

## HAAM Radio Carries Fellowship and Warmth 'Over the AAirwaves'

The illustration on the mailing card shows a hand lightly but firmly holding a stemmed wine glass upside down. Under the heading HAAM, one learns that "HAAM radio, established in 1953, is an international fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous members who also hold amateur radio licenses. These HAAMs extend warmth and friendship to their members who have difficulty attending regular meetings. A.A. short-wave listeners also are invited to participate. . . . For information, contact ARS N8KDW, 4121 S. Fulton Place, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073, U.S.A.; or call 313-549-5275."

The call letters belong to Henry K., who maintains an up-to-date list of approximately 250 HAAMs around the U.S. and Canada that he is pleased to share. "Our people come and go," he says. "We have an open door policy and never know who will pop in."

In the interest of anonymity, the regular meetings are called "Friends of Bill W." Moreover, they are more like informal get-togethers than meetings. "Because the radio bands (transmission channels) are open to anyone," Henry explains, "we don't have a format as such. One HAAM will ask, 'How's your week been?'; another will answer, 'Just terrific' or 'Could have been better' or 'I went to a meeting last night and the subject was gratitude . . . it made me realize how good life is.' Then someone else might share news about a new member, or about an old one who hasn't been heard from in a while."

Remembering to preserve the anonymity of individual members is hardly a problem since the HAAMs know each other mainly by their call letters. Ask them about A.A. friends with whom they've networked for years and chances are they'll speak of them affectionately as WA2DAX, N4CTC or KW3X. If you want first names, they frequently have to refer to their listing.

A.A. oldtimer Ben L. (W7FNE) of Klamath Falls, Oregon, is an old ham radio hand as well. "Because there is great camaraderie among these people," he says, "it was natural that A.A. members who also were licensed hams would get together." The first attempt to make contact, Ben believes, was initiated by an operator named Lew of Seaford, Delaware. In a letter that appeared in the June 1953 issue of the A.A. Grapevine, he wrote, "I have a small homemade transmitter that cost about \$20 (I have spent that much plenty of times for whiskey), and have contacted fellows 500 miles away. . . . I will answer all letters and help however I can."

A year later, in May 1954, the Grapevine carried a one-paragraph call for the signals of "amateur radio operators who would like to contact each other via the air waves." And in June 1967, it carried an article, "—Message by Morse," signed "Anon." but written by Ben, who "had started a ham radio net in 1964, using Morse code recovery signals aboard ship because I was sea-going at the time and needed to keep in touch with



---

**Box 4-5-9** is published bimonthly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, © Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 1992.

**Mail address:** P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

**Subscriptions:** Individual, \$3.50 per year; group, \$6.00 for each unit of 10 per year. Check—made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc.—should accompany order.

---

A.A.s over great distances, from the Indian Ocean for instance.

"We had a great little net going for many years, but as the oldtimers died, it gradually faded. Today there are only two of us using Morse code—Jim D. of Taney Town, Maryland and I use it about three times a week when we have our one-on-one get-togethers."

One of the few women on Henry K.'s HAAM list is Lee H. (KB6MXH) of Sunnyvale, California. "There is a Mary Ann listed for Pennsylvania and a Sonya for New York," she reports, "but I've yet to make contact with either of them." Sober in A.A. for 19 years, Lee became involved in HAAM in the mid-'80s. "Joining in our 'Friends of Bill W.' meetings is like holding hands across the country," she relates, and "it feels really good. Sometimes a strange voice will ask, 'Who's Bill W.?' We'll usually explain that the name refers to a Twelve-Step program, though occasionally someone will kid, 'Bill W.? He's George Washington's brother. . . .'"

Lee adds that amateur radio is the only hobby regulated by international treaty. Amateur bands agreed upon by most nations are sandwiched in among the short-wave frequencies assigned to ships, aircraft, international broadcasting stations, the armed forces, police and others. To operate an amateur station, in the U.S. and Canada, a license is needed. Beginners are granted a "novice" license upon completing a test that most hams find relatively easy, and they can work their way on up to "extra" class, which confers some special frequency privileges.

The coordinator of the active California HAAM net is Robert B. (KJ6IL) of Santa Barbara. "In helping alcoholics who check into our meetings," he observes, "I find that I help myself most of all." Although non-A.A.s can and do wander into HAAM meetings, he stresses, "we do not violate the Traditions. We are amateurs all, and we're not out to proselytize or promote A.A. in any way."

Robert notes that he is in touch with A.A.s all over the world and has made "some wonderful friends," among them Wilf MacK. (VY2AA) of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, who identifies himself as "always alcoholic." As often happens, the two HAAMs

decided to become more than each other's disembodied voice; they met when Robert flew up to Prince Edward Island. "The HAAM experience has a ripple effect," Wilf comments. "I've been involved for about 23 years and have enjoyed every moment. We have a saying here that if you make an A.A. contact today, chances are you won't drink today or get into trouble. In my case, that's proved very true."

Hank K. (N4OX0) of Tarpon Springs, Florida, concurs. "This is another form of Twelfth Stepping," he says, "and it provides a solid support system." He points out that HAAMs carry A.A.'s "language of the heart" to the nth degree because "we use a language that the untrained listener cannot understand. For example," he offers, "if someone's not going to meetings, I might toss in a concerned 028 ('A banana that gets away from the bunch usually gets peeled.') or 229 ('You might be the only Big Book that some poor alcoholic will ever read.'). Then, let's say I'm signing off. I send you my 73 (for 'going now') my 88 ('love and kisses to your lady') and, for good measure, a 24 ('stay sober a day at a time'). It's fun, it works, and there's always room at the round table for one more."

---

## 1992 Membership Survey Under Way

In July, in preparation for A.A.'s triennial A.A. Membership Survey, anonymous questionnaires were sent to 496 Canadian and U.S. groups through their area delegates. The questionnaires were completed during the first two weeks of August at a regular meeting of each group and returned to the delegate, who returned them to G.S.O.

Questionnaire responses are being entered into the computer, and the compilation of the raw data will be reviewed by the trustees' Public Information Committee this winter. Then, from the gathered information, the committee will prepare a proposed 1992 A.A. Membership Survey pamphlet for consideration by the 1993 Conference Public Information Committee.

A.A. has conducted this survey every three years since 1968. The General Service Conference approves taking the Survey and determines the content of the questionnaire. As stated on the 1992 Survey Questionnaire: "The purpose of the survey has been to keep A.A. members informed on current trends in membership characteristics, and to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community and to the general public as part of the effort to reach those who still suffer from alcoholism."

---

## **A.A.—Rap With Us** **New Video Responds to Expressed Need**



One definition of "rap" is "to share freely and frankly with people with similar problems." The new A.A. Conference-approved video, *A.A.—Rap With Us*, featuring four anonymous young A.A. members, underscores the principle that our Fellowship is open to any alcoholic, including people of color, the very young and those from less advantaged backgrounds. The 16-minute video uses "rap" lyrics and music to bridge the stories of alcoholic despair and A.A. recovery shared by four young members, two females and two males.

The history of the new video began in early 1990 with the General Service Board's focus on carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics who may be unaware of the A.A. help that is available. Around the same time, correspondence to G.S.O. pointed out that the members portrayed in our film *Young People and A.A.* were mainly white, leaving an identification gap for some young alcoholics. Thus, a 1990 Conference Advisory Action directed that the trustees' P.I. Committee "consider the feasibility of developing video and television public service announcements with the focus on younger A.A. members and all minorities, within the framework of A.A.'s desire to carry its message to all alcoholics, and bring a recommendation back to the 1991 Conference." The trustees' P.I. Committee then began to study ways

of conveying the A.A. message to those who may not have had the opportunity of A.A. contact. Various methods of translating the A.A. message into public information pieces were discussed. The committee then sought bids from film producers for a pilot video for the 1991 Conference P.I. Committees' consideration.

Four California, New York and Texas area delegates assisted in selecting the young A.A. members, who were filmed in September 1991. Suggested guidelines were established to assure that A.A.'s Traditions were followed in each phase of the taping. The rough cut of the full production was shown to the trustees' P.I. Committee and then forwarded to the Conference P.I. Committee. The proposed video was shown to the 1992 Conference membership and approved for production and distribution.

Following minor editing suggested by the Conference, the title, *A.A.—Rap With Us*, was chosen as the most appropriate from among many suggestions made by members of both P.I. committees.

A.A. groups and committees involved in carrying the A.A. message to younger alcoholics may obtain *A.A.—Rap With Us* through their local intergroup or central office, or order from the General Service Office: VS-13, \$15.00, 20% discount applies.

---

## **The Many Tongues of A.A. Language**

"Hola, Mercedes!" the group around the long rectangular table yelled back to a woman from Mexico who had just identified herself (in Spanish) as an alcoholic. "Hola, Gustavo!" they then called back to a young man from Mexico. "Hola, Nilda!" in unison to a blonde from

Argentina. Around the table they went, responding to each of the twenty A.A.s in attendance. Then, to a new visitor, from New York City, "Hi, Rosemary!"

*Hola? Hi?*

Want to guess where this group was sharing? Rio? Madrid? Wrong. This was the regular Monday night, bilingual meeting—it's called Dulces 24 (Sweet 24)—in a densely populated, mixed area on Manhattan's Upper West Side. It is the first meeting of its kind in New York City.

There is no official interpreter as the sharing in different languages goes around the table; the meeting's chair and co-founder (March 1992), Dan M., fluently translates. Dan speaks four languages—Spanish, English, Portuguese and Italian—easily shifting from one to the other. The group's bilingual listing (Spanish and English) is, in fact, usually expanded. On any Monday night, Dan may be called on to use all four of his languages, depending on who drops in. "Recently two Belgians showed up (they spoke English) and occasionally Italians or tourists from Spain come," Dan says.

To a visitor the meeting seems more multilingual than bilingual. There's even a cross-cultural flavor spicing the group's sharing. "Listen," Dan quickly counters, "A.A. language is from the heart. We understand each other because I'm a drunk, we're all drunks." And he's right. From the reading of the Preamble (in both Spanish and English), through the sharing (translated into English), through the closing Serenity Prayer (in Spanish), the talk is strictly A.A.: acceptance, problems, gratitude, letting go.

The group started, Dan says, because—incredibly—in this particular 55-block (north and south) area of Manhattan, there was only one Spanish-speaking meeting all week. "It was incredible because the people needed a Spanish-speaking meeting, of course. But also because many young people around here, who really could use A.A., are fully bilingual. This is an important aspect of their lives. We try to reach them in different languages," he adds.

Quite a number of Dulces 24's members, who are clearly more comfortable speaking in their native tongue, want the option to speak English at the meeting if they want to.

Aida, who comes from Puerto Rico and calls herself a "New Yorkican," explained it this way—in English: "First of all, Spanish is very warm and we share a lot through our Spanish backgrounds. But English-speaking meetings are more open, people reveal more about themselves in English-speaking meetings, and I want that openness in my home group. This meeting has both openness and warmth."

The international salad of languages continued to bounce around the room. Regina, from Brazil, told the group, in Portuguese, that she was being reunited with her estranged daughter after a lapse of twelve years. Nilda, from Argentina, shared that after years of failed efforts by members of her family, only A.A. had been able to help her to stop drinking; Ivan, a Brazilian who had just flown in via Tokyo, talked of his gratitude at being able to share all over the world with fellow A.A.s; and several others—from Peru and Mexico—told of having been freed by the Fellowship of years of loneliness.

While Dulces 24 is the first bilingual group in New York, others seem to be proliferating, Dan says, in many other parts of the country—Texas, Florida, Connecticut,

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, California—wherever there is a large Spanish-speaking population with strong roots in the United States. And, of course, bilingual meetings have long been a staple in Canada.

"I wouldn't call it a trend," Dan says, "but people want to express themselves in the language they're comfortable in." That comfort is frequently experienced in two languages—a person's native tongue and the one he or she has become very familiar with. For example, in some Latin American cities, Dan says, "After English-speaking people began a meeting and then left the country, quite often the natives of the area keep the meeting going in English because, well, because they're comfortable with it."

---

## The Area Newsletter: A Place Where A.A.s Keep in Touch

The ink was barely dry on the first edition of the Big Book, in April 1939, when A.A.s were working on yet another way to communicate with one another on a regular basis—employing that time-honored vehicle, the no-frills newsletter.

So far as is known, the Fellowship's first newsletter was the "A.A. Bulletin," published in November 1940 by the Alcoholic Foundation (now the General Service Office). The forerunner of *Box 4-5-9*, the Bulletin was inked out on a vintage mimeograph machine.

Four years later, in June 1944, the first issue of the A.A. Grapevine came to life. An ambitious eight-page newsletter that evolved from a large, 10" x 12" format into the pocket-sized magazine we know today, it was conceived primarily as a "meeting in print." While *Box 4-5-9* has given us a continuing picture of the growth of A.A.'s groups and the expansion of its world services, the Grapevine has recorded the Fellowship's development in terms of personal recovery.

Over the years, A.A. newsletters have mushroomed in communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. Mostly they are published by area intergroups or central offices, assemblies, district committees, and archives. Many have colorful names ranging from "The Filing Cabinet" and "The Cork" to "Serenity Gazette," "Free Spirit" and "The Nightcap." Most of them follow the example of the early "A.A. Bulletin," which emphasized the themes of self-support along with "unity within, harmony without, and an open door for everybody." They generally carry news of service activity and coming events, mixed with articles adapted from other A.A. newsletters and Conference-approved literature. Homilies and humor have always abounded, Arkansas archivist Bob W. points

out, "which is indicative of A.A. members' ability to learn from one another and to laugh at ourselves."

Down in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the "No Booze News" reaches at least a thousand A.A.s every month. Edith R., manager of the central office, who "puts it together more or less," reports that maybe a dozen subscribers pay \$5.00 a year for their mailed copies; the rest are distributed by hand, usually at the monthly central office representatives' meeting. The cost of printing the four-page newsletter runs just under \$180 a month and is absorbed by the central office budget.

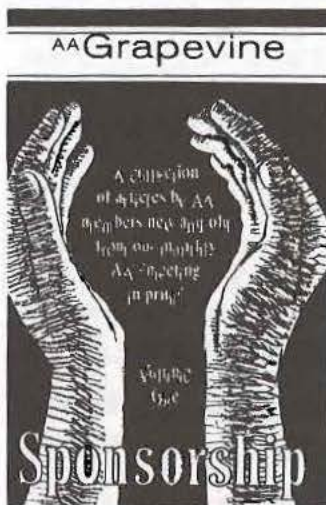
"We publish a list of volunteers who will be handling the night phone calls," Edith explains, "along with a calendar of upcoming events, including individual anniversary celebrations; the report of recent meetings and who attended; and letters, when we get them. Of course, we use first names and last-name initials only!" The June issue, she notes, featured convention news, a story on the A.A. support system, and the reassuring one-liner: "Eat a live toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day unless you drink."

In Wilmington, Delaware, "News From Intergroup" is published 10 times a year," reports office manager Nancy S. She explains that the cost of putting out the 8-to-12-page bulletin "is kept to a minimum, thanks to the desktop publishing skills of editor Bob B. We average 550 copies at a time. More than 100 of these are mailed to subscribing A.A. individuals and groups around the country at a charge of 50 cents a copy, or \$5.00 for a year's subscription; the rest are distributed mainly to the groups. The newsletter expenses total about \$400 a month, and are covered by donations from members and literature sales."

Then there's the "Rogue Newsletter," published by the Rogue, Oregon Central Office for the past seven years. One sheet printed on both sides, "it costs only \$19 a month to produce the 150 or so copies we need," says manager Eddie H., an oldtimer of 43 years' standing for whom "The Rogue" is a labor of love. "As for the color," he adds, "that depends on who's taking the copy to the printer."

In Houston, Texas, Dick P., executive secretary of the Intergroup Association, says that each issue of "The Link," a six-page newsletter published bimonthly, reaches 500 people. "The postage cost is fairly high," he says, "because we mail out about 300 copies at a cost of 52 cents each, or \$156.00. But the paper runs only about \$30 a month and we input the copy on the computer, then Xerox it." Started in the 1960s as "The Intergroup Newsletter" and renamed "The Link" in 1988, the Houston bulletin "is important to a lot of A.A.s," Dick observes. "Besides providing information about A.A. happenings in our area, it shows us as we are in recovery and service—much like a family album. Turning the pages of past issues affords a wonderful sense of growth, change and continuity."

## New Grapevine Tapes



Two new cassette tapes, "Sponsorship," Volumes One and Two, are now available from the Grapevine. The collection of articles shares the experience of A.A. members who have found sponsorship a vital part of their sobriety, and those whose lives have been enriched by sponsoring others. A variety of approaches, including sponsoring inmates by mail and temporary sponsorship,

along with some "how to do it" ideas, are presented. Grapevine tapes are \$5.50 each; \$5.00 when purchasing two or more. To order: P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-1980.

## Areas Step Up Efforts to Capture Our Yesterdays Before It's Too Late

A wealth of A.A. history resides amidst the memories and mementoes of oldtimers who are still with us, many of them in their 80s and 90s. Accordingly, new and established archival committees are accelerating efforts to fill existing gaps in the A.A. family album—and often they reap some fascinating pictures of the past.

To date, there are active archives in more than three-fifths of the 91 areas in the U.S. and Canada, and new ones are springing up all the time, among them the Joint Committee on History and Archives launched recently by the Northern New Jersey General Service Area and Intergroup.

Says member Ken B.: "Our primary purpose is twofold: (1) to document and preserve the historical record of A.A. in New Jersey; and (2) to tape interviews with as many oldtimers as we can, then transcribe the recordings to a good quality, nonacidic paper for a permanent record."

Like their counterparts everywhere, the New Jersey archivists delight in their "finds," and their excitement is contagious. "We've come up with some real surprises from the 1940s," Ken reports. "One is a letter about a female newcomer who was barred (temporarily) from

meetings of a group 'for men only' in Bergen County. Another is a listing of segregated meetings in New Jersey (referenced as 'Negroes'). And what may be the earliest of its kind, a 'Young People's Meeting,' was found on a 1948 list."

The new committee is actively seeking a number of specific artifacts, among them old programs used for intergroup banquets and area conventions. "What is nothing more than yellowed dust-catchers to you may be part of the historical record to us," Ken points out. "For example, while looking over the few old programs we do have, we discovered that the guest speaker at our second Intergroup Banquet in 1947 was none other than Bill W.! And A.A.'s good friend Dr. William Duncan Silkworth spoke right along with him."

Ken asks that "if any individual member or group has old materials pertaining to A.A. in New Jersey—programs, meeting lists, correspondence—and you are willing to donate them (or loan them for copying)," please contact: Archives Committee, P.O. Box 1256, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

---

## Services at G.S.O.

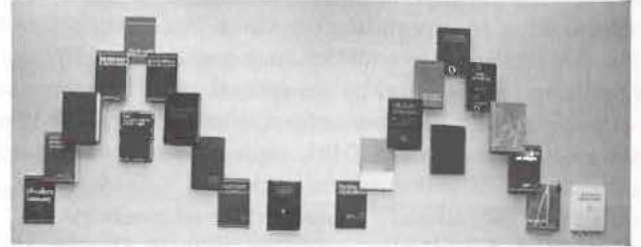
### Keeping Track of A.A.'s Pulse Around the Globe

"We are crying in Peru, Lois!" laments Jaime R., calling from G.S.O. in Lima. "We have no literature and no money." Lois F., the staff member who serves on the International Desk at G.S.O., reassures Jaime that the complimentary package of literature that she sent him some time ago has not had time to arrive yet. Jaime is still anxious, so she adds, "I'll check on it and get back to you." She hangs up and tells her bilingual assistant to verify the date the package was mailed.

Other calls interrupt her, some with more urgent requests than others, each one as time-consuming as the next. In between telephone calls and tackling a pile of correspondence—Lois answers an average of 175 letters a month from every corner of the globe—she continues with the job of planning and coordinating the Twelfth World Service Meeting, to be held in New York City, October 25–29. Thirty-nine delegates from 25 countries are expected to participate. The theme of this year's meeting, which takes place every two years, is "Service: Everyone's Privilege."

All of these activities make up only a partial job description of the staff member who rotates every two years onto this assignment. Broadly speaking, it covers every aspect of carrying the A.A. message anywhere outside the U.S. and Canada,

With the exception of literature orders, the International coordinator gets everything from all over the world—a phone call from Stockholm, a letter from a group in Tanzania or Kenya or from the General Service Office in Great Britain, it all funnels through this assignment. The letters run a wide gamut, each one indicative



*This wall display of the 22 foreign-language editions of the Big Book is in the hallway leading into G.S.O.'s conference room.*

of the way A.A.'s message of hope has spread to so many countries. A typical sampling: a letter from Trinidad from someone who doesn't know there's a National Council on Alcoholism office in Trinidad; another from an A.A. in Kenya who never received the Big Book, Twelve and Twelve and *Living Sober* that was sent months ago. Then there's a \$200 contribution from an English-speaking group in Japan; a letter of inquiry from Ireland's Department of Health in Dublin, regarding children of alcoholics. This last correspondent will be referred to the International Council on Alcoholism in Switzerland. Yet another letter is from a 64-year-old Russian, overflowing with gratitude for the A.A. meetings in Moscow that G.S.O. helped him to find, and he asks, finally, if he can be put in touch with other Russian-speaking A.A. members with whom he could correspond. He will be sent a list of Russian-speaking A.A.s in the U.S. who have volunteered for this kind of Twelfth Step work.

Lois also serves as secretary to the trustees' International Committee, which suggests policies and actions to carry the message overseas, particularly in countries where there is, as yet, no service structure. "I let them know what I'm doing in terms of planning the World Service Meeting, what's happening with translations, what's going on with A.A. around the world," she says.

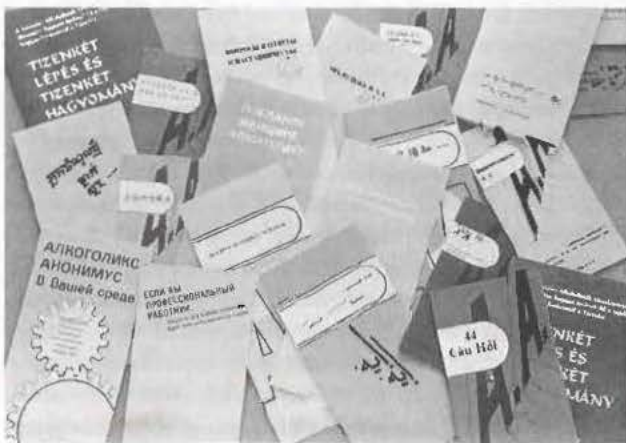
Overseeing translations of A.A. literature—from initial inquiry to publication—is a large part of the International assignment. The Big Book is now published in 23 languages, including English.

"The publication of translations is one of the more complicated aspects of this assignment," Lois says, adding, "There isn't a cut and dried way of doing it. And in some instances, there's the chicken and egg question. For example, there may not be any groups (except for English-speaking groups) in a country be-

cause there isn't any literature." The rapid spread of A.A.'s message, coupled with desperate need and limited funds in many countries have brought about changes in the Fellowship's translations policy. In many instances in the past, Lois explains, an A.A. member claiming fluency in the particular foreign language, requested permission to do a translation of the Big Book. The A.A. World Service Board would tell him or her to go ahead with a translation. If a translation service's reviewer indicated the text was satisfactory, the country was given the go-ahead. The book was then published, distributed and paid for by the country's A.A. service structure or a literature committee over an agreed period of time. More typically, if a country wanted some literature, "We urged them to start with pamphlets. They're easier to do. As their service structure grew, and they wanted to translate the Big Book, we provided the money to publish it, and as they sold the books, they would pay us back."

The problem is that many countries lack either service structure or funds or both. "We broke precedent in Russia," Lois says, explaining that A.A.W.S. sent a considerable amount of literature to that country last year. The need for help there was so huge that, several years ago, "after a lot of discussion the General Service Board decided to do a giant Twelfth Step call," she says. Simultaneously, there surfaced a burgeoning need for translations in the U.S., where alcoholism was becoming a problem among immigrant Cambodians, Vietnamese and Chinese. So the red tape was cut again and the trustees' International Committee decided to translate and "publish basic recovery pamphlets in those languages for distribution in our own country."

"I felt overwhelmed by this assignment when I started," Lois confesses. "It's not the kind of thing you can look up in a manual . . . you have to know the players, and I felt inadequate. You need to know why two intergroups in a city overseas are competing or why the general service structure in another country is having a rift."



A potpourri of A.A. recovery pamphlets in various languages.

It took her six months on the job to understand why her predecessor, Sarah P., called it her favorite assignment. "I'm very challenged by this job and really love it now," she says. Many A.A.s around the world are now old friends. "Often I hear about their struggles, how hard they work to carry the message. Hearing from Russia, I get the feeling of what it must have been like in this country in the late Thirties. They truly go to any length to stay sober and carry the message."

---

## If A.A. Didn't Have Committees, We'd Have To Invent Them

A.A. is often called an upside-down organization because, as Bill W. has pointed out, "the ultimate responsibility and final authority for our World Services resides with the groups rather than with the trustees or General Service Office." But how do the groups communicate their group conscience to the General Service Conference? Indeed, in A.A.'s "benign anarchy," how does anything affecting the Fellowship as a whole get done?

Enter the committee network, that multi-faceted mechanism which links the many parts of A.A.—starting within the home group and extending to the district, the area, the trustees' committees, General Service Conference committees and the Conference itself.

To many, the word "committee" connotes that which is drab, dull and ponderous as a dray horse. But "if it weren't for committees," says California, Northern Coastal Area's past delegate Frank P., "we would be hard put to accomplish anything in A.A. Our committees to a great extent are what make our 'benign anarchy' possible. They gather information, assimilate it, arrive at a consensus, and make recommendations in the interest of the groups they serve."

Frank, who presently serves on the advisory board of the San Mateo Central Office, says that, "Serving on various A.A. committees has contributed to my personal growth in more ways than I can recount. It has brought home to me the importance of placing 'principles before personalities,' it has been a constant reminder that, as our friend and past trustee chairperson Bernard Smith observed, 'while A.A. is important to the existence of the individual, no individual must be vital to the existence of A.A.' And it has taught me not only to develop opinions, after doing the necessary spadework, but to summon the courage to express them—and to have the compassion to allow others to express theirs."

Past trustee Ralph R. agrees. "I'd like to think I'm 100% right all the time," he says, "but of course it isn't

so. As the member of a committee, of a working body greater than myself, I've come to value the differences of opinion. Also, I've found that working with people from various parts of the country provides a broader and deeper point of view. Our geographic location definitely has a bearing on our perceptions."

If we didn't have committees to arrive at a group conscience, Ralph points out, "we'd have to invent them or else be ruled by edict, something few alcoholics would long tolerate in recovery. Making room for the minority, or dissenting, view is vital to the Fellowship's unity, to its survival. Not infrequently, the minority view will win out in the end, which tells me how important it is to have the courage to articulate my convictions."

In describing the rewards of committee involvement, both Frank and Ralph mentioned their experience with rotation. "In A.A. we talk about the importance of serving in leadership positions as informed and trusted servants," Frank notes, "but the full significance didn't hit me until it was time to rotate off and let go. That's when I realized that there's always someone else around to 'do right' or mess things up as well or better than I can. Rotation keeps committees from stagnating and individual members from getting too big for their britches."

Reflectively Ralph observes that "communication is the essence of A.A. It's part and parcel of our primary purpose: to carry the message of recovery from alcoholism. Our committee system is simply a sane and manageable tool for pooling our shared experience, strength and hope to make certain that A.A. will be here for future alcoholics as it was for us."

---

## Tennessee Holds Up A Mirror to Its Defects and Strengths

"Let It Begin With Me" aptly themed a Tennessee Area Assembly in Memphis last fall. It was the scene of a collective, in-depth inventory that few attendees, including Donald A., chairperson of the state's Grapevine Committee, are likely to forget.

"This inventory," Donald writes, "was successful largely because the moderator, Mary Ann C., a past delegate from Virginia, had done her homework and was totally prepared. After studying our area minutes compiled over the past two years, she developed a comprehensive questionnaire that was passed out to everyone present for use as a guide."

The questionnaire was divided into several sections, or levels, including: Personal, Group, District, Area

Officers and Area Assemblies. The questions, more than 100 of them, were uncompromising and covered every conceivable aspect of service. The inventory process went on into the night hours and lasted all weekend.

Comments Mary Ann: "Taking inventory can be discomfoting, but productive and freeing as well. The Tennessee Assembly really worked to identify problem areas and shoulder responsibility for their solution. It was a privilege to be part of it all."

Looking back on the experience, Don says gratefully, "I've learned just how little I know about service above the group level. So, with a personal thank you to the moderator for opening my eyes, 'let it begin with me.'"

---

## P.I.

### New TV Public Service Spots

"Alcoholism—it doesn't care who you are" says an anonymous voice opening six new television public service announcements (P.S.A.s) focusing on seniors and teens. Available on one tape in either ¾" (TV-37), 1" (TV-38) and 2" (TV-39) formats, the new TV spots include anonymous A.A. members from the older and younger populations, who make clear that A.A. is open to all alcoholics, regardless of age, sex or situation.

Available for \$10.75, the six spots in 30 and 10 second lengths include two directed to senior alcoholics, two more to teens, and two that address both groups. Each P.S.A. is formatted to allow for the addition of a voice-over or graphics conveying the local A.A. information phone number.

The simplicity and clarity of each message is due to the original P.S.A.s, which regular *Box 4-5-9* readers will recall from the P.I. Section in the October/November 1991 issue. They came about when three California area assemblies joined hands to respond to requests for short televised messages to reach alcoholics not covered by existing P.S.A.s. This cooperative project was guided by an ad hoc committee composed of representatives from each of the three areas, and the final scripts were reviewed and approved by each assembly.

After the inter-area production was completed, the background and "how to" were generously shared with A.A.s in other areas who were interested in adapting the idea locally. A joint decision was then made to offer the master tape and all rights to A.A. World Services, Inc., the board that oversees the production and distribution of all Conference-approved material. This unusual offer was referred to the trustees' Public Informa-



tion Committee, who, following approval by the General Service Board, gratefully approved that the P.S.A.s be forwarded to the 1992 Conference Public Information Committee for consideration. The Conference Committee found these P.S.A.s to be well done and useful in filling a gap in our present inventory of Conference-approved public service communications, and they were approved for distribution.

Local A.A. committees may purchase one or more tapes through their local intergroup or central office, or from the General Service Office.

---

## Treatment Facilities

### Treatment Facilities Service Within the Traditions

A letter recently came to the Treatment Facilities Desk referring to an item in a 1984 issue of the former *Treatment Facilities Bulletin*. The writer felt that these guidelines for A.A.s who carry the message into hospitals and detoxes, while keeping to A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, is most timely and bears reprinting. So do we; so here they are:

#### Within the Traditions

- The unity of an A.A. meeting within a treatment facility is essential for carrying the A.A. message.
- A.A. members who carry the message into treatment facilities, like all A.A.s, are but trusted servants. They do not power-drive an A.A. meeting in a treatment facility. They allow the Higher Power to govern the meeting.
- Patients who are dually addicted may attend A.A. meetings as long as one of their problems is alcohol. Only the patient may decide whether he or she has a desire to stop drinking.
- Tradition Five is really what Twelfth Stepping in treatment facilities is all about; to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is what A.A.s do best, share their experience, strength and hope with the suffering alcoholics, especially those in treatment facilities. There can be no more important commitment for an A.A. member than to carry the message.
- We cooperate but we do not affiliate. We wish to work with treatment facility program administrators and staff but we do not wish to be merged with them in

the minds of administrators, patients, staff or the public. A.A. is available to the treatment facilities but public linking of the A.A. name can give the impression of affiliation. Therefore, an A.A. meeting or group that meets in a treatment facility should not bear the name of the facility.

- When A.A.s are invited into a facility to conduct a meeting for patients only, no contribution is required as this meeting is not an A.A. group.
  - A.A.s carry the A.A. message because it helps them stay sober.
  - A.A. ought to abide by the rules and regulations of a treatment facility, even though they may disagree with its policies. Although A.A.s may disagree with the methods used by some treatment facilities they learn to "walk the walk," and simply carry the A.A. message. A.A.s who do Twelfth Step work in treatment facilities should not be diverted from their primary purpose.
  - A.A.s who carry the message into treatment facilities represent A.A. itself to facility personnel. Those who engage in this work should remember that they are the "attraction" to A.A., not only for the patients but also for all staff members of a facility.
  - Placing principles before personalities enables A.A.s who carry the message into treatment facilities to keep their primary purpose first. Let us always remember that anonymity—not taking credit for our own or others' recovery—is humility at work.
  - Let us stop being concerned about how a treatment facility or professional does their work for the alcoholic. Let us be concerned with one thing—Let us carry the message of A.A. to the suffering alcoholics—Let us try.
- 

## Correctional Facilities

### A.A.s Dialogue With Professional Friends At Ohio Workshop

"We have had workshops in the past, but this was the first to feature a panel of professionals, all of them in the judicial system. A number of sensitive issues were aired and shared, and you could literally feel the channels of communication opening up."

So reports Joan A., who chairs the Northeast Ohio Correctional Facilities Committee. She notes that a number of the 40-odd A.A.s present were concerned

about problems arising from court-mandated referrals. "What do you do about referrals who are angry and disrupt the meeting?" someone asked. "And what do you do with the ones who aren't even alcoholics?"

The professional panel, which included a judge, a probation officer, an inmate services director and a treatment program manager, listened intently to the comments and offered a few of their own. (They allowed that a few nonalcoholics occasionally slip through the net, but said that effective screening procedures were in place.)

To avoid overcrowding at one or two meetings, it was suggested that the C.F. committee furnish the judge and program officials with a list of all A.A. meetings within the court's jurisdiction and request that clients be rotated. At the same time, send the new people just to open speaker meetings, where they can only listen, not speak, and so are less apt to be disruptive.

At one point during this discussion, Joan relates, "we were given a moving reminder of why we were there. 'I was court-mandated,' this fellow said. 'I didn't think I belonged. I was disruptive alright, and I hated you for a long time. Now I'm two years sober in A.A., but if you hadn't been here for me, I don't know where I'd be today.'

"The positive ripple effect from the workshop is still being felt," Joan says, "and we're working to make sure that this is the first of many more to come."

---

## C.P.C.

### How Listless Committee Put a Tiger in Its Tank

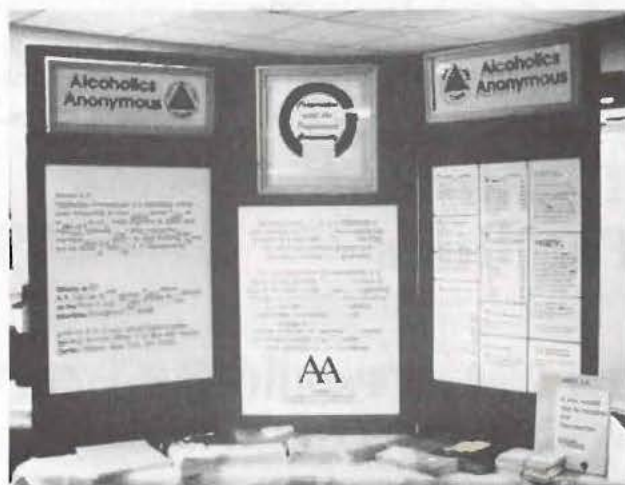
"The 10-year-old committee was not so much a working body of people as it was a stray cat—there alright, but a sad sack, and hardly anyone seemed to care."

Rich S., immediate past delegate, Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan area, is speaking of the area committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, which he has chaired since last January. "A few of us got together," he recounts, "and decided that the only way to turn our cat into a cougar was to get people interested and involved."

First the handful of concerned members "recruited shamelessly, pleading our case at meetings and asking for help everywhere," Rich relates. It worked, and the committee began to grow. Then came the matter of involvement. It became apparent that, in order to effec-

tively carry the A.A. message to area professionals at their meetings and conventions, the C.P.C.s needed an exhibit. Short of funds but long on collective ideas and energy, they decided to construct it themselves.

That lively nursery-rhyme favorite, "The House that Jack Built," has nothing on the exhibit that materialized in just a month's time. "It took a bunch of sober, enthusiastic drunks working together to accomplish an instant



miracle that cost next to nothing," observes Rich with a grin. "Need a framework, metal parts, carpeting, printing? Where do you get help? From concerned A.A.s who happen to be in the business or who know someone who is. When we went to an unknown glassmaker, even he turned out to be a recovering alcoholic!"

Composed of three separate panels, the exhibit in its entirety is 4 feet high, 2 feet wide and 6 feet long. It is carpeted attractively in royal blue and gray. The left and right panels read "Alcoholics Anonymous"; the middle one, featuring two hands clasping, spells out the identity of the C.P.C. committee; and the whole is well stocked with A.A. Conference-approved literature.

"We're having a lot of fun and success with this thing," Rich reports. "At a recent medical meeting, we were sandwiched between two treatment center exhibits; yet our exhibit drew the most attention."

The committee, now 22 active members strong, is reaching out to professionals in local hospitals, schools, and the judicial system, to name some. "We're getting a lot of positive feedback," Rich notes. "Word travels, and requests for information are coming in. It's all very exciting and assuredly wouldn't be happening without the support of our area assembly and intergroup's P.I. committee. It seems that our commonality of purpose—to help the suffering alcoholic—sparks on-target ideas and brings us ever closer together."

## 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.

### October

- 1-4 — *Denver, Colorado.* Rocky Mountain Roundup. Write: Ch., 1200 Humbolt, #1204, Denver, CO 80218
- 1-4 — *Amarillo, Texas.* Top of Texas Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 412, Amarillo, TX 79105
- 2-4 — *Roosevelt Lake, Arizona.* Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5242, Scottsdale, AZ 85261
- 2-4 — *Anaheim, California.* 41st Annual So. Cal. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7671, Long Beach, CA 90807-0671
- 2-4 — *Aspen, Colorado.* First Roundup. Write: Ch., 1362 Snowbunny Lane, Aspen, CO 81611
- 2-4 — *Pocatello, Idaho.* Idaho Area Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 774, Pocatello, ID 83204-0774
- 2-4 — *Marco Island, Florida.* 12 Step Weekend. Write: Ch., 345 Colonial Ave., Marco Island, FL 33937
- 2-4 — *Bismarck, North Dakota.* State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2244, Bismarck, ND 58502
- 2-4 — *Rochester, New York.* Rochester Conv. Write: Ch., RAAC, 10 Manhattan Sq., Rochester, NY 14607
- 2-4 — *Cincinnati, Ohio.* Ninth Annual Mid-states Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 141308, Cincinnati, OH 45250-1308
- 2-4 — *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.* 22nd Annual N.E. Regional Conv. Write: Ch., Box 124, Polk, PA 16342
- 2-4 — *Spearfish, South Dakota.* Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 661, Sturgis, SD 57785
- 2-4 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia.* Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302
- 2-4 — *Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.* 17th Annual Regina Roundup. Write: Ch., 236-408 Broad St., Regina, SK S4R 1X3
- 2-4 — *Repentigny, Quebec, Canada.* 10ème Congrès Annuel Repentigny. Write: Ch., 755, rue Sherbrooke, Repentigny, Quebec J5Y 2G3
- 2-4 — *Berlin, Germany.* First Roundup (hosted by gay & lesbian members). Write: Ch., Kurfürstenstr. 81, 1000 Berlin 42, Germany
- 3-4 — *Port-Cartier, Quebec, Canada.* 29 Anniversaire de Port-Cartier. Write: Ch., 46 - Maissoneuve #12, Port-Cartier, Quebec G5B 1S2
- 8-11 — *Las Vegas, Nevada.* National/Interna-

tional Native American Indian Conv. Write: Ch., Box 30335, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030-0335

- 9-11 — *Montgomery, Alabama.* AL/NW FL Area Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 5446, Navarre, FL 32566
- 9-11 — *Santa Barbara, California.* Sober Unity. Write: Ch., Box 238, Santa Barbara, CA 93102
- 9-11 — *Cedar Rapids, Iowa.* State Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 10632, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
- 9-11 — *Grenada, Mississippi.* 17th Annual North Mississippi Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 1, Box 219A, Pittsboro, MS 38951
- 9-11 — *Fallon, Nevada.* Lahonton Valley Roundup/Sobriety Harvest. Write: Ch., Box 2274, Fallon, NV 89406
- 9-11 — *Tahlequah, Oklahoma.* Second Serenity Harvest. Write: Ch., Box 12601, Oklahoma City, OK 73157
- 9-11 — *St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.* 28th Assembly. Write: Ch., 35 Densmore Lane, St. John's, NF A1G 1J8
- 9-11 — *Orillia, Ontario, Canada.* 27th Annual Conv. Write: Ch., 43 Daphne Cres., Barre, ON L4M 2Y7
- 9-11 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* Gratitude '92. Write: Ch., Box 74, 552 Church St., Toronto, ON M4Y 2H0
- 9-11 — *Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.* 37th Annual Northeastern Area Conf. Write: Ch., 4033-551 Cooper St., Sault Ste. Marie, ONK P6C 4W3
- 9-11 — *Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada.* 22ème Congrès de Sherbrooke. Write: Ch., 240 Rue Court Appt 10, Sherbrooke, Quebec H4T 1A0
- 9-11 — *Montreal, Quebec, Canada.* 33rd Montreal Bilingual Conv. Write: Ch., 5789, d'Iberville, Montreal, Quebec H2G 2B8
- 9-11 — *Rimini, Rome, Italy.* 20th Celebration. Write: Ch., Servizi Generali Italiani, Via Di Torre Rossa 35, 00165 Roma

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

*October* (page 23): The family afterward; A.A. history.

*November* (page 27): Threefold illness; Anonymity and attraction rather than promotion.

- 9-11 — *Aiken, South Carolina.* Carolambda Recovery Weekend. Write: Ch., 803 Howard St., Columbia, SC 29205
- 9-11 — *Harrisonburg, Virginia.* Shenandoah Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Rt. 11, Box 186, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
- 9-11 — *Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies.* 11th Discovery Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 138, Reading, PO, St. James, Jamaica, W.I.
- 10-11 — *Crescent City, California.* Sixth Annual Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1067, Crescent City, CA 95531
- 15-18 — *Savannah, Georgia.* 1992 Georgia Pre-Paid Conv. Write: Ch., Box 13016, Savannah, GA 31416
- 16-18 — *San Jose, California.* 45th Annual Fall Conv. Write: Tr., 1540 Market St., Rm. 150, San Francisco, CA 94102
- 16-18 — *Fort Collins, Colorado.* Soberfest '92. Write: Ch., 320 West Olive, Fort Collins, CO 80521
- 16-18 — *Bagdad, Kentucky.* Bagdad Conf. Write: Ch., 1805 Strand Ave., Louisville, KY 40205
- 16-18 — *Louisville, Kentucky.* Sixth KCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 2062, Louisville, KY 40201

## Planning a Future Event?

Please send your information on December, January or February events, two days or more, in time to reach G.S.O. by *October 10*, the calendar deadline for the Holiday 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 — more events listed on reverse side

## October (cont.)

- 16-18 — Troy, Michigan. Tri County Conf. Write: Ch., Box 542, Warren, MI 48090-0542
- 16-18 — Rochester, Minnesota. Fourth Annual Hiawathaland Get-Together. Write: Ch., Box 5792, Rochester, MN 55903
- 16-18 — Lincoln, Nebraska. Big Red Roundup III. Write: Ch., 2840 S. 70th St., Ste. 127, Lincoln, NE 68506
- 16-18 — Greensburg, Pennsylvania. 38th Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., 1169 Colgate Dr., Monroeville, PA 15146
- 16-18 — Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Keystone Conf./48th Roundup. Write: Ch., 505, 365 Hargrave St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2K3
- 23-25 — Flagstaff, Arizona. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 31361, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-1361
- 23-25 — St. Cloud, Minnesota. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302
- 23-25 — Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Harvest Festival. Write: Ch., Box 99, Route 1, Warren, MN 56762
- 23-25 — Falls Church, Virginia. Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 2616 Occidental Dr., Vienna, VA 22180
- 23-25 — Mishicot, Wisconsin. 41st Fall Conf. Write: Tr., Box 2081, Manitowoc, WI 54221
- 24-31 — Walker, Louisiana. The Gathering. Write: Ch., Box 66703, Baton Rouge, LA 70896
- 29-November 1 — Rogersville, Alabama. Riverside Roundup IX. Write: Ch., 300 Memorial Dr., Athens, AL 35611
- 29-November 1 — Hagerstown, Maryland. Eighth MCYPAA Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1388, Ellicott City, MD 21043
- 30-November 1 — North Little Rock, Arkansas. 10th Annual Arkansas Woman to Woman. Write: Ch., 409 Healy, North Little Rock, AR 72117
- 30-November 1 — Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. Third International Baja Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 435280, San Ysidro, CA 92143
- 30-November 1 — Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. B.C./Yukon Area Conf. Write: Ch., Box 76887, Station "S", Vancouver, BC V5R 5T3
- 30-November 1 — Des Moines, Iowa. Racoon River Roundup II. Write: Ch., Box 752, Des Moines, IA 50303
- 30-November 1 — Moline, Illinois. Third Annual YPLAA Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 205, Silvis, IL 61282-0205

- 30-November 1 — Las Vegas, Nevada. Soberfest '92. Write: Ch., Box 20345, Las Vegas, NV 89112
- 30-November 1 — Buffalo, New York. 51st Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 137, Westside Station, Buffalo, NY 14213-0137
- 30-November 1 — Kerhonkson, New York. HMB 42nd Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 554, Hurley, NY 12443-9998
- 30-November 1 — Painesville, Ohio. Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3656, Youngstown, OH 44513
- 30-November 1 — London, Ontario, Canada. 39th Western Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., 388 Dundas Street, London, ON N6B 1V7
- 30-November 1 — Mt. Vernon, Washington. Fifth Roundup. Write: Ch., 3212 North-west Ave. #C-323, Bellingham, WA 98225

## November

- 5-8 — Honolulu, Hawaii. 31st Annual Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823-3434
- 6-7 — Grafton, Illinois. Great River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 559, Wood River, IL 62095
- 6-8 — Owensboro, Kentucky. 32nd Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., 302 E. Third St., Owensboro, KY 42301
- 7-8 — Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Cuarta Convención Internacional en Argentina. Write: Ch., Loyola 1182 - C1414, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 12-15 — Helen, Georgia. 13th Chattahoochee Forest Conf. Write: Ch., Box 363, Statesboro, GA 30458
- 13-14 — Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. 45th Conf. Write: Ch., 4 Second St. E., Cornwall, ON K6H 1Y3
- 13-15 — Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Border City Roundup. Write: Ch., 1901 S. Greenwood, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
- 13-15 — Okoloji, Iowa. Ninth Annual Pre-Winter Rally. Write: Ch., Box 426, Sutherland, IA 51058
- 13-15 — Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. 14th Lighthouse Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91, Meteghan River, NS BOW 2L0
- 13-16 — Bloomington, Minnesota. Founder's Day Weekend. Write: Ch., 2218 First Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404
- 14-15 — Albuquerque, New Mexico. SW Sobriety Bash. Write: Ch., 909 Adams NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
- 20-22 — Jonesboro, Arkansas. Thanksgiving Program. Write: Ch., Box 755, Jonesboro, AR 72401

- 20-22 — Santa Barbara, California. Eighth Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 91731, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1731
- 20-22 — Wichita, Kansas. Ninth Annual Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 48153, Wichita, KS 67202
- 20-22 — Fitchburg, Massachusetts. 29th State Conv. Write: Registrar, Box 454, Leominster, MA 01453-0454
- 20-22 — Fontana, Wisconsin. McHenry's Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 213, Ringwood, IL 60072-0213
- 21-27 — Nassau, Bahamas. 11th Conf. Write: Ch., Box SS 6089, Nassau, Bahamas
- 23-25 — Reno, Nevada. Second H&I Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2406, Reno, NV 89505
- 26-29 — Las Vegas, Nevada. 26th Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 43177, Las Vegas, NV 89116
- 26-29 — New York, New York. Big Apple Roundup (presented by gay & lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 451, Village Station, NY 10014-0451
- 26-29 — Houston, Texas. Houston Roundup (presented by gay & lesbian members). Write: Ch., Box 27703, Dept. 339, Houston, TX 77027
- 27-28 — Southhampton, Bermuda. Bermuda Conv. Write: Ch., Box WK178, Warwick, Bermuda
- 27-29 — Diamondhead, Mississippi. Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 7851, Gulfport, MS 39506
- 27-29 — Kalamazoo, Michigan. 14th MCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 1063, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
- 27-29 — Everett, Washington. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1703, Everett, WA 98206
- 28-29 — Neosho, Missouri. Winter Holiday XII. Write: Ch., Box 306, Granby, MO 64844

## December

- 4-5 — Sikeston, Missouri. 12th Annual Five Corners Conv. Write: Ch., 205 N. Jackson, Kennett, MO 63857
- 4-6 — Virginia Beach, Virginia. Southeast Regional Forum. Write: Regional Forums Secretary, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 15-January 3 — Chicago, Illinois. Second Annual Blazing Trails Mega Alkathon. Write: Ch., 2018 W. Giddings St., Chicago, IL 60625