



AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

Vol. 7 No. 6 • Published by General Service Office of A.A., P. O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17 • July 1962

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1 A YEAR

SPONSORING ARMED FORCES MEMBERS—SPECIAL SURVEY

WE GOOFED!

Sorry! We forgot to enclose the usual Group Fund envelope with the Spring "appeal letter" that went out last March. So far contributions in 1962 have fallen below 1961 — and the missing envelope may be the reason. If your group has been waiting to send in its contribution—you'll find an envelope enclosed.

G.S.O. SERVICE MATERIAL

The new Fact File for the G.S.R. is now available for distribution from G.S.O. Based upon reports from more than eight hundred G.S.R.'s, it answers such questions as — What is the G.S.R.'s job? How does he serve an A.A. Group? This material is available to any A.A. who wants to know about the G.S.R. Just write G.S.O. and we will mail it to you. No charge.



This questionnaire is directed to groups near Armed Services bases that are sponsoring service men and officers. Here at G.S.O., we would like to know how you establish and maintain contact with alcoholics on the base who want A.A. help.

Please cover the following points and mail your reply to G.S.O., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N.Y. — not later than July 1, 1962:

1. The name of the base and approximately how many service men attend your meetings regularly.
2. Has an effort been made to form a group on the base? If so, why didn't it succeed? This is an important question. We'd like to know whether the A.A.'s decided to give it up — or if the Armed Services officials objected.
3. How is "rank" at meetings handled? Please tell us whether you sponsor — G.I.'s? Officers? Wives of G.I.'s or Officers?
4. Who refers Twelfth Step calls from the base to your group?
5. How are Twelfth Step calls handled? Do you have any special printed or mimeographed material for Armed Service personnel? (If you do, please send us a copy with your answer to this questionnaire.)
6. Do you keep in touch with the Commanding Officer? With the Chaplain? With the Medical Officer?
7. Is your group's A.A. meeting announced in a base paper? In any media that would reach alcoholics on the base?
8. Can you suggest any specific services that G.S.O. might provide to help sponsor alcoholics on Armed Services bases?

INVITATION TO EUROPEAN A.A. ROUNDUP

Over Labor Day weekend — September 1 and 2 — A.A.'s in Europe will meet in Wiesbaden, Germany, for

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INVITATION TO EUROPEAN A.A. ROUNDUP

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the Tenth Annual European A.A. Roundup.

The first Roundup in 1952 was sponsored by the Wiesbaden Group and was attended mostly by American A.A.'s stationed on European military installations. It was an immediate success and led to a decision to make it an annual event.

For several years now the attendance has included a number of native A.A.'s from many countries - Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, England and Ireland, to name just a few that will be represented at the Roundup in September.

George S., station in Buddingen, Germany, has written this invitation on behalf of the Roundup Host Committee: "A.A. members who plan to be in Europe this summer are urged to come to the Roundup over Labor Day weekend. Wiesbaden is a famous spa and is easily accessible from any point in Europe.

"Its huge bahnhof is the terminal for many railway lines, and the town itself is only a few minutes by bus or train from the international airport at Frankfurt-am-Main. The Roundup Committee will locate hotel rooms or pension accommodations for those who request aid with reservations. A postcard or letter to G.S.O. will be forwarded to the Roundup Committee."

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FROM THE LONDON "DAILY EXPRESS"

April 28, 1962

JUST FANCY THAT

A DRINKING extension until midnight has been granted for the dinner at a Galway hotel tonight of the All-Ireland Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, an association of reformed drinkers. The organisers explain they have invited guests who might want a drink.

TALKATHON

Charlie McC., Secretary in the Miami Intergroup Office, thinks that they recently established some kind of a record on the air for a continuous TV program about A.A. The Miami Intergroup Office was asked to furnish a panel of three A.A. members to appear on TV Channel 10. They wore masks to protect their anonymity. Charlie writes: "The Program began at 11:20 and ended 1:50 a.m. The station received many calls during the program. The Intergroup Office received 49 calls."

CONFERENCE-APPROVED PAMPHLETS

that answer special needs

(Available from G.S.O.)

- "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship".....10¢
- "A.A. Tradition-How It Developed" (by Bill W.) 15¢
- "The Alcoholic Husband" (A Message to Wives) 10¢
- "The Alcoholic Wife" (A Message to Husbands) 10¢
- "Tranquilizers, Sedatives & the Alcoholic"....20¢

WATCH FOR YOUR AUGUST GRAPEVINE

Your pocket-size full-term vacation for 35¢!! LOOK WHAT'S COMING:

- **GV'S ANECDOTE BIN** is funnier than ever - quips, yarns and stories to chuckle or howl over all summer
- **THE BLESSING OF AN OPEN MIND** - how to seek and maybe find it
- **"But I'm Different!"** - a straight story for us "different" people
- **TEMPTATION** never quits; how to lick it - **THE MESSAGE** in far-off places - **PILLS FOR THE YEAR 2000**; a view into the pharmacist's crystal ball - **STEP NINE** of the "12 Steps Revisited" series - **CARTOONS** - **MEETING TOPICS** -
-- and much, much more

FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN KARLSRUHE, GERMANY

In February the German Group in Karlsruhe celebrated its first Anniversary. The wife of the group's great nonalcoholic friend wrote us about it:

"My name is Riek and I am *not* an alcoholic, I am Heinz Kappes' wife and the Karlsruhe Group has adopted me as a friend too. Yesterday they invited me to their first anniversary party."

“There were sixteen members of the group present and two new ones, young men. Heinz opened the meeting. He gave a concise explanation of what A.A. is, how it originated and how it works. He pointed out the A.A. literature which we had brought and which covered a whole table.

“Most of the guests had had to deal with alcoholics in some form or other and so realized their helplessness. I had a feeling they thought this was almost too good to be true.

“Some of the questions were probably the same as those asked everywhere: How can we reach young people? Can an alcoholic ever reach the point where he can say that he is no longer an alcoholic? How can the nonalcoholic keep in contact with the group?

“The social worker for alcoholics of the city of Karlsruhe said that in his way he had struck bottom because he had reached a point where he himself felt completely helpless. He could send men to hospitals, but what could he do for them when they went home? He was in despair about this problem when he learned from Heinz, my husband, about the plans for the Karlsruhe Group. Now that he knows there is a ‘home’ for his returnees, he is hopeful again.

“After the meeting Herma, the only woman member of the group, and I made coffee. In Karlsruhe we do not like stand-around social gatherings. We prefer the leg-under-table type. A long table was laid for coffee and our men formed a happy gathering. Herma and I were kept busy making coffee and filling the cups.”

Since this letter from Karlsruhe three new German groups have started, in Frankfurt, Mannheim and Stuttgart.

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1962 WORLD DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

We are sorry to report these errors in the new Directory:

page 11 – Anchorage, Alaska – \$240.00 from the ANCHORAGE GROUP was listed under the Alaskanite Group.

page 72 – Forest Park, Illinois – the line of information for the TUESDAY NITE WORKERS GROUP should have followed, not preceded, the Group's name.

page 250 – Midland, Ontario – The MIDLAND GROUP was omitted. It meets on Wednesday. The G.S.R. is Bill M. and the telephone is Midland 526-5185.

SUSSEX COUNTY, ENGLAND – Are you planning to be in England during August? Or do you know of an American A.A. member and his family who will be there? If so, this invitation from Peter L. may be of interest: “My wife and I live in the country some 80 minutes by fast train from London, in a lovely part of the county of Sussex. We would very much like to offer free accommodation for up to one week, to any American A.A. member and his family who will be in England this (I hope warm and sunny) summer. We have room for a husband and wife and two children... either two teenagers, or one teenager and younger child.

“I, luckily, am a company director and so can organize my daily routine (but only since I met A.A.) but my wife is a school teacher and so the dates we can offer are rather dictated by the school holidays. Therefore this invitation can only be extended between August 5th and 25th, but we hope these dates will suit some family that you know of. There are three A.A. groups in the area.”

If you are interested, write Peter L., c/o G.S.O., and we'll forward your letter.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO G.S.O.

from

A.A. MEETINGS & A.A. COMMITTEES

4/15/62 – 6/4/62

ARIZONA

Tucson Conference Committee.....\$10.00

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Parksville Rally.....\$54.90

CALIFORNIA

San Mateo County Telephone Service.....\$75.00

VIRGINIA

In Memory of Deceased Delegates.....\$100.00

AMERICAN \$ \$ \$

G.S.O. bookkeepers have to deal in American dollars. When French francs, British pounds or Canadian dollars are used to order G.S.O. literature – or make a contribution – they are exchanged at our bank for American dollars. Then the transaction is entered in our books at the U.S. dollar rate.

We understand that a worldwide U.S. Dollar Money Order can be purchased outside the U.S. from local banks. If this is done, the sender knows the rate of exchange before mailing the monies to us. Otherwise, we must continue to credit orders and contributions made in foreign currency in terms of U.S. dollars.

THE BIRTHDAY PLAN

The 1962 General Service Conference reaffirmed adoption of the Birthday Plan. The Plan gives individual A.A. members a chance to help foot the bill for A.A. world services. It supplements the group contribution to G.S.O.

This is the way the Plan works: The A.A. member contributes \$1.00 for each year of his sobriety – up to \$10.00 per year.

Bob R., Delegate from Oklahoma – birthplace of the Plan – credits it with giving his state the highest per capita contribution figure – \$4.18 in 1961.

Last year many A.A.'s, using the Plan for the first time, expressed their pleasure at being able to participate in this long-distance twelfth step work. Typical was this letter from Al B., of Cleveland, Ohio, "I feel I had a privilege some 8 years and 8 months ago to sit in with our Fellowship and in my half-drunken confused state to receive the welcome that only A.A. can give. As time went on there came to me an appreciation for the program – then enjoyment and love for A.A.

"I feel I cannot claim to be a member unless I put something behind the wheel to keep it going. That is my obligation and responsibility – to help keep the door open and literature around, as I found it."

The Birthday Plan is for everybody – for those who are active in group affairs and for those who don't come around so much any more. Pass the word along until every member knows that this way he can continue pulling his weight in the boat.

G.S.O. has sent special envelopes for Birthday Plan contributions to Area Delegates and Committee Members. These envelopes are available without cost for any individual member who wishes to use the Birthday Plan. If you are interested, see your Delegate, Committee Members, or write G.S.O. and we will send you your envelope.

ABOVE TEMPTATION

"Local members of Alcoholics Anonymous are literally above temptation when they attend meetings for this A.A. Group has its headquarters over the Alcohol Beverage Control store," reported the Jacksonville, North Carolina, "News" in a recent article which went on to explain the purpose of A.A. and to invite those who were interested to attend the meetings.

A.A. CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 3-5 – Twenty-second Annual Arkansas State Convention. Marion Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas. Write: Conv. Chairman, 1504 Allan, Apt. 2, North Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 16-18 – Eighteenth Southeastern Convention & Eleventh Kentucky State Conference. Louisville, Ky. Write: Conv. Chairman, P.O. Box 164, Louisville 1, Ky.
- 17-18 – Annual Ohio General Service Conference Commodore Perry Hotel, Toledo, Ohio. Write: P.O. Box 4275, Station E, Toledo, Ohio
- 24-25 – Ninth West Virginia Assembly. Clarksburg, W. Va. Write: Gore Hotel, Clarksburg, W. Va.
- 24-25 – Chautauqua Tri-State Assembly. Chautauqua Lake, New York. Write: Box 3112, Erie, Penna.

SEPTEMBER

- Aug. 31–Sept. 1-2 – Virginia A.A. Convention The John Marshall Hotel. Write: P.O. Box 5391, Richmond, Va.
- 1- 2 – Tenth Annual European A.A. Roundup. Wiesbaden, Germany Write: c/o G.S.O.
- 1- 2 – South Dakota State Conference. Write: Northern Black Hills Group, Box 567, Spearfish, So. Dakota
- 15-16 – Third Annual Connecticut State Get-Together. Banner Lodge, Moodus, Conn. Write: Banner Lodge, Moodus.
- 28-30 – Tenth Michigan Conference. Jack Tar Hotel, Lansing, Michigan. Write: P.O. Box 2022, Lansing 11, Michigan.

DEADLINE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Did your 1961 contribution arrive at G.S.O. after January 1, 1962? Then it will not appear in the A.A. "World Directory" until 1963.

This year a number of contributions arrived after the December 31 deadline and so were too late to be listed in this year's "World Directory."

We wanted to give credit to late comers but the matter was really out of our hands. On January 2, our C.P.A. closed last year's books and went right to work running a trial balance. All contributions received after January 1 will be credited to this year.

We hope those who were late will understand. And to everyone – a reminder: The *deadline* for 1962 contributions is December 31. It's the same date each year.