

# BOX 4-5-9

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

Vol. 24, No. 1

February-March 1979

## Why Do So Many A.A.'s Enjoy P.I. Work?

None of us now in A.A. would be here if the first A.A. members had not worked hard at getting the message to us while we were still sick alcoholics.

Today, more and more members—in the spirit of A.A.'s founders—are finding the surprising joys of carrying the message to the alcoholics still suffering out there in "the public." We call that kind of twelfth-stepping public information (P.I.) work now. You are welcome to share its pleasure in your community.

Not long ago, the P.I. Committee of the General Service Board surveyed local P.I. committees in the U.S. and Canada to find out

what help they need most. More than anything else, they replied, "More P.I. workers!"

Many kinds of P.I. activity are necessary, but speaking before non-A.A. groups is apparently the most popular sort.

By helping out on any P.I. assignment, we can follow in the footsteps of those early Ohio members who, in 1939, described their recovery—anonously, of course—to a reporter for the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, resulting in A.A.'s first newspaper publicity. Because they did (see pp. 20-22 in "A.A. Comes of Age"), the tiny Akron and Cleveland groups were swamped with newcomers, and

hundreds of alcoholics recovered.

That fall, *Liberty Magazine* ran an article on A.A. called "Alcoholics and God," which attracted many suffering drunks to us.

Two years later, members in both the Ohio and the New York areas helped the Fellowship get its first really powerful publicity, the Jack Alexander article in the *Saturday Evening Post*. By talking freely about themselves (also anonymously, of course), those early A.A. P.I. activists helped attract about 6,000 newcomers to A.A. within only a few months.

Even publication of the Big Book was originally a kind of  
*(continued on p. 4)*

### 1979 Conference Theme Selected

"The Legacies: *Our Heritage and My Responsibility*" will be the over-arching theme banner under which the 29th meeting of the General Service Conference of A.A. (U.S./Canada) convenes April 22-28, 1978, at New York's Hotel Roosevelt.

Final choice of a theme is up to Conference Agenda Committee members, who selected 1979's from among several proposed by the 1978 Conference meeting.

Ninety-one delegates of Panels 28 and 29 (see "Built-In Rotation," p. 2), representing each state and province, will meet with trustees (G.S. Board members), the G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, and directors  
*(continued on p. 5)*

### Poll shows more

#### women in AA ranks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Unlike their grandmothers who left the room when men drank port, women today are indulging in a gin and toni-

wives who stayed home and no one knew they were going into town.



This panel is from 'Too Young?', a comic pamphlet published by Alcoholics Anonymous.

### Medical Memos

#### AA Offers Hope to Alcoholics

By DR. H. L. HIRSCHENSOHN  
Received over a period of 90 days. If one succeeds in attaining such an abstinence from liquor. At that point, the remaining part of AA is invaluable.

#### A.A. enjoys good success record

By DUTCH SEEGER  
Why do the sober members of A.A. have such a startling success rate working with the practicing alcoholics who honestly want to

#### She Contemplated Suicide Before Joining AA

Sir,  
500 AA members

in city this week

### Specialists confirm local problem

#### AA reaches out to teen drinkers

By SHERRIE SPANGLER  
Pocono Record Reporter  
STROUDSBURG — "I am

12 in many instances through A.A. A national survey of high

they're young." Kenneth said a lot of his teenage clients are referred to are also alcohol abusers. The A.A. comic party offers these warning si

#### AA is a sobering experience

By JOHN UPSHAW  
"I was wrung out, strung out, dragged out, on my way out." Gary M from Riverside, Calif., looks into

Nugget Convention Center. "They, this isn't anything compared to one of our gatherings in San Francisco or San Diego," says

What is the life of an alcoholic truly like? On the life of an alcoholic's wife, see p. 9

Most of the sessions general public beginning w AA meeting starting at 9 registration Saturday mor AIAon meetings will be number of speakers will

#### CHARITY A NO-NO FOR 'AA'

Imagine turning down a gift of thousands of dollars when you need it.

*Public information work helps produce favorable stories in newspapers ranging from Nevada to New Brunswick, from New York to Saskatchewan.*

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## NEW LEAFLETS, UPDATED GUIDELINES NOW READY

"The A.A. Member," the new leaflet enclosed with this issue of Box 4-5-9, summarizes the study of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada made in 1977 and compares its findings with those of past surveys. (It replaces "A.A.—a Community Resource," which summarized the 1974 survey.) Additional copies may be ordered for 10¢ each.

Not included, but now available free to those who request it, is a new leaflet entitled "Self-Supporting? The 60-30-10 Plan," which replaces "A Penny a Day for Sobriety." Also available are Guidelines on Occupational Programs (formerly on Industry Programs).

## A PAMPHLET RETIRES

Introduced into service in 1970, the pamphlet "Alcoholism Is a Management Problem . . . A.A. Suggests One Solution" was put out to pasture at the October meeting of the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

Much in the field has changed since this pamphlet made its appearance. Additionally, much of A.A. experience in this area is covered in another piece, "A.A. and the Alcoholic Employee." Further, the committee felt that the pamphlet dealt more with alcoholism than with A.A. In short, "Alcoholism Is a Management Problem" had just outlived its usefulness.

## BUILT-IN ROTATION HELPS GUARD SERVICE LEGACY

Rotating out of an A.A. service position has been described as "a step into humility, which is the spiritual basis of the entire A.A. way of life."

Rotation is the subject of Article 8 of the Conference Charter (see p. 24 in "The A.A. Service Manual"). In all kinds of A.A. activity, it helps whittle our egos down to size, showing us how easily our jobs can be filled by other A.A.'s. None of us gets much chance to feel irreplaceable in some A.A. job when some newer member steps into our old slot—and fills it differently, but quite well. (Maybe even better!)

But if every servant rotated out of each A.A. job every week or so, we could not accomplish any A.A. project that needed long-term planning and detailed follow-up.

Certainly, our Fellowship's worldwide concerns could not be handled in such an unstable way. Therefore, the charter says, "Unless otherwise directed by the Conference . . . terms of office [for general service representatives (G.S.R.'s), area committee members, and delegates] shall all be concurrent and of two years' duration each."

Yet, if there was a complete turnover of our entire body of service workers every two years, the new, inexperienced workers would have to start afresh every time. And the service experience of the previous members would be lost.

That's not the way it works, however. Article 8 continues, "In approximately half the areas, assembly elections will be held in the even years; the remaining assemblies will elect in the odd years, thus creating rotating Panels of the Conference." This year, for example, Panel 29 delegates (about half) will be "freshmen," and Panel 28 members are those who also served last year.

The senior representatives are seasoned in their jobs, while the

newly elected people bring fresh ideas, vitality, and vision to the overriding A.A. task before us all: carrying the message.

(This is the eighth of a series of articles on the charter.)

## OUR CO-FOUNDERS SPEAK

Did you ever hear Bill W. speak? Dr. Bob?

Much of a man's or woman's character can be recognized in the voice. And so it seems with our own co-founders. Their strength, their humility, and their love for their fellow drunks come through loud and clear. Though they are no longer with us—except in spirit—their voices may still be heard.

Five selections from different talks that both men made are contained on one 28-minute cassette, now available from G.S.O. Priced at \$3.50, it should bring much pleasure to alcoholic audiophiles.

## NORTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM IMPROVES COMMUNICATION

The second Northeast Regional Forum was held in Hershey, Pa., over the weekend of Dec. 1-3, 1978. There were close to 400 in attendance. Some highlights:

- Delegates reported on subjects of concern in their areas, such as sponsorship, meetings versus groups, cooperation between central offices and general service committees, finances, structure, ways to get G.S.R.'s interested in service, and the home group—where it all begins.
- Two workshop sessions were held this time, giving participants more of a choice.
- The test footage of the film about A.A. was shown.
- Five past regional trustees shared on carrying the service message.
- Ask-It-Basket questions revealed interesting concerns, which you may find in the final report on the Northeast Regional Forum.

## Central Office Corner

### WORKING AMICABLY TOGETHER

When A.A. was in its infancy, some groups got into squabbles with others. Later, central offices and answering services sometimes got into competition, and some C.O.'s found themselves at odds with area general service committees.

Showing how far we have outgrown that childish stage, a group of C.O. newsletters we looked at recently displays genuine cooperation among A.A. entities.

- The *San Fernando Valley Central Office Newsletter* carried a message from Dick S., Bakersfield, Calif., past area delegate, about the Grapevine.
- The *Filing Cabinet*, from Salt River Valley Intergroup (Phoenix, Ariz.), published its area delegate's thoughtful, well-written report on the Pacific Regional Forum.
- *Mynah Bird* from Honolulu, Haw., had a front-page letter from the delegate.
- *Mountain Doin's*, newsletter of the intergroup of Western North Carolina, carried word of G.S.R. elections and district meetings.
- The *Intergroup Exchange Bulletin* from Long Beach, Calif., used a moving piece from area delegate Goldene L. about a meeting.
- *Just for Today*, Tucson (Ariz.) Intergroup newsletter, contained an insert about a mid-state Third Legacy meeting.

Communication, ventilation, sharing, circulation—whatever it may be called—gets much more done in accomplishing our primary purpose: to carry the message.

### MESSAGE FROM AN OUTGOING 'SERVANT'

"Dear friends in A.A.:

"As we approach the closing days of another term of service in A.A., I am thinking of the privileges that have been given to me. I know I was honored to serve as your delegate. I also know that I was given the responsibility to serve the membership. I have learned that a delegate has a great many duties, and that I should do my best, always remembering that I am but a trusted servant and must practice Unity in all my affairs.

"Yours in Service, Jim S., delegate"  
— from *The Link*, newsletter  
of the Southeastern New York Area

## Delegate Corner

## G.S.R. Corner

### ASK SOMEONE WHO HAS ONE

The stack of mail returned to G.S.O. each day can be depressing. It means some A.A. message is not reaching someone. But this problem has a happy, inexpensive solution, easily handled by G.S.R.'s.

The great majority of returned mail is meant for a group. But you know what happens—the usual group contact moves or rotates out of office. Trying to keep addresses up-to-date for all the groups in the U.S. and Canada, plus many overseas, would be a mammoth job even if G.S.O. was promptly informed every time a change of address or of G.S.R. occurred. (Look at your own personal address book, or ask your local central office whether it ever has any difficulty keeping meeting lists updated.)

No one minds moves or changes, of course. But  
*(continued on next page)*

### BOARD FORMS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

There is A.A. in some 92 countries around the world. In over 20 of these lands, the Fellowship has some kind of organized service structure: i.e., a board or a conference or a general service office. The remaining countries have only Lone Members, scattered groups, or perhaps a central office.

To provide a continuing contact with A.A. in these far-flung places, and to improve communication with them, the General Service Board has established an International Committee. A staff member at G.S.O. will serve as secretary to the committee, which consists at present of three trustee members and several other A.A.'s who travel extensively and have knowledge of A.A. overseas.

Actually, the International Committee is being reactivated rather than started, because it existed as an informal committee at G.S.O. prior to 1968. It was inactivated at that time because the biennial World Service Meeting was instituted. However, the W.S.M. has two disadvantages: Only countries having some kind of general service structure send delegates to it; and there is no mechanism for continuing communication among countries between meetings.

The International Committee, as it is now reactivated, is intended to help A.A. in all countries (whether or not they participate in the W.S.M.) and will attempt to collect and disseminate information through A.A. travelers anytime the opportunity exists.

## Trustee Corner

## G.S.R. CORNER (continued)

there would be no interruption in the flow of your group's mail if it simply rented a post office box. By paying the small monthly postal rental fee, your group would make sure its A.A. messages would continue to arrive. You can keep the post office box number for years. So even if you change meeting places or G.S.R.'s (we hope not!) every day, the mail for the group would faithfully arrive. G.S.R.'s, how about it?

(However, if you want a literature order delivered by U.P.S.—usually the quickest way—then we do need a street address. U.P.S. cannot leave merchandise at a post office.)

## A.A.'S ENJOY P.I. WORK (continued from p. 1)

“public information.” It made available to the public, which was totally unaware of us at that time, a record of the recovery of our first members and the way they reached it.

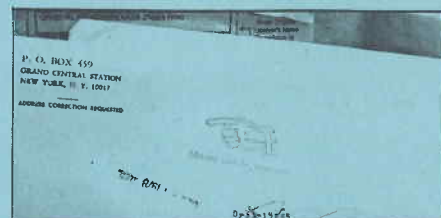
These days, the public is so thirsty for information about A.A. that there are busy P.I. committees in almost every geographic area of the U.S. and Canada. Many are large, operated locally by a central office; some are parts of area general service committees. There are also scattered P.I. contacts, individuals who do the best they can in remote, sparsely populated regions.

And yet, though it is hard to believe, it remains very difficult for sick alcoholics to find A.A. in many, many places in North America. We know, because we still get letters at G.S.O. from people who have been unable to locate a nearby A.A. group or office. Happily, we can put the prospect in touch with a local member.

Clearly, A.A.'s public information task will not be completed in the foreseeable future. It will just



*This mail returned to G.S.O. (a mere glimpse at only a few days' accumulation) tells a sad story of service that never reached its mark. Not only letters but some 2,000 copies of each Box 4-5-9 issue prove to be undeliverable.*



grow bigger, so it is fortunate that we now have more tools than we once had to reach sick alcoholics hiding out there in “the public.”

The most recent major story on A.A. was, of course, news coverage of the ten-nation survey of A.A. reported by John L. (“Dr. Jack”) Norris, M.D., chairperson emeritus of the General Service Board, in Warsaw, Poland, in September. Copies of the news release were sent to all local P.I. committees in advance, so many got local tie-ins with the news story out of Poland.

Area A.A. conventions and banquets are often written up in hometown papers, too, with anonymity carefully guarded.

Radio has always been a good medium for the A.A. message, and public service announcements are heard on many stations because they are placed there by P.I. workers. Also, many weekly radio shows about A.A. get aired.

Television has been good to us as well, when properly used—as in showing the public service spots available from G.S.O., which avoid all problems with the anonymity Traditions.

The Eleventh Tradition states, in part, “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than

promotion.” Unquestionably, alcoholics can be attracted to A.A. only if they read of us or learn of us in some other way.

In the 1977 survey, for example, 41% of the respondents said “another A.A. member” was one of the most important factors in their getting to A.A. The second part of Tradition Eleven says that “we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films” (including, by implication, TV). Surely, this does not mean that we should conceal our A.A. membership in private conversations. Where would all of us be if other A.A.'s hadn't told us their own stories?

Since P.I. work often does involve carrying the message through the public media, members active in this type of work keep our anonymity Traditions firmly in mind.

The vast majority of us seem to agree that anonymity is a wonderfully protective cloak in which to comfort the frightened newcomer. It also helps keep us united, instead of broken into warring factions more interested in personal glory than in spiritual growth. It keeps us out of apparent tie-ups with other causes and organizations that

*(continued on p. 5)*

## A.A.'S ENJOY P.I. WORK

(continued from p. 4)

could get us into serious trouble. Furthermore, it is surely good for our humility.

Obviously, many A.A.'s find P.I. activity rewarding, even when they don't see instant results. One member's experience sums it up.

After speaking at another group's meeting one evening, he was grabbed by an attractive woman who said, "It's because of you I am in A.A., and I've always wanted to thank you, although I never knew your name."

The speaker did not recognize

her, so asked how he was responsible. "You spoke at my son's high school five years ago with two other members. About a year after that, when I said I was in trouble with drinking and needed help, my son said he knew what to do, and he called A.A. I've been sober ever since."

Naturally, the speaker began to feel very good. But then he asked, "What school was this? What year exactly?"

"So-and-so School, in 1972," the woman replied.

The speaker told the woman he was very glad she had gotten to A.A. and wished her luck. He did

not reveal that he had not even lived in that part of the country in 1972!

"On my way home, I began to grin," the speaker remembers. "I had just learned something very valuable about humility, and 'principles before personalities.' That was an exciting step forward in my own understanding of anonymity. *Credit* is not what we're after in P.I. work or any other twelfth-stepping, is it? It is spiritual growth in our sobriety."

Many A.A. members active in P.I. would agree. By contacting your local P.I. committee, you can easily join their happy ranks.

## G.S.O.-GV OPEN HOUSE DRAWS HAPPY CROWDS

More than 400 A.A.'s visited G.S.O. and the Grapevine office in a single day, November 4, 1978. For many years now, your offices have played host at an annual open house. And A.A.'s come from as far away as Texas to meet G.S.O. and GV staff members and other personnel at the marathon event.

Visitors are not news here, since we get to greet some 1,500 travelers each year. But the rate of 100 happy alkies an hour can startle even the most seasoned staffer. All the visitors brought their love—it was beautiful. Come on in next year!

erings (each day's sessions last at least 12 hours), Conference members will address a wide range of questions and arrive at actions advisory to the board and to G.S.O.—striving in effect to express the group conscience of all of us.

On the agenda are: a showing of the new G.S.O.-produced film about A.A.; discussion on dual-addiction groups; G.S.O. procedures for A.A. literature; sponsorship needs of patients coming to A.A. from treatment centers; the Grapevine; and the A.A. archives.

Also to be covered are: "Do roundups, rallies, cruises, etc. fit into A.A. tradition?"; communication within A.A.; and group autonomy (including group problems) and A.A. unity.

Trying to represent the best ideals of all A.A., the Conference is in no sense a government, and has no power over any A.A. group or member—except the authority of example and the force of moral persuasion. A summary of its proceedings will be mailed to all groups in the June-July issue of *Box 4-5-9*, and a full *Final Report* will be available later in the summer.

Committee reports will be heard on Finance, Agenda, International Convention/A.A. Regional Forums, Grapevine, Correctional Facilities, Public Information, Treatment Facilities, Conference Policy/Ad-

mission, Literature, Trustees, and Conference Report and Charter. In addition, all Panel 29 delegates will report service highlights of their home areas. All Conference members may raise questions anonymously by putting them into the Ask-It Basket. Answers are given to the entire Conference. And all get to tour G.S.O. and the Grapevine offices.

New trustees will be chosen for the Northeast and Southwest U.S. Regions, and a new Canadian trustee-at-large will also be named.

## BERLIN TO NEW YORK TO BANFF TO...BERLIN?

From Berlin, Germany: "I am 27 years old and have been in prison for three years. Here I attended my first A.A. meeting about two years ago and have since been dry.

"I should like very much to correspond with an A.A. in the United States. Could you help me? Unfortunately, my knowledge of English is *not* very advanced.—Your A.A. friend, Wolfgang."

About the time that letter (in German) arrived at G.S.O., we had just asked in *Box 4-5-9* for help with translations of A.A. literature. So we sent a copy of Wolfgang's letter to Claus M., a German-speak-

(continued on p. 6)

## 1979 CONFERENCE THEME SELECTED

(continued  
from  
p. 1)



of A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., for the yearly examination of the Fellowship's service policies.

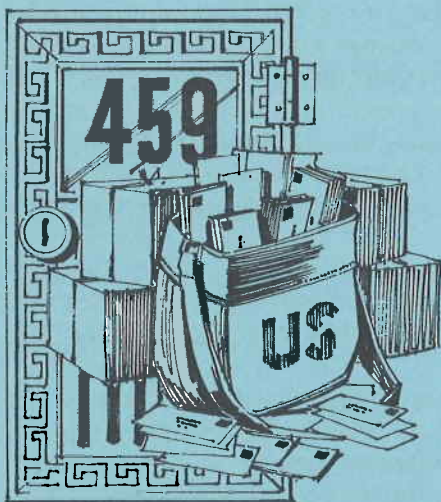
In workshops, committee meetings, presentations/discussions, sharing sessions, special reports, and mealtime or coffee-time gath-

## BERLIN - NEW YORK - BANFF

(continued from p. 5)

ing member in Banff, Alberta, and quite a correspondence began between them.

Recently, Claus M. wrote, "I will be on my way to Germany this week. In Berlin, I will visit Wolfgang and speak at the tenth anniversary of their group in the jail, and meet Wolfgang's wife and son. All this is something I never anticipated anytime!"



### SOME CHEER IN THE WINTER MAIL

#### Dear Abby—again

Syndicated columnist Abigail van Buren has often proved a good friend to A.A.'s and to alcoholics' families. A short while ago, she published a letter from a deaf alcoholic who had attended two A.A. meetings but could not understand a word. "Shouting is not the answer," the correspondent wrote.

Abby suggested lipreading, and offered to put the person in touch with another deaf A.A.

Ron H., chairperson of a group for the deaf in New York City, promptly wrote to Abby explaining that "right now, there are A.A. meetings across the country for the deaf. They are conducted entirely in sign language or, at the very least, are interpreted for the deaf."

The A.A. General Service Office keeps a list of such meetings, he told Abby, also suggesting that deaf alcoholics might contact their local intergroup or central office. "For those living too far from a meeting," he added, "it is possible to establish a correspondence relationship with other alcoholics."

Ron's letter noted that there is a "concerted effort on the part of many members of the A.A. Fellowship to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the suffering alcoholic who is deaf. Studies are being conducted for the specific purpose of finding new and better ways of reaching out to the deaf alcoholic."

#### Great news from Russia

From Moscow, U.S.S.R.: "I am compelled to report we now have a regular meeting going in Moscow," writes Dan F. "Hope this doesn't disqualify me as a Loner! It's a Step study on Tuesday nights, and four of us are trudging 'the Road of Happy Destiny' here.

"One spark we needed was a visit by Hal M.," Dan continues. "We have an international flavor. One member is Austrian; one is Colombian; one sobered up in a Navy group in the Aleutian Islands; and yours truly is a transplanted Californian."

Sorry, Dan—you *are* disqualified as a Loner now. But we're always delighted to hear of the formation of a new group. Like many former Loners in small groups, Dan has become a Loner Sponsor.

#### Good news from India

"There are 31 A.A. groups and six Al-Anon groups in Bombay," writes Armande C., secretary of the second-oldest A.A. group there (Dadar, founded in 1962), which has 35 members and holds three meetings a week.

"Four members more than 14 years sober have been the real backbone of the group. Members of our group have spread to various places near Bombay, also to the Arabian Gulf," says Armande.

"Our meetings are conducted in English, though frequently we have to speak in Hindi, Marathi, or Konkani. The program has clicked very well with persons of different religions and faiths. There have been several agnostics."

The complete letter is a conscientious and thorough reply to our Box 4-5-9 article "Is Your Group in Close Touch With A.A. as a Whole?" It brought us up-to-date on Bombay A.A.

#### Good hospital news

"We recently took our own group inventory," writes Roy G., New Hope Group, Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, Kitchener, Ont. "We wondered if we were doing all we could to carry the message and hold out the hand of A.A. to the still-suffering alcoholic.

"We concluded we were doing what we could in K.-W. Hospital and the Detoxification Centre, but the other main hospital had no readily available group to help their patients," Roy continues.

"One of us spoke to the superintendent and the nursing supervisor and got a warm reception. Closed discussion meetings will start soon at St. Mary's with the enthusiastic support of the whole nursing staff. Here, then, is another area where we, who have so much to be grateful for, can share this lifesaving Fellowship."

#### Good news for seniors

"Our original group for senior citizens (open to all, however), Golden Years Group, is still going in North Hollywood. A second is in Pasadena. And three weeks ago, we had a mammoth breakthrough when Leisure World in Laguna (a walled-in community of 25,000 residents) gave permission for an A.A. meeting there. Forty attended the first!" writes Teet C., Los Angeles, Calif.

Good going, Teet! The trustees' Literature Committee is working on a special pamphlet for older people, too. No scheduled publication date yet, however.



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

February-March 1979

## ITEMS AND IDEAS ON AREA A.A. GATHERINGS - VIA G.S.O.

### A.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

- 2-4 - *Hudson Hope, British Columbia, Canada.* Sixth Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Com., P.O. Box 457, Hudson Hope, B.C. V0C 1V0
- 2-4 - *North Hollywood, California.* Fourth Annual San Fernando Valley Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 967, Van Nuys, CA 91408
- 2-4 - *Greeley, Colorado.* 28th Annual Stampede. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 209, Greeley, CO 80631
- 9-11 - *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* Seventh Annual North Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., North Shore Roundup, 103 West Third St., North Vancouver, B.C. V7M 1E7
- 9-11 - *Sacramento, California.* Seventh Annual All-Calif. Young People's Roundup. Write: Reg. Ch., A.C.Y.P.A.A., P.O. Box 8005, Sacramento, CA 95818
- 9-11 - *Massey, Palmerston North, New Zealand.* 16th National Conv. Write: Conv. Secy., P.O. Box 1111, Palmerston North, New Zealand
- 16-18 - *El Paso, Texas.* Area Jamboree. Write: Jamboree Secy., P.O. Box 1405, El Paso, TX 79948
- 16-18 - *Lexington, Kentucky.* 28th State Conf. Write: Host Com., P.O. Box 23, Barr St. Sta., Lexington, KY 40501
- 17 - *Fountain Valley, California.* Mid-S. Calif. Area Symposium of Service. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 302, San Pedro, CA 90733
- 17 - *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.* Intergroup's 39th Anniv. Dinner Dance. Write: Intergroup Off. 112 S. 16th St., Rm. 1201, Philadelphia, PA 19102
- 17-18 - *Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada.* Comox Valley Anniv. Rally. Write: Rally Ch., P.O. Box 439, Cumberland, B.C. V0R 1S0
- 23-25 - *Lake Whitney, Texas.* Tenth Quarterly Young People's Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 7212 Stonewall, Fort Worth, TX 76140
- 23-25 - *Grove, Oklahoma.* Second Annual Four-State Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., P.O. Box 33, Grove, OK 74344
- 24-25 - *Albonito, Puerto Rico.* Annual Area Conv. Write: Conv. Coordinator, P.O. Box 955, Comerio, PR 00642

#### MARCH

- 2-4 - *Fresno, California.* Annual Spring Conf. Write: Ch., 166 Geary St., Rm. 804, San Francisco, CA 94108

- 2-4 - *Sioux Falls, South Dakota.* W. Cent. Regional Forum. Write: Regional Forum Secy., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10017
- 2-4 - *Denver, Colorado.* 15th Annual Nat. Women's Conf. Write: Women's Conf., 4343 S. Holly St., Englewood, CO 80110
- 6-8 - *Honolulu, Hawaii.* Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 6456, Honolulu, HI 96818
- 9-11 - *St. Paul, Minnesota.* 23rd Annual Weekend and Banq. Write: Ch., 951 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55106
- 9-11 - *Sparks, Nevada.* 12th Annual Pac. Reg. Assy. Write: P.R.A.A.S.A., P.O. Box 72, Reno, NV 89504
- 16-18 - *Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* 29th Annual Reg. Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 272 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M4R 1B2
- 16-18 - *Akron, Ohio.* Fourth Annual N.E. Ohio Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., 7009 Columbia Rd., Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
- 16-18 - *Atlantic City, New Jersey.* 15th Annual S. N.J. Conv. Write: S. N.J. Conv., P.O. Box 172, Oaklyn, NJ 08107
- 23-25 - *Corpus Christi, Texas.* 25th Annual Coastal Bend Jamboree. Write: Reg. Ch., P.O. Box 3201, Corpus Christi, TX 78404

- 23-25 - *Buffalo, New York.* W. N.Y. G.S.R. Spring Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., P.O. Box 6181, Buffalo, NY 14240
- 23-25 - *Blackpool, England.* Fifth Annual N. Conv. Write: Registrar, N. Conv. '79, 74 Woodplumpton Rd., Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, Lancashire, England
- 23-25 - *Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.* N. Wis./Upper Pen. Mich. 38th Annual Conf. Write: Com. Ch., 17 S. State St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
- 23-26 - *Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada.* 11th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 2218, Salmon Arm, B.C., V0E 2T0
- 30-April 1 - *Wiesbaden, West Germany.* Deutschsprachiges (German-speaking) Landertreffen 1979. Write: AA, Intergroup Mitte, Box 33, D-8752 Mainaschaff, West Germany
- 30-April 1 - *Colorado Springs, Colorado.* Spring Reg. Conf. Write: Conf. Com., 1431 Howard Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
- 30-April 1 - *Rock Island, Illinois.* N. Ill. Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., P.O. Box 777, Rock Island, IL 61201

### CLOSED MEETING TOPICS FROM THE GRAPEVINE

*February:* Before discussing joys and problems of twelfth-stepping, read "The Day of the First Meeting" and "Can I Talk to You?"; base a meeting on "Honesty" upon three articles that look into this vital element of the A.A. program; use "An End to Envy" and "Living With Fear . . . and Without" to explore ways of coping with these negative emotions.

*March:* "We Are Our Own Worst Enemies" suggests a session on self-hate, self-love, and self-acceptance; "Spirit of Service" can inspire some good sharing on the rewards of A.A. activity, encouraging newcomers to join in.

### PLANNING AN A.A. EVENT IN APRIL OR MAY?

Please be sure to send your information on April or May A.A. events in time to reach G.S.O. by *February 15*. This is the calendar deadline for the April-May issue of *Box 4-5-9* (to be mailed March 15).

### THANKS AGAIN, FRIENDS!

For all your loving holiday greetings from around the world, all of us at G.S.O. are deeply grateful. There were so many that the only way we can truly thank you is simply to work even harder at our A.A. jobs. Your messages inspire us to do just that.