California*. 18th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., VCAAC, Box 3858, Simi Valley, CA 93063
- 6-8—*Snowmass Village, Colorado*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1234, Carbondale, CO 81623
- 6-8—*Cromwell, Connecticut*. 38th Annual Area Conv. Write: Ch., c/o Advest, Box 2800, New Britain, CT 06050
- 6-8—*Park Rapids, Minnesota*. Sixth Annual Heartland Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 18, Park Rapids, MN 56470

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on October, November or December events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by August 10, the calendar deadline for the October-November issue of Box 4-5-9.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (city, state or prov.): \_\_\_\_\_

For information, write: (exact mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # (for office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Flip up this end of page - for events on reverse side

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



- 6-8—*Taos, New Mexico*. 13th Annual Taos Mountain Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 253, El Prado, NM 87529
- 13-15—*Angels Camp, California*. 10th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 865, Angels Camp, CA 95222
- 13-15—*Many, Louisiana*. 29th Western LA Conf. Write: Ch., 440 Byles St., Many, LA 71449
- 13-15—*Lenox, Massachusetts*. Back to Basics Weekend. Write: Ch., 368 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210
- 13-15—*Natchez, Mississippi*. Southern Mississippi Hoopla. Write: Ch., Box 18242, Natchez, MS 39122
- 13-15—*Beachwood, Ohio*. 59th Punderson Park Conf. Write: Secy., Box 22440, Beachwood, OH 44122
- 13-15—*Columbus, Ohio*. 10th Annual Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2131, Columbus, OH 43216
- 13-15—*New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada*. 50th Anniversary. Write: Ch., 407-855 McBride Blvd., New Westminster, BC V3L 2C4
- 19-22—*Sacramento, California*. 11th Annual Big Book Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 661522, Sacramento, CA 95866
- 20-22—*Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada*. Annual Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 1177, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
- 20-22—*Lake Tahoe, California*. 21st Fall Festival. Write: Ch., Box 168856 So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151
- 20-22—*Topeka, Kansas*. 39th Annual Area Conf. Write: Ch., 2000 SW Seabrook, Topeka, KS 66604
- 20-22—*St. Louis, Missouri*. Bridging the Gap Workshop. Write: Ch., 384 Bervier Lane #D, St. Louis, MO 63125
- 20-22—*Fargo, North Dakota*. Dist. 5 State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1824, Fargo, ND 58107
- 20-22—*Fort Worth, Texas*. NETA Fall Assembly/Conv. Write: NETA Chair., 1410 East Mitchell St., Arlington, TX 76010
- 20-22—*Lake Havasu City, Arizona*. Ninth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch. Box 1692, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405
- 20-22—*East Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*. 28th Autumn Leaf Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91021 Effort Square Postal Outlet, Hamilton, ON L8N 4G3

- 27-29—*Clearwater, Florida*. Fourth Annual Southeastern Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 6374, Clearwater, FL 34618-6374
- 27-29—*Naples, Florida*. West Coast 12 Step Weekend. Write: Ch., 345 Colonial Ave., Marco Island, FL 33937
- 27-29—*Page-Lake Powell, Arizona*. Serenity on the Lake Roundup. Write: Ch. Box 3682, Page, AZ 86040

## October

- 3-6—*Amarillo, Texas*. 50th Annual Top of Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 412, Amarillo, TX 79105
- 4-5—*Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., 656 W. Keith Rd., N. Vancouver, BC V7M 1M6
- 4-6—*Chase, British Columbia, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Ch., RR #1, Site 4, Comp. 7, Sorrento, BC V0E 2W0
- 4-6—*Angeles City, Balibago, Philippines*. First Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., 9-29 Marcellus St., Diamond Subdiv., Balibago, Angeles City, 2009, Philippines
- 4-6—*Crescent City, California*. 10th Annual "Sobriety by the Sea" Rally. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531
- 4-6—*Pocatello, Idaho*. Area 18 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 393, Pocatello, ID 83204
- 4-6—*Bellaire, Michigan*. Eighth Annual Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 302 So. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48917
- 4-6—*Troy, Michigan*. Ninth Annual Tri-County Conf. Write: Ch., Box 7107, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-7107
- 4-6—*Rochester, New York*. 16th Conv. Write: Ch., 10 Manhattan Square Dr., Ste. D, Rochester, NY 14607-3997
- 4-6—*Spearfish, South Dakota*. Area 63 Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 192, Spearfish, SD 57783
- 4-6—*Fife, Washington*. Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 1105, Puyallup, WA 98371
- 11-13—*Sudbury, Ontario, Canada*. Northeastern Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 311, Station B, Sudbury, ON P3E 4P2
- 18-20—*Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica*. Second Annual Halloween Conv. Write: Ch., Apdo. #588, Alajuela, Costa Rica

- 18-20—*Geneva, Switzerland*. Big Book Study Seminar. Write: Ch., Mont Blanc Bridge Group, rue du Vieux Billard 21, CH 1205 Geneva, Switzerland
- 18-20—*Puerto Penasco, Mexico*. Rocky Point Roundup. Write: Ch., RPR, Box 5242, Scottsdale, AZ 85261
- 18-20—*Buffalo, New York*. 55th Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 127, Niagara Square Sta., Buffalo, NY 14202
- 24-27—*Memphis, Tennessee*. 22nd Annual Memphis Bluff City Fellowship. Write: Ch., Box 240831, Memphis, TN 38124
- 25-27—*Duncan, British Columbia, Canada*. Dist. 8 Rally. Write: Ch., Box 955, Duncan, BC V9L 2M2
- 25-27—*Bellingham, Washington*. Mt. Baker Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 28231, Bellingham, WA 98228
- 25-27—*St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*. 10th Caribbean Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3435, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00803

## November

- 1-3—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. 52nd Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Central Office, 505-365 Hargrave St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2K3
- 8-10—*Leominster, Massachusetts*. 33rd Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 344, Westminster, MA 01473-0344
- 9-10—*Riga, Latvia*. Conf. "No One is Too Young" Conf. Write: Ch., Box 459, Riga, LV 1050 Latvia
- 15-17—*St. Petersburg, Florida*. The Big Book Comes Alive. Write: Ch., Box 86703, St. Petersburg, FL 33738
- 29-December 1—*Clearwater Beach, Florida*. Suncoast Conv. Write: Ch., Box 86703, St. Petersburg, FL 33738