



AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

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AREAS COMPLETE CONFERENCE PLANS

A.A.s In Germany Form Frankfurt Intergroup

A.A.s in Frankfurt, Germany, have announced opening of an Intergroup Office in the basement of the Frankfurt sub-area Chapel. Office hours are 1-4 and 7-10 p.m. daily except Sunday. The telephone number is Frankfurt Civilian 551187 during office hours. (Frankfurt Civilian 591064 or 521561 at other times.) Open meetings are held Saturday night. The office maintains a list of A.A. contacts in Germany, France and other areas and also has detailed information on closed meetings in Wiesbaden, Heidelberg, Baden Baden, Worms, Stuttgart and Karlsruhe.

Displays Set

The special A.A. informational display for medical and other professional groups will be shown for the first time this year at the meeting of the National Tuberculosis Association in Philadelphia, May 18-24.

Subsequent showings will be at the American Nurses Association meeting in Atlantic City, June 9-13; at the American Medical Association meeting in San Francisco June 23-27 and at the National Correctional Congress in Detroit in September.

PRAETORIA

Praetoria, South Africa, now has a second A.A. unit, the Suburban Group, an off-shoot of the original Praetoria Central Group.

Headquarters Briefs

CONFERENCE COMING UP

Headquarters staff members are working hard to make the Eighth General Service Conference one of the finest in A.A. history. If your group knows of any matter of movement-wide interest that it feels should be discussed at the Conference, please be sure that the Delegate from your Area is properly advised. Conference date: April 23-27 at the Prince George Hotel, New York City.

THANKS AGAIN

Group cooperation in returning Directory Information Cards so promptly is appreciated deeply. The 1958 Directory will be available in April. (When notifying G.S.H. of a changed group name, please be sure to note the former name of the group involved, as well as the new one.)

VISITORS

If someone claiming to represent G.S.H. appears *unexpectedly* in your Area, there is justification for questioning his or her credentials. Staff members visit groups or conferences as Headquarters representatives *only* on the basis of invitations extended in advance.

Australian Poses Key Question

The *Reviver*, published by the Central Services Office in Sydney, Australia, recently carried a brief editorial note supporting the position of a member who believes that anonymity *within a group* can be overdone. Individual identification creates a "happy atmosphere" and makes for unity, this member believes.

The *Reviver* item notes that some American groups distribute typed lists of the full names, addresses and telephone numbers of members and that the latter usually identify themselves fully when speaking. (Americans who have visited other English-speaking countries frequently are surprised to note how truly anonymous members often are, even within the Fellowship.

Articles Feature '58 Conference

The April A.A. *Grapevine* will carry two features highlighting the forthcoming Eighth Annual General Service Conference of A.A. The first is an article by Bill W., surviving co-founder: "Our General Service Conference—Guardian of A.A.'s Future." Also featured will be a "round-up of practical advice and impressions" written by Delegates who completed their two-year term in 1957 and designed as a greeting to this year's "first-year" Delegates.

N. S. WALES

There are now more than 125 "effective" groups in New South Wales, 45 of them having been started within the past fifteen months.

Delegates Meet April 23 to 27 In New York City

A.A. Area committees throughout the U. S. and Canada are completing advance preparations for the Eighth Annual General Service Conference of A.A. to be held at the Prince George Hotel in New York City late in April.

The Conference will get under way Wednesday, April 23, and will conclude Sunday afternoon, April 27. It will bring together 82 Delegates from North America, including one from Puerto Rico, and an "observer" representing groups in Norway.

Copies of the preliminary agenda for the Conference were scheduled to be mailed to all Delegates the first week in March. Hotel reservation cards were mailed out earlier and are already being returned to G.S.H.

An innovation in registration procedures this year will find Delegates registering for the Conference in the G.S.H. office, rather than in the Conference hotel, as in previous years. This will enable Delegates to examine the comprehensive ser-

(Continued on Page 4)

INDIVIDUAL

"BULLETIN"

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NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FIELD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Midtown Group, Washington, D. C., recently scheduled a special closed meeting to acquaint members with methods for coordinating group activity with that of the local Intergroup Association and with General Service Headquarters.

"We are particularly interested," Charles R., secretary, writes, "in trying to arouse a little more feeling of gratitude for our sobriety and of our responsibility to pass the program on to others who need it. We think that the financial response will be greater if members know more about how the money is spent by the Group, the Intergroup Association and by General Service Headquarters."

Can other groups report their experience with similar meetings?

MARYLAND

A recent inquiry from a Maryland group covers the subject of "Twelfth Step" instruction classes to "supplement the suggestions for working with the alcoholic as set forth in the Big Book and the other literature."

In a number of areas, "classes" of this type are known as "Beginners' Meetings" and are held on a weekly basis for the benefit of newcomers.

NEW JERSEY

The Villas Group, in the resort section of the New Jersey shore, is one of the most interesting in the Fellowship. It's the only group within a radius of 30 miles. During Summer months its meetings attract as many as 25 members, mostly vacationers. In the Winter, writes George B., "I keep a light in the window every Monday night and if any one wants a meeting, it is here for them."

PLAN MEETINGS

Committees in a number of Areas report that they are already planning major meetings in May or June, keyed primarily to reports to be made by Delegates who will have attended the Eighth General Service Conference in New York City late in April.

Have similar plans been made in your Area?

BRILLE BOOK

Special note for sightless A. A.s — or friends of the Fellowship: The A. A. text, "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," is available in a Braille edition through the secretary of the H.F.D. Group, 1319 14th Street, Santa Monica, California.

Five Interesting Films On A. A., Alcoholism Listed For Yukonites

A member in the Yukon Territory, Canada, has inquired about 16-millimeter films dealing with alcoholism and A.A. which might be shown to his small group.

1. Prints of a duPont television program, "One Day at a Time," covering the birth of A.A., are available from E. I. duPont de Nemours, Wilmington, Delaware. Inquiries should be addressed to Charles F. Crowley, Advertising Manager.
2. G.S.H. has several prints of "Case 218," a Loretta Young television drama from the series sponsored by Proctor & Gamble. It deals with A. A. in industry. (Canadian groups should address inquiries to the Central Office, Box 271, Station H, Montreal.)
3. Two older films, "Problem Drinkers" (March of Time) and "I Am an Alcoholic (RKO Pathe) are also available. For the former, write to New York University Film Library, 26 Washington Place, New York 3. "I Am An Alcoholic" is available from Contemporary Films, 13 East 37th Street, New York.
4. An outstanding World Health Organization color cartoon with sound, "To Your Health," may be obtained through The Center for Mass Communication, Columbia University, 1125 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N. Y.

A. A. CALENDAR

MARCH

FIRST ALL-IRELAND CONVENTION—Central Hotel, Exchange Street, Dublin; March 8 and 9.

ILLINOIS DOWNSTATE CONFERENCE—Decatur, Ill. March 15-16 (P. O. Box 903, Decatur)

APRIL

SOUTH AFRICAN CONVENTION—Port Elizabeth, South Africa, April 4-8. (Information: P. O. Box 1090, Port Elizabeth, Union of South Africa)

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF A. A.—New York, N. Y., April 23-27.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A.—Niagara Falls, N. Y., April 27-28.

MAY

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—Calgary, Alberta, Canada, May 7-8-9.

CENTRAL N. Y. STATE AREA CONFERENCE—Elmira, N. Y., May 9-10-11.

BALTIMORE (MD.) BANQUET—Emerson Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, May 31. (Information: Baltimore Intergroup, 1834 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland)

JUNE

TEXAS STATE CONFERENCE—Tyler, Tex., June 6-7-8.

EASTERN ONTARIO CONFERENCE—Toronto, June 29-30.

Watch for date of Scottish Convention!

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

GEORGIA

Delegate Louis M. of Georgia reports progress in developing a State-wide A.A. service structure . . . Louis was a featured speaker at the State Conference March 2 . . . Bill H., Delegate from Northeast Texas, reports good results from the use of a one-page mimeographed monthly bulletin which he uses to keep groups and committeemen in his Area informed on Conference activities. . . .

MINNESOTA

Alf S., Minnesota Delegate, explained A. A. service needs at six meetings in his Area during the first month of 1958 . . . "As each 24 hours has passed since my election (January 26) I have realized more and more the great trust and responsibility Mississippi A.A. has put in my two hands," writes new Delegate Jean N. . . . Dan C., Detroit Area Delegate, reports that he has completed a "Third Legacy Committee," so that the Delegates who will take his place next year "will have everything in order."

SAN FRANCISCO

Paul G., Delegate from the San Francisco Area, traveled 4,574 miles on A.A. "business" during 1957 . . . Paul recently addressed three unusually interesting groups of non-alcoholics: the senior class of San Francisco Theological Seminary, an organization of wives of students at the Seminary and the "Social Living" class at San Rafael High School.

ARIZONA

The first meeting of the Arizona State Committee was held in Phoenix on February 16, according to a note from Bill F. . . . The "Saskatchewan Assembly of A. A." is the new name of the Area service group in that Canadian Province . . . Assembly members voted recently to accept the "Third Legacy" as a guide to Area service activities. . . .

UTAH

The Utah Alcoholism Foundation recently presented an award to A.A. groups in the State "for the A.A. program and the way of life it suggests," according to word from Leo Q., Utah Delegate . . . Photostat copies have been distributed to all groups in the State . . . The Foundation is a citizen's organization composed mostly of non-alcoholic business and professional people who support an extensive program on alcoholism education and rehabilitation of alcoholics.

MATCH PAROLEE, SPONSOR, PRISON WRITER SUGGESTS

"A long time man from prison needs much more than just A.A. meetings; he needs a social life along with a job!"

That's one inmate group secretary's answer to the suggestion from another prison group secretary (*Exchange Bulletin*, 1/58) that "straight A. A.—not money" is what most ex-inmate members need from outside sponsors.

Carefully matching of ex-inmate and outside sponsor is the key to success, the most recent correspondent believes, citing personal experience as secretary of a semi-security, pre-parole group of 35 men.

"When a man needs a sponsor, A.A. or parole, I study the 'free' A. A.s I've come to

know," he writes, "balancing them against any weakness I know exists in the group member. Then I pick an outsider for the (sponsorship) job. I tell him about my man and what the sponsor must be on guard against. Now, the hand-picked A.A. sponsor talks with the inmate himself, forearmed. Most sponsors will take the man on, knowing exactly what the job may involve. There is no guess work."

Of 30 inmates released during the past 15 months, only five have been returned to prison, the group secretary reports, adding that this record is a marked improvement over previous experience in similar situations.

Inmate Group Has 80 'Tapes,' Seeks Exchange

The secretary of the inmate group at the Fresno County (California) Industrial Road Camp reports that he has about 80 tape recording of A.A. talks available for exchange with other inmate groups. The talks range from 20 minutes to an hour and 40 minutes. Wow! (He says the latter is "wonderful"!.) Our Fresno friend will also be glad to re-record the talks on tape supplied by other groups, or will make copies himself, charging only the cost of the tape.

PEN PALS

The Maryland Penitentiary A.A. Group, Baltimore, Maryland, would welcome correspondence from "outside" members. Letters addressed to G.S. H. will be forwarded promptly.

After a lapse of about a year, meetings at the Men's Reformatory, Howard, Rhode Island, have been resumed through the efforts of the State Central Service Committee, supported by institutional officials.

ONTARIO

Doug D., secretary of the inmate Aurora Group, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, has a small complaint. He wishes A.A. members who change their residences would leave forwarding addresses with their local post office. Failure to do so means that A.A. prison publications, as well as correspondence, are returned to the sender. This involves extra postal charges in the case of publications.

BULLETIN EDITORS

Jane Group Relations,
Internationalists
Ann Hospitals, Prisons
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Anita Group Relations
Lib .. Groups, Loners outside
U. S. and Canada

A. A. Effective In TB Hospital, Manager Reports

"A.A. is one of our most effective tools for helping the tuberculosis patient who has a problem with alcohol," L. C. Like, Manager of the San Fernando, California, Veterans Administration Hospital, declared recently in a letter to the A.A. hospital group.

"We believe in our A.A. group and have endeavored to show it by attending meetings and by standing ready to assist with any special problems," Mr. Like declares. "We encourage you to double your efforts because statistics indicate our problem has doubled in three short years."

Radio Program For Patients

The Lookout Group at the Madison, Wisconsin, V. A. Hospital has been granted a 15-minute program once a week on the hospital radio station and also has a page each month in the hospital newspaper, Victor N., Group secretary reports. The Madison Alano Group has been "very cooperative" in working with hospital patients, some of whom are permitted to attend outside meetings. Discussion meetings are preferred in the hospital but outside speakers are occasionally invited to participate in "traditional" A.A. meetings.

Montana

More than 50 alcoholic patients have completed five week treatment sessions at Montana State Hospital, the hospital's counselors on alcoholism have reported to groups in the State. Groups from Missoula, Bozeman - Livingston, Helena, Butte and Anaconda have taken turns sponsoring Saturday night meetings of the Hospital's Metanoia Group at Warm Springs.

Two Items From Anchorage

Members of the Anchorage, Alaska, group are "trying to keep our approach very simple and not bother with clubs etc. until we are sure we can swing these things," according to a report from the group G.S.R.

The Anchorage group has a new meeting place for its Tuesday night study group.

"The turn-off from the main street is between a liquor store on one side and a cocktail lounge on the other," the G.S.R. writes. "This should separate the men from the boys, or something. As Bob Hope put it, Fourth Avenue in Anchorage is the longest bar in the world."

What helps a new Women's Group succeed?

Mildred L., currently secretary of the distaff Chechako group at Anchorage, Alaska, and formerly in a similar group in Portland, Oregon, writes that the basic ingredients are "two or three women with a couple of years' sobriety who believe in meetings strongly enough to hold them week in and week out, whether any one else attends or not."

While she does not consider Women's Groups "absolutely necessary," Mildred says she finds them "a valuable supplement and a great aid to spiritual growth."

Hospital Sponsor Urges Patience

"Easy Does It" is the best—and most successful—philosophy for new hospital groups that may be experiencing difficulties in obtaining full cooperation of institutional staffs, or of outside A.A.s.

That's the viewpoint of an experienced hospital group member in the Midwest whose group celebrates its fourth anniversary in March.

Even the most "bitter" hospital attendant will be won over to support institutional A.

A.—and see that patients get to meetings—after a few A.A. successes have been recorded, our correspondent believes.

For their part, he adds, A. A. sponsors should not complain if hospital meeting facilities assigned to them do not appear to be adequate in the beginning. "I think from my own experience that if an outsider once gets a place to meet, and then proceeds to work with any patients sent to him, and does the best he knows how, A.A. will do the rest."

Judge, Doctors Enlisted Early To Form Group

Loners interested in forming local groups in their communities might be interested in the formula being followed by Lee F., who was active in an Illinois group before moving to a small town in the State of Washington.

Lee promptly got in touch with the local judge, who promised help and referred him to two doctors. They, too, promised to assist in bringing alcoholics together. The judge incidentally, offered to publicize A.A. during a special Kiwanis Day program over the local radio station. Taking no chances, Lee also plans to insert a small advertisement in the local newspaper, hoping to attract alcoholics who seek help.

NEEDS LETTERS

Joseph R., a Lone member in Willow River, Minnesota, is anxious to correspond with interested A.A.s and feels he needs their support. Letters addressed to G.S.H. will be forwarded unopened.

Areas Plan For Coming Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

vice facilities required to meet the Fellowship's needs as soon as they "sign in" for the Conference on the 23rd.

Staff members in charge of arrangements for the Conference report an accelerating trend toward use of "Third Legacy" procedures in the organization of Area Conference activities and the selection of Delegates. Eighteen Areas set up Conference Committees for the first time during the past year, according to a recent survey. "Third Legacy" procedures, originally proposed by Bill W. and Dr. Bob S., co-founders of A.A., prior to the first Conference in 1951, are designed to assure survival of A.A. services to alcoholics

Calls Directory 'Magic Lantern'

The A.A. World Directory is a "magic lantern" to him, Dick P. a travelling member, writes G.S.H. in a note accompanying a request for a new edition.

"Just rubbing its covers in a strange town brings me an ample supply of friends with whom I can share my experience, hope and strength," Dick writes. "I spend a good deal of time on the road but, with the Directory, the inherent loneliness of the alcoholic has been no problem to me."

Bottled Up

Master Sergeant John D., stationed "about as far North as you can go and still be in South Korea," has a tough job for a Loner. He runs the Enlisted Men's Club at his camp. "I live in the Club," John writes, "and every night and day I live right on top of thousands of cans and bottles of the stuff—but I'm still holding out. Christmas almost got me. I got to feeling sorry for myself. And then I thought about the next Christmas, and how different things will be and I held on to A.A. (Of course I prayed like h - - - too!)"

throughout the world with a minimum of "political" activity. These procedures were approved and adopted by the movement at its 20th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis in 1955.

Most of the A.A. Areas represented at the Conference have held, or are planning to hold, Area Assemblies prior to the meeting in New York in April.

During their five days at the Conference, Delegates will hear reports on worldwide Headquarters services, will themselves report on significant events and trends in their own Areas and will be asked to advise the Headquarters staff and the Trustees of the General Service Board.

Serenity Theme To Be Featured By Young People

"Youth Finds Serenity" will be the theme of the "First International Conference of A.A. Young People" in the Hotel Niagara, Niagara Falls, N. Y., April 27 and 28.

A "sizeable number" of the approximately 36 registered A. A. Young Peoples Groups are expected to be represented at the meeting, according to Dennis A., chairman of the conference committee. All A.A. visitors and guests will be welcome. Address inquiries to Dennis A., 80 Briar Hill Avenue, Toronto 12, Canada.

OKLAHOMA

The first State Assembly in Oklahoma's A.A. history attracted more than 100 individuals from approximately 60 groups. The meeting, on February 16 at Oklahoma City, is expected to be the forerunner of similar quarterly get-togethers in the future.

HONOLULU

The Waikiki Group, Honolulu, Hawaii, now meets every Sunday night in the ballroom of the Central Y.M.C.A. building. Attendance at the new location has been from 10 to 35. Visitors are most welcome.

INDOCHINA

Don E., a Loner with a construction crew in Cambodia, Indochina, writes that he is hopeful he can soon get a group organized at his line camp in the jungle. The camp doctor, an Englishman who is familiar with A.A., has promised to be helpful.

New Groups

Ninety-two new local groups, six hospital groups and four prison groups were registered at G.S.H. during the month of January. In addition, two clubs, one intergroup office, ten Loners and three "Internationalists" were also registered.

Timely Tableau Saves Sailor In Nick of Time

Lewis, aboard the S.S. Gulfport, writes of an incident that took place during the Christmas holidays when he unaccountably felt a deep depression:

"I got in the car and started riding and decided to get drunk—I won't say "slip." I went into a place I always visited during my drinking days. Fully intended to get soused. I sat at the bar, awaiting the bartender, and started to look around.

"There before me sat three men and a gal in the last throes of drunkenness, trying to be happy but at the same time drunken wrecks—red-eyed, watery-eyed, cigaret ashes all over them etc. etc. And I said to myself, 'But for the Grace of God, the Higher Power, that will be me tomorrow.' So when the bartender came I ordered a Coke and enjoyed it and have had no desire or thought of a drink since that day. As I see it, the Higher Power has many ways to show one the right road and the proper path to stay sober."

Belgium

W. E. J. writes from Antwerp, Belgium, that he has been attending group meetings in London, Amsterdam and Brussels as well as those in the Belgian port. He notes that a Belgian social worker is planning to "introduce A.A. to the local city jail governor." He also reports that plans are under way to start a group in Armentiers, France.

Joe T., U.S. Navy, newly-stationed at Pensacola, Florida, writes:

"I am grateful for the help you people at G.S.H. have given me. If it were not for your people and your letters, I doubt that I would have "made Chief"—or that I would still be in the Navy."