

## A.A.'s Find Personal Rewards in Service On Vital Committees

"It is my way of giving back the incredible gifts A.A. gave me — God, life, love, but most of all, myself."

"If I was going to stay sober, I needed to become responsible. I needed to experience commitment and responsibility. This work has made that a reality — and I know I would not be at peace without it."



Those experiences were shared by A.A. members who find that carrying the message through public information, cooperation with the professional community, or correctional facilities committee work has enhanced their individual A.A. programs. Twelfth Step work at the committee level has certainly grown in the 50 years since Bill W. and Dr. Bob called on A.A. Number Three at Akron City Hospital. Yet the essential experience remains the same: A.A.'s realize that in order to stay sober, we have to help other drunks. Today, P.I. and C.P.C. committees are engaged in providing both alcoholics and nonalcoholics with accurate information about the Fellowship, in the hope that through nonalcoholics, the message will eventually reach the suffering alcoholic. Members of correctional facilities committees share directly with the alcoholic who is confined.

Unlike our founders, who went out and looked for alcoholics, usually by going to doctors, members of the clergy, and others who worked with drunks, today's committees often find that alcoholics are coming to us — in droves. A.A. today is reaping the rewards — but also the problems — of success. Such is the conclusion reached by a member whose A.A. service work has involved serving on a variety of committees. The same opinion is reflected in local committees' letters to the General Service Office, indicating that there is no shortage of opportunities; rather, the problem lies in finding enough A.A. workers to meet the increased challenge.

As with any form of Twelfth Step work, we often do not see instant results from our P.I., C.P.C., or correctional facilities activity. But as one A.A. member writes, "I have learned something very valuable about humility and 'principles before personalities.' *Credit* is not what we're after in P.I. or any other twelfth-stepping, is it? It is spiritual growth in sobriety."

Many A.A. members active in such committee work would agree and would also identify with the members quoted at the beginning of this article. By contacting your local committees, you can easily join their happy ranks.

## Box 4-5-9 Is Now Bigger—and Better

As recommended by the 1984 General Service Conference, two bulletins have vanished, and their content is now included in this larger edition of *Box 4-5-9*. News previously covered in the *P.I.-C.P.C.* and *Correctional Facilities Bulletins* can now be read regularly in *Box 4-5-9*, so that more and more A.A.'s may learn about the service opportunities at all committee levels.

We hope our old readers will enjoy learning about P.I., C.P.C., and correctional facilities efforts, and we welcome our new readers who are now a part of our *Box 4-5-9* family. Articles related to activities of these committees appear on pages 5 to 10: P.I., page 5; C.P.C., 6; P.I.-C.P.C., 7; correctional facilities, 9.

## Mailbag: From Malta, Colorado, Brazil

One truly international A.A. group meets regularly in the island nation of Malta, in the Mediterranean. Group secretary Paul V. recently sent this happy news:

"We have only one group, but whereas up to a few years ago it consisted mainly of English-speaking members, roughly half the members now are Maltese. We are 25 at present, but the number has been fluctuating. Of the present 25, 14 are Maltese, three English, two American, one Irish, one Swedish, one German, one Welsh, and one Canadian.

"We never considered it advisable to have two separate groups. We do, however, have separate Maltese-speaking meetings every week. We have been in constant contact with A.A.W.S. regarding the approval of the Maltese translations. We now have a good part of the basic literature translated into the Maltese language." (For a related article, see page 3.)

• Panel 21 delegate John N., Colorado, shares his area's experience with a new service angle — a Regional Forum tape meeting. Following one recent Regional Forum, John arranged for a weekend devoted to playing the Forum tapes for interested A.A.'s who had been unable to attend the Forum itself. Writes John:

"We mailed out flyers to groups in our immediate area. The big question in my mind, and I think others', too, was: Would people sit and listen to tapes one right after the other for an extended period? The answer is yes; the same people stayed for both days. We scheduled coffee and discussion time. There were very lively discussions during question-and-answer periods. At times, the discussions became a bit heated, and this is healthy! We had two past delegates in attendance, and the two of us answered questions as best we could. It was a tremendous sharing experience.

"A big topic of conversation was A.A. literature and the finance reports. We made our own display boards detailing the Fellowship's growth. Comments on the meeting were very positive. To my knowledge, we didn't have any negative response. Usually, at least one person doesn't like something! They were very interested indeed. Everyone went away better informed and grateful for having the opportunity to participate.

"I can't think of a better way to carry the service message to those who, for one reason or another, didn't attend the Forum. All too often, we who have been in service for a time seem to forget that there are many, many people in our Fellowship who don't know about the benefits of service meetings. By golly, it all works. We just have to take it to them!"

• Another rewarding A.A. activity absorbs Pedro S., who writes from Recife, Brazil:

"I'm very grateful to be able to participate as a Loner Sponsor and to receive the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting* bulletin. I'm able to get to meetings, but the meeting I receive in the airmail has helped me more than I can believe. I'm grateful for this opportunity to be of service to my fellow A.A. members, particularly the Lone Members spread throughout the world.

"As 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions' tells us, 'Practically every A.A. member declares that no satisfaction has been deeper and no joy greater than in a Twelfth Step job well done. To watch the eyes of men and women open with wonder as they move from darkness into light...' Last week, I wrote to a fellow A.A. member who is blind in both eyes but now, by the grace of God and the A.A. Fellowship, is out of the darkness. She has found a spiritual meaning. She said that she would like to get in touch with A.A. members by tape. I accepted her invitation. Let me take this opportunity to improve my conversational English and to share my program with her.

"May each one of us look into his or her own heart and cherish the mystery of love, peace, and joy which sobriety makes possible."

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## Will Your Group's Voice Be Heard at The 1985 Conference?

If A.A.'s in the United States and Canada will start now discussing concerns to be raised at the 1985 General Service Conference (Hotel Roosevelt, New York, N.Y., April 14-20), this annual gathering can be one of the most productive ever held.

The theme, selected by the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference and the Conference Agenda Committee, will be "Golden Moments of Reflection" (appropriate in A.A.'s golden-anniversary year).

By discussing matters the Conference will weigh, each A.A. group, committee, and assembly can be sure each

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delegate arrives in New York well-prepared to contribute to the Conference discussions.

Preliminary agenda topics already set include:

- "Will the Hand of A.A. Always Be There? (a) The middle years of sobriety — a dangerous time? (b) Are we diluting ourselves? (c) Communication within the Fellowship."
- "Beyond the Seventh Tradition — Group Responsibility. (a) In the meeting place. (b) To the newcomer."

The Conference members will hear reports on the Eighth World Service Meeting and the 1985 International Convention. Presentations are also scheduled on the A.A. Grapevine, finance, and the Warranties.

Ninety-one delegates elected in area assemblies will make up the majority of the 134 Conference members. Also participating will be: the 21 members of the General Service Board (the trustees); the directors of A.A. World Services, Inc., and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.; G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members.

Full Conference sessions take up most of the time, though members spend hours in small workshops. The bulk of Conference labor is done by the Conference committees, to which delegates are assigned by random drawings. Committee reports to the full Conference are approved or rejected by the entire Conference, and form the bulk of the Conference Advisory Actions.

Each delegate receives a packet containing Early Bird issues of the Conference edition of *Box 4-5-9*, summarizing the week's activities. In May, each group is mailed a copy of that edition, and the more extensive *Final Conference Report* is published in the late summer, available to all members. It is confidential and includes complete financial data and rosters.

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## A Different Kind of 'Foreign Aid' Spreads And Guards Our Message

When George D. attended a recent weekly meeting of his home group in Tiburon, Calif., the members enthusiastically welcomed a visitor from Sweden. As George tells the story, "It seemed the most natural thing to the other members that this beautiful woman received the A.A. message in Sweden, got sober, and was here in California to share her experiences — describing the same approach to the Steps, the same spiritual struggles, all related in that perspective that we know as the 'A.A. feel' for things.

"But," George said, "I realize that it was *not* just accidental that this sober lady from Sweden was talking

the same A.A. language that we do." Having served as a trustee on A.A.'s General Service Board and as a director of A.A. World Services, Inc., George is aware that it is no accident that the A.A. message really is the same throughout the world. The growth of the Fellowship has been achieved together with constant concern that when the message is carried in print, it is carried exactly as it was originally written.

Responsibility for literature translation and publication approval rests with A.A. World Services, Inc., and the A.A.W.S. Board has developed certain guidelines. While no permission is necessary to *translate* literature, reprint permission is necessary for *publication*. A copy of the translation — done in the country of origin — is sent to the General Service Office, where a staff member gets in touch with a translation checker. This person then goes over it carefully, making sure that it conforms to the spirit of A.A. and that the meaning — particularly of the Steps and the Traditions — is in no way changed by the translation. Only then is permission for publication granted.

In countries with small A.A. populations and limited resources, local A.A.'s often start with translations of basic recovery pamphlets such as "This Is A.A.," "44 Questions," and "Is A.A. for You?" Building on this experience, they often go on to translating the Big Book.



In order to publish the Big Book, foreign general service offices or literature committees sometimes request assistance from A.A.W.S., Inc.

In a presentation to the 1984 General Service Conference, Tom J., A.A.W.S. director, described the role that A.A.W.S. plays, on behalf of each contributing A.A. member, to make sure that the hand of A.A. is always there:

"When a general service office in another country

requests financial assistance to publish a translation of one of our books, meetings are held first to share our vast experience in the publishing field. Particular pains are taken to ensure that pricing and other considerations are appropriately addressed, so that repayment of the loan *and* self-perpetuation of the foreign-publishing operation are achieved. Then, once the amount of financial aid, specific foreign printer, and other details have been agreed upon, A.A.W.S., Inc., assumes the obligation to pay the printer; and as collateral for the loan thus created, we retain title to the inventory. As each piece of foreign work is sold, an agreed-upon portion of the proceeds is earmarked and set aside for repayment of the loan."

The first such "foreign aid" was to Great Britain in 1950. Since this initial gift, A.A.W.S. has provided aid to 13 foreign countries. Tom calculates that such assistance has cost the A.A. Fellowship in the U.S./Canada the grand sum of \$2.34 per day. In summing up, Tom said, "Although hard statistical support is not possible, there is an abundance of evidence that once literature becomes available in a foreign country, the growth of A.A. in that country is enhanced dramatically. In the final analysis, of course, the revenue received from the purchase of A.A. literature in North America makes this 'foreign aid' possible."

## Convention News

### Help Needed With Taping at Sessions

The G.S.O. Planning Committee is calling for volunteers to work with the firm that will record International Convention sessions. The first draft of the program shows plans for 125 meetings.

Volunteers are asked to work with the firm in order to achieve the best possible results at the lowest cost. They must be familiar with cassette recording equipment and have some recording experience. They will be asked to attend an instruction and briefing session on Thursday afternoon, July 4. At that time, further details of this joint effort will be explained.

If you are an experienced taper, especially one who has worked other Conventions, G.S.O. would love to hear from you as soon as possible.

### Plus the Language of the Heart

There's no doubt about it: Montreal is the largest French city outside of France. But practically everyone you meet will be able to speak English. And since Montreal is a

truly international city, there are many people who speak other languages, such as Spanish and German. Still, some prospective Convention-goers have expressed concern that they will not be able to truly enjoy Montreal — and may even have to go hungry — because they do not speak French. One A.A. member asked, "What about meals? I can't read a French menu."

You will not go hungry. Aside from serving some of the finest cuisine in North America, Montreal's restaurants print menus in French and English. And people in the service vocations — waiters and waitresses, hotel people, cab drivers, sales personnel, etc. — are truly bilingual. Also, meetings and workshops at A.A.'s 50th-anniversary celebration will be held in English, French, Spanish, and German.

So it's not necessary to sign up for a French-language course to enjoy Montreal, although some A.A.'s tell us that half the fun of visiting this international city is to try out your French! To do that, you needn't become a full-time scholar. Past trustee Fernand I. has sent some words and phrases to enhance our experience and make the trip more interesting.

	A.A.	A.A.	Pronounced
Coffee	Café		ah ah
Hello	Bonjour		cah-fay
How are you?	Comment allez-vous?		bohn-zhoor
Very well	Très bien		koh-mah-tah-lay-voov
Thank you	Merci		tray-byan
Yes	Oui		mayr-see
No	Non		wee
Breakfast	Le petit déjeuner		nawh
Lunch	Déjeuner		luh puh-tee day-zhuh-nay
Dinner	Dîner		day-zhuh-nay
			dee-nay

In any language, A.A.'s 50th Anniversary International Convention promises to be an exciting weekend of A.A. sharing. As 1985 arrived, more than 15,000 registrations had been received. Fernand did not tell us how to translate "Y'all come," but we sure hope you will — to meet nearly 30,000 friends you haven't met yet, friends who really *understand*.

### Golden Anniversary Idea

Let the general public in on the good news! The trustees' Public Information Committee will send a bulletin about our 50th anniversary to major news media. Local P.I. people can tell hometown newspapers and broadcasters what shining hope June 10, 1935, brought to the world's alcoholics.



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# Public Information

## Cooperation with the Professional Community

### Correctional Facilities

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# P.I.

## Hearing-Impaired and Non-English-Speaking Drunks Can Be Reached

To improve contact with the still-suffering alcoholic, public information committees might consider the project being carried forward in the Eastern Pennsylvania Area to reach out to the deaf/hearing-impaired and also to the Hispanic community.

The area P.I. Committee recently established a "hearing-impaired task force" that visits district meetings and enlists support in carrying the message. A P.I. meeting was held at the request of the county hearing-impaired association, and one of the results was an invitation from a deaf congregation to have a P.I. meeting at its church.

Sandra S., area P.I. chairperson, said that informing the G.S.R.'s about the task force and its mission was important in garnering support from the various A.A. groups. "Our hope," she wrote in a recent report, "is that if the G.S.R.'s are aware, Eastern Pennsylvania will be better able to carry the message. We need to find more A.A.'s who know how to sign for the hearing-impaired and how to spark A.A. members' interest in taking a course in sign language."

The area P.I. Committee also corresponds with Hispanic A.A. groups in Philadelphia, Allentown, and Reading; plans a meeting with local Hispanic A.A.'s.

Sandra advised that the film "A.A.—An Inside View" was shown recently to the Hispanic community at a meeting conducted entirely in Spanish, including the audio portion of the film. "We had more fun translating and taping it into Spanish," Sandra said. This highly successful gathering followed a C.P.C. meeting that attracted more than 75 professionals. "If we all work together," says Sandra, "we can carry the message more effectively."



## P.I. Work Overload? Call on the Districts

Because of increased opportunities to carry the A.A. message through public information work, the Northern New Jersey P.I. Committee is relying on *district* public information committees to participate. The area committee has developed an organization format that other A.A.'s might wish to try.

First, ask your G.S.R.'s whether any of them would like to be *district* P.I. representative. If you get no takers, form your own committee and pick a chairperson. In forming your own committee, you again rely on your G.S.R.'s. Draw up a volunteer sign-up sheet with places for names and phone numbers, and give a copy to each G.S.R. to take to his or her own group and, if possible, one other group.

The notice concerning formation of a P.I. committee can be read at the secretary's announcements, and the volunteer sheets may be passed around during the meeting, or posted on the bulletin board. Then, the G.S.R. takes the completed sheets to the next district meeting.

Volunteers who have signed up are contacted personally by either the chairperson or the group G.S.R., and are invited to a district P.I. meeting. At this meeting, a presentation can be given briefly stressing the importance of various dimensions of such service in carrying the A.A. message.

Then, from among the volunteers themselves, a steering committee is formed, and this cluster group is sent to the area P.I. meeting. Once the steering committee is established, P.I. will take it from there.

# C.P.C.

## How A.A. Cooperates With Occupational Alcoholism Programs

The chairperson of our General Service Board, Gordon Patrick, has had a great deal of experience working with and developing occupational alcoholism programs. Nonalcoholic Gordon has served on the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, and in that capacity, several years ago, he shared some of his experiences with General Service Conference members. Gordon made this suggestion:

"For those A.A. members who believe their sobriety is conditional on their sharing their experience, strength, and hope with the sick alcoholic, I suggest that they look at occupational alcoholism programs. Company programs will provide many sick alcoholics who will be more responsive to the A.A. recovery program than someone who is not working. Put another way: If you are looking for pigeons, the workplace provides a big pigeon loft, readily accessible."

Like most twelfth-stepping efforts, cooperation with occupational programs has its roots in the past. A chance encounter between a vacationing Bill W. and the executive of a large corporation, on a public beach, resulted in the first formal request (to our knowledge) for an A.A. information service to industry. As Gordon said, "Occupational programs began with an A.A. member's doing what good A.A. members do — carrying the message. It seems the corporation executive asked Bill why A.A. didn't do something to help this corporation's employees who had drinking problems. (Apparently, Bill had asked him why the *company* didn't do something!) This led to an invitation to Bill, as an A.A. member, to provide the company with information."

Some of the ways A.A. members now cooperate with occupational programs are:

1. Presenting C.P.C. information meetings for industrial relations/personnel supervisors
2. Twelfth-stepping fellow employees referred to A.A.
3. Simply being sober A.A. members at work — there is nothing more attractive
4. Carrying the message to company physicians and nurses
5. As union members, twelfth-stepping union brothers and sisters — or, as members of A.A. committees, working with union officers and medical staff

To sum it up, occupational programs provide great opportunities for A.A. members to carry the message.

We would be delighted to hear about your C.P.C. efforts to cooperate with such programs, so that we can share your experiences with other committees.

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## Start Early: 'Sponsor' Medical Students

C.P.C. committees from Rhode Island to California have consistently shared the encouraging results of Dr. John L. Norris's suggestion to "Sponsor your doctor." As nonalcoholic chairperson of the General Service Board for 15 years, "Dr. Jack" was well aware of many A.A. people's frustrations with reaching physicians — those members of the professional community who often see the alcoholic at his or her worst, but equally often, unfortunately, are unaware of A.A.'s effectiveness as a source of help for drunks.

Today, many C.P.C. committees have organized their attempts to reach the medical profession and find great success in "sponsoring" medical students. Workshop reports at Regional Forums, service assemblies, and letters to the C.P.C. desk at G.S.O. suggest that A.A. has its work cut out! Just as there are more and more alcoholics needing help, there are always new physicians who have not heard about what A.A. can do for the sick alcoholic.

One C.P.C. committee, which cooperates with its local medical college's alcoholism program, received this note from the physician in charge:

"The students are most impressed with how wonderfully the A.A. program works. They learn that there is hope and help, as well as love, available for the alcoholic, and that alcoholics can and do recover. The medical students are deeply moved and touched by the A.A. meeting they attend, which is truly the highlight of their day.

"They learn that, as physicians, they have a moral obligation to tell the patient when he has the disease of alcoholism, and not look the other way while he slowly dies, goes insane, or becomes a castoff. They learn instead to extend a compassionate hand and to be concerned enough to treat the alcoholic patient and call for help from A.A."

According to A.A. members who carry the message to physicians — whether as individuals or as members of a C.P.C. committee — any A.A. can help in this way:

1. Make an appointment to see your own physician on A.A.'s behalf and let him or her see that alcoholics can recover.
2. Thank the physician if he or she was the one who referred you to A.A. or suggested that you give its program a try.

3. Tell the physician your *real* story — fill in the gaps you left when you told your story while you were drinking!
4. Tell the physician what A.A. is and what it has done for you personally.
5. Offer help should the physician want A.A.'s assistance for another patient.
6. Invite and encourage your physician to go with you to an open A.A. meeting to find out what A.A. is all about.



*John L. Norris, M.D. (left), and Gordon Patrick — former and present chairpersons of A.A.'s General Service Board — have seen the C.P.C. picture from both sides. Before they became Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, they had learned the value of A.A. cooperation in helping the alcoholics they dealt with professionally.*

## P.I.-C.P.C.

### Little Steps For Little Feet

Doug K., of Colorado's District 13, shares word that the P.I.-C.P.C. Committee has developed a plan "subject to change as more experience is gained. One of the chief features of our plan is the idea of 'little steps for little feet' — i.e., do a small project, stop, and reevaluate the plan before moving to the next stage. Also, our plan begins with P.I. work, with which we have had lots of experience, and gradually moves into C.P.C. work, with

which we have not had much experience."

The committee's goals include letting local schools know that public information speakers are available. Following this project, the committee will inform members of the clergy, criminal lawyers, and physicians that C.P.C. panels are prepared to cooperate with them.

This committee has also shared its methods for reaching its goals:

1. Personally deliver appropriate A.A. literature to the school office, with the appropriate telephone number for further information. Be sure that the literature package includes a local A.A. meeting directory.
2. Discuss plans with intergroup P.I.-C.P.C. people, for their comments and suggestions.
3. Obtain name, address, and phone number of person contacted in each case, for follow-up.
4. Be on the lookout for suitable places for conducting C.P.C. follow-up presentations for interested persons: (a) a "neutral" location to which members of the clergy could be invited; (b) conference rooms in professional buildings where offices are maintained by a large number of criminal lawyers; (c) conference rooms in medical buildings where numbers of physicians practice. It would probably be best to find a small medical building first as an experiment, stop, and reevaluate before moving on to other, larger buildings.
5. Recruit and educate our own A.A. members in the district.

In the spirit of "cooperation but not affiliation," the District 13 Public Information Committee has been in touch with Narcotics Anonymous. Last year, the district general service representatives voted to open up their G.S.R. meeting (normally a closed meeting) so that some of N.A.'s trusted servants could both share how their fellowship is growing and see how an A.A. G.S.R. meeting is conducted.

## P.I.-C.P.C. Around The U.S./Canada Map

Local committees near and far have been making important new strides in spreading the message of Alcoholics Anonymous:

- *Alberta, Canada* — P.I.-C.P.C. in this province has been busy setting up workshops and panel discussions for its part in the local Service in Fellowship Seminar. The committee is also exploring ways to increase its membership in order to better deal with its future goals.

The word out of Alberta is also that posters and mailings have generally proved ineffective in approach-

ing the medical and legal professions, so the committee has opted for personal contact — with business managers of medical clinics, directors of emergency wards, etc. For the legal profession, contact is being sought with the practice adviser of the Law Society, to see whether posters and letters from the P.I.-C.P.C. Committee may be included in the society's mailings.

- *Oklahoma City, Okla.*— the C.P.C. Committee here, still quite new, reports it is enlisting the support of doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, lawyers, ministers, and the police to refer the problem drinkers they deal with to A.A. While a coordinated C.P.C. program for all of Oklahoma is contemplated, it is felt that districts there are not exactly alike. Some districts have medical schools and nursing colleges, and others do not; too much time spent working with students in one area may mean the neglect of another area's needs. District C.P.C. chairpersons are being encouraged to develop their own C.P.C. projects, based on the needs and facilities in the respective districts.

- *In Tucson, Ariz.*, the C.P.C. Committee has received a request from the sheriff's department for the film "A.A.—An Inside View," to be shown during a three-day period every three months at officer-training sessions. Tucson's C.P.C. and P.I. Committees report slow but steady progress in the joint clergy project that reaches out to serve every member of the clergy and every congregation in Tucson. Contact with the clergy is being made mainly by the C.P.C. Committee, which provides literature and accompanies members of the clergy to open A.A. meetings. P.I. then steps in to provide literature for racks and bookstalls and for the showing of "A.A.—An Inside View" at an information night or any similar function embracing the congregation.

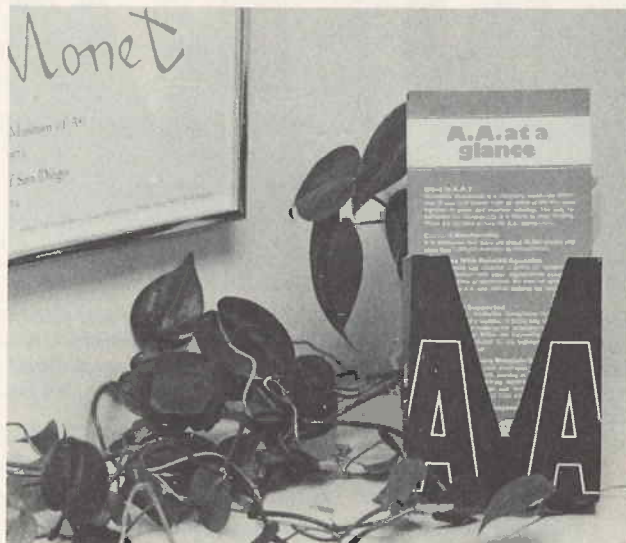
- *Eastern Ontario*—the assembly reports a lot of activity in this area. The major thrust of Malton (District 2) P.I.-C.P.C. continues to be providing literature kits for doctors within the district. The kits are distributed at hospital staff meetings.

In District 28, Lakeshore East C.P.C. has set up a series of meetings with the Durham regional police — a move seen as a major breakthrough. In cooperation with Lakeshore West, C.P.C. has recently held a "Bring a Friend" meeting. This type of meeting has been handled with great success by the P.I. Committee responsible for the metropolitan area of Toronto, Ont. There, the content is designed to inform non-A.A.'s; each member attending pays the "price of admission" by bringing a non-A.A. friend. The format is suitable for either C.P.C. or P.I. use, since the friends would not have to be professionals who deal with alcoholics. We all know how often the message is relayed by a "third party" who simply happens to know an A.A. member.

## Keep A.A. Literature In the Public Eye

A well-organized and extremely ambitious literature-display project has been undertaken by the California Northern Coastal Area P.I.-C.P.C. Committee. The goal is to distribute several thousand plastic display racks wherever they will be accepted (such as doctors' waiting rooms, churches, hospitals, professional offices) and then keep them stocked with the appropriate A.A. literature. To accomplish this, the committee is working through the district committee members (D.C.M.'s) to organize the general service representatives (G.S.R.'s) to individual groups to volunteer and be responsible for implementing and maintaining the project. Thus the program utilizes the existing service structure and emphasizes communication.

Available from G.S.O. for \$1.50 complete is a cardboard box containing 100 copies of the flyer "A.A. at a



*This literature container offered by G.S.O. is intended for P.I.-C.P.C. use. To display literature at regular A.A. meetings, groups use the much larger wire rack. Now, an enterprising local P.I.-C.P.C. committee has worked out a compromise design in plastic.*

Glance." When opened, it becomes an easel-backed, self-contained literature-display unit. The committee prefers a more durable plastic display rack, which it has designed and obtained independently from its own supplier for a price slightly higher than that of the cardboard version; the exact price depends on the quantity ordered.

For further information about this literature-display project or about the plastic literature-display racks, please contact the chairperson of the California Northern Coastal Area P.I.-C.P.C. Committee.



# Correctional Facilities

## Special Place, Special People

"Tell your story at a special place to some special people — they can't come to you, so you have to go to them," said Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Jim Estelle, with 32 years of experience in the field of corrections, as he encouraged members attending a recent Regional Forum.

Jim, who serves A.A. by chairing the trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee, stressed that there are two areas of expertise yet to be tapped in the corrections field — a Higher Power and the Fellowship of A.A. "We in the discipline of corrections have not had the good sense to tap these two potentials for good, and you have let us get away with it — that is your crime!"

Picking up on the concern expressed by some A.A.'s because twelfth-stepping "isn't what it used to be," Jim underscored the fact that the county jails are full of alcoholics waiting to become "just like you" — sober and productive members of society. "If you haven't experienced this kind of twelfth-stepping, you are denying yourself one of the greatest, most satisfactory service experiences available to us all," Jim emphasized.

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## 'Let Your Words Come From the Heart'

An A.A. member from Missouri generously shares her experiences on carrying the message to inmates. In the *Gratitude Gazette* of the Eastern Area of Missouri, Neta L. writes as follows:

"Me go into a women's prison and share my A.A. experience? But how do I relate? I've never been in jail (only by the grace of God). I haven't been in the program long enough. I'm not a good speaker.

"My fellow A.A.'s said: 'You feel good about your sobriety, don't you? You're always saying how you wish everyone had this program. Quality is what counts, not quantity. Just let your words come from the heart.'

"In the beginning of my sobriety, if my sponsor had

said, 'Jump off the roof — it will improve your sobriety,' I would have. So I went to the prison, saying the Serenity Prayer over and over, asking my Higher Power to give me the right words. It worked.

"I can't tell you the gratitude I had when I walked out of there the first night, thankful that I didn't have to stay, but most of all that maybe, just maybe, I had planted a seed. This same feeling happens every time I go. No matter how bad my own personal life is at the time, when I get to the prison and start sharing the program with others, my life is beautiful. I forget everything, everyone else, and most of all myself. There is only one purpose for my being there — to plant the seed of knowledge about Alcoholics Anonymous and tell what it has done for my sobriety."

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## News From Correctional Facilities Committees

Charles P., chairperson of the Northern Indiana Correctional Facilities Committee, writes that "as an 'outside' sponsor for the Barless Fellowship Group at the Indiana State Prison, I feel good about what has been accomplished here. Learning how to abide by the rules of the administration has indeed taught me patience and perseverance.

"'Keep on keeping on.' The special friendships with inmates who would indeed change places with me have taught me much about gratitude.

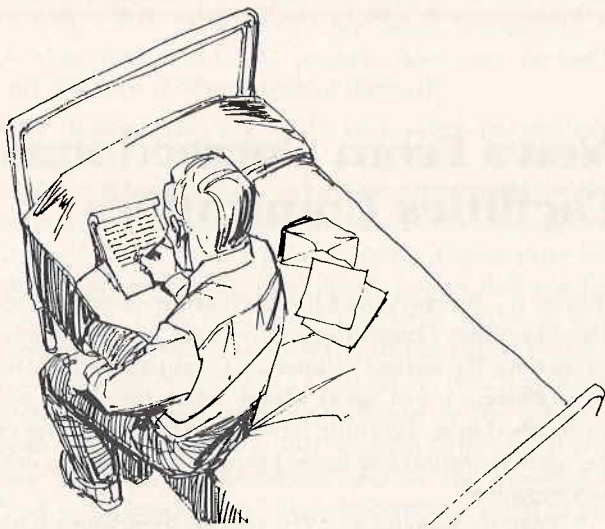
"The Barless Fellowship Group here uses all the tools and literature available, plus their own Twelfth Step efforts for inmates unavailable to the outside sponsor because of restrictions. What a pleasure to arrive at the meeting room in the facility and see that the meetings are being conducted in a most acceptable manner. Visitors remark, 'That was better than a meeting on the street.'

"The schedule includes Step meetings, Traditions meetings, and general discussion meetings. Once a month, speaker meetings are held, and both inmates and outside speakers participate. A.A. group meetings are limited to 25 inmates. Indeed, becoming a trusted faithful servant is a rewarding experience and has blessed me with almost ten years of continuous sobriety."

Another busy committee reported its activities in *The Voice*, published by the Metro Atlanta Central Office. The Atlanta Metro Institutions Committee sponsors 26 groups. In addition to meeting its many commitments on the "inside," the committee reports that some of its concerns include maintaining existing support of estab-

lished groups and meeting the need for more outside sponsorship.

Committee members have also participated in several celebrations. One member celebrated his 35th A.A. anniversary with the Joy of Sobriety Group at the Metro Correctional Institute. Approximately 150 persons attended this anniversary meeting, 60 of whom were visitors from outside the institution. Also, the A.A. group at Rutledge Correctional Institute, Columbus, Ga., celebrated its eighth anniversary. One committee member and two inside sponsors shared their experiences with about 85 members, 25 of them from the outside.



## News From 'Inside'

By the end of 1984, there were more than 1,360 A.A. groups, with more than 47,000 members, in correctional facilities in the U.S. and Canada. Some of our friends on the "inside" share their experiences with us:

- "Our A.A. meeting is on the right track," writes Jodi M. from her facility in Wisconsin. "We have a new chairperson now, and I honestly believe everything is going to be all right. We still have little problems, but in time we'll work them out. We certainly can't expect things to change overnight.

"Just recently, I became aware that we do have some literature here. It was temporarily unavailable because we didn't have our own room where it could be displayed. Also, we had been switching inside sponsors.

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Now, however, we're back to just one sponsor and one alternate, and we are a little more settled, and again, we have plenty of literature now."

- Many A.A. groups in correctional facilities publish their own newsletters. Bob B. of the Davis Werb Group, Anamosa, Iowa, writes in the *Desperate Times* bulletin:

"I have been in the A.A. program now since June 1982, and in that amount of time, with the help of 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,' the Big Book, other A.A. literature, and the many stories I've heard from other A.A.'s, I've made an interesting discovery: When we enter A.A., we are making an investment based on what we put into the program through sharing our own experiences, so that others may learn and gain from them to help maintain their sobriety. That's what I call investing.

"By the same token, we ourselves are buying insurance by what we learn and gain through A.A. In the long run, our assets are many. We have our Higher Power to help us, and the Serenity Prayer — a lot of insurance that we cannot or need not buy with money. To me, A.A. is worth far more than having all the wealth in the world, because with it we *are* rich and successful.

"I'm very thankful for all of you being in my life today. Thank you one and all for making all of that possible for me and for sharing your program and lives with me."

- From his facility in eastern Pennsylvania, Ed S. writes: "As an alcoholic incarcerated 'behind the walls,' I greatly appreciate the opportunity to stay in touch with fellow A.A.'s on the 'outside.'

"In the near future, I hope to transfer from here, and I hope that wherever I go there will be a functioning A.A. group. A.A. has given me a new lease on life. Though I am incarcerated, I am sober and with the grace of God will be sober tomorrow. Even after 12 years, I find that 'one day at a time' still works for me."

- Now on work release, Daniel M. of Spokane, Wash., writes that he is eager to carry the message when he is released. "I am now finishing the last few weeks of my sentence. The A.A. program has been like a life raft thrown into troubled water. I went to every meeting while here, and even was able to start a few Big Book study groups in prison. Today, I believe action in A.A. is what I need, and my sponsor has suggested I start a Big Book study group where I work. Because there is room available, and because my sponsor suggested it, I think it's a great idea to at least plant the seed.

"I'm on a work-release program now, but until I get out I am going to learn how to start and get a new group going. It would mean a lot to my own and hopefully to some others' sobriety. In my opinion and my sponsor's, many people aren't familiar with our Big Book. To me, it's the essence and heart of A.A. itself. Of course, I had to be told that, but now I believe it. It's a way to live that has to be shared to work."

# BOX 4|5|9 BULLETIN BOARD

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.'s — Via G.S.O.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1985

## Calendar of Events

### February

- 1-3 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* N. Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 91953, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 4S4
- 1-3 — *Ocean City, Maryland.* Fourth Annual Seaside Winter Conf. Write: Conf., Box 793, Ocean City, MD 21842
- 1-3 — *Concord, California.* State Young People's Roundup. Write: A.C.Y.P.A.A., Box 224, Concord, CA 94522
- 1-3 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.* First Annual Winter Roundup. Write: Ch., 116 Habitat Cres., Edmonton, Alta. T5A 2X7
- 8-10 — *Flint, Michigan.* E. Cent. Reg. Del./Past Del. Conf. Write: Conf. Host, 1235 Leland St., Flint, MI 48507
- 8-10 — *North Little Rock, Arkansas.* Winter Holiday. Write: Conv. Treas., Box 55269, Little Rock, AR 72205
- 8-10 — *Overland Park, Kansas.* Third Annual Sunflower Roundup. Write: Roundup, Box 1281, Mission, KS 66222
- 8-10 — *North Hollywood, California.* Tenth Annual San Fernando Valley Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2999, Van Nuys, CA 91404
- 8-10 — *Gisborne, New Zealand.* 22nd Nat. Conv. Write: Convenor, Box 442, Gisborne, New Zealand
- 8-10 — *Cincinnati, Ohio.* Fourth Roundup of Young People in A.A. Write: C.I.N.C.Y.P.A.A. Ch., Box 19336, Cincinnati, OH 45219
- 14-17 — *St. Petersburg, Florida.* Midwinter Big Book Seminar. Write: Big Book Seminar, c/o Holiday Inn Bayfront, 333 First St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- 15-17 — *Wilmingon, Delaware.* N.E. Reg. Forum. Write: Reg. Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Sta., New York, NY 10163
- 15-17 — *Camrose, Alberta, Canada.* Fifth Annual Valentine Roundup. Write: Ch., 4610 61st St., Camrose, Alta. T4V 2H7
- 15-17 — *Paducah, Kentucky.* State Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Box 1621, Paducah, KY 42002
- 15-17 — *Baguio City, Philippines.* Third Annual Nat. Conv. Write: Conv. Ch., Box 25 TRAS, APO San Francisco, CA 96277
- 15-17 — *Taber, Alberta, Canada.* 29th Anniv. Write: Secretary, Box 1718, Taber, Alta. T0K 2G0
- 15-17 — *Denver, Colorado.* 21st Annual Nat. Women's Conf. Write: Ch., 4605 E. Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80222
- 15-17 — *El Paso, Texas.* 23rd Annual Jamboree. Write: Secy., Box 1405, El Paso, TX 79948
- 15-18 — *Miami Beach, Florida.* Roundup (gay & lesbian). Write: Ch., Box 030026, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33303

- 16-17 — *Canora, Saskatchewan, Canada.* Ninth Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 871, Canora, Sask. S0A 0L0
- 22-24 — *Sacramento, California.* Eighth Annual Spring Fling. Write: Spring Fling, Box 1623, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
- 22-24 — *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.* 18th Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Ch., Cent. Off., 311—220 3rd Ave. S., Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 1M1
- 22-24 — *Afton, Oklahoma.* Eighth Annual Four-State Roundup. Write: Ch., Rte. 5, Box 19, Miami, OK 74354
- 22-24 — *Nashville, Tennessee.* Third Annual State Conf. of Young People. Write: Ch., Box 25084, Nashville, TN 37202
- 22-24 — *Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada.* Dist. 4 Rally. Write: Ch., Box 1337, Comox, B.C. V9N 9Z8
- 22-24 — *Ripley, West Virginia.* Annual Cedar Lakes Roundup. Write: Com., Box 2481, Charleston, WV 25329
- 28-Mar. 3 — *Charleston, South Carolina.* 38th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2265, Summerville, SC 29483

### March

- 1-3 — *Anaheim, California.* First Orange Co. Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2984, Anaheim, CA 92804
- 1-3 — *Pocatello, Idaho.* 18th Annual Reg. Serv. Assy. Write: Ch., Box 4306, Pocatello, ID 83205
- 1-3 — *St. Albert, Alberta, Canada.* Eighth Annual Roundup. Write: Secy., Apt. 305, 6 Gainsborough Avenue, St. Albert, Alta. T8N 0W4
- 1-3 — *South Beloit, Illinois.* Third Annual Young People's Conf. Write: I.Y.P.A.A., Box 4364, Rockford, IL 61110

## Planning an April, May, or June Event?

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

Naturally, G.S.O. cannot check on all the information submitted. We must rely on local A.A.'s to describe the events accurately.

## Closed Meeting Topics From the Grapevine

For more detailed suggestions, see the pages noted.

*February* (page 17): "overdoing serenity?"; compulsive behavior; self-seeking; informed group conscience.

*March* (page 31): selfishness; Step Eleven; attitude changes; newcomers meetings.

- 1-3 — *Toronto, Ontario, Canada.* 35th Annual Reg. Conf. Write: Metro Toronto Intergroup, 272 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M4R 1B2
- 1-3 — *Belleville, Illinois.* Fourth Annual Area Spring Conf. Write: Ch., 200 W. Second St., Cahokia, IL 62206
- 1-3 — *Tokyo, Japan.* Tenth Anniv. Conv. Write: Serv. Off., Rm. 302, Shinanomachi Central Mansion, Minami Moto-Machi 4, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan
- 1-3 — *Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada.* 17th Annual Rally. Write: Ch., 4032 Departure Bay Rd., Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 1C8
- 8-10 — *Corpus Christi, Texas.* 31st Annual Coastal Bend Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 3204, Corpus Christi, TX 78404
- 8-10 — *Eau Claire, Wisconsin.* 26th Annual Alano Club 12 Banq. Write: Ch., 3025 Rudolph Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701
- 8-10 — *Metairie, Louisiana.* 17th Annual Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 333 St. Charles Ave., Suite 1103, New Orleans, LA 70130
- 8-10 — *Rapid City, South Dakota.* First Annual Rushmore Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5086, Rapid City, SD 57709
- 8-10 — *Arlington, Texas.* First Air Force Conv. Write: Bluesuiters, Box 98291, Lubbock, TX 79499
- 8-10 — *Detroit, Michigan.* Fourth Annual Midwinter Warm-Up (sponsored by lesbians & gay men in A.A.). Write: Secy., Box 43171, Ren. Cen., Detroit, MI 48243
- 9-10 — *Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Canada.* 28th Annual Roundup. Write: Roundup Com., Box 882, Weyburn, Sask. S4H 1P6
- 9-10 — *Fresno, California.* N. Calif. Council of A.A. Spring Conf. Write: Conf. Ch., 1046 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122
- 15-16 — *Lake Whitney, Texas.* Young Minds in A.A. Conf. Write: Ch., 1819 Broadway, #C, Galveston, TX 77550
- 15-17 — *Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada.* 17th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2529, Salmon Arm, B.C. V0E 2T0

## March continued

- 15-17 — *La Junta, Colorado*. Spring Area Assy. Write: D.C.M., Box 444, Rocky Ford, CO 81067
- 15-17 — *Fort St. John, British Columbia, Canada*. 15th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 10520 — 112 Ave., Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 2W7
- 15-17 — *French Lick, Indiana*. 32nd Annual State Conv. Write: Conv., Box 27, Carmel, IN 46032
- 22-24 — *Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada*. Roundup. Write: Roundup Com., Box 212, Lethbridge, Alta. T1J 3Y5
- 22-24 — *Ocean City, New Jersey*. 21st Annual Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 185, Glendora, NJ 08012
- 22-24 — *Douglaston, New York*. First Annual Young People's Closed Conf. Write: Ch., 3539 Wayne Ave., Bronx, NY 10467
- 22-24 — *Victorville, California*. First Annual Victor Valley Conv. Write: Ch., Box 219, Victorville, CA 92392
- 22-24 — *Buffalo, New York*. Spring Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 391, Buffalo, NY 14223
- 22-24 — *Las Vegas, Nevada*. Sixth Annual Young People's Roundup. Write: Roundup Com., Box 85148, Las Vegas, NV 89185
- 22-24 — *Quebec, Quebec, Canada*. Tenth Bilingual Cong. Write: Ch., C.P. 9, Succ. Post. Limoilou, Quebec, Que. G1L 4T8
- 29-31 — *Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada*. Annual Spring Roundup and Assy. Write: Ch., Box 453, Dauphin, Man. R7N 2V3
- 29-31 — *Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*. 34th Annual Rally. Write: Pub. Ch., 3301 Wordsworth St., Victoria, B.C. V8P 4B9
- 29-31 — *Gulf Shores, Alabama*. First Annual Jubilee. Write: Conv. Com., Box 1183, Foley, AL 36536

## April

- 5-7 — *San Diego, California*. Eighth Annual Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box A2529, San Diego, CA 92112
- 5-7 — *Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada*. Third Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 4773, Williams Lake, B.C., V2G 2V8
- 5-7 — *Lake Livingston, Texas*. Spirit of the Pines Conf. Write: Ch., 1819 Broadway, #C, Galveston, TX 77550
- 5-7 — *Pretoria, South Africa*. Nat. Conv. Write: Conv. Com., Box 31019, Totiusdal, 0134 Pretoria, Republic of South Africa
- 11-13 — *Erie, Pennsylvania*. Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 148, Erie, PA 16512
- 11-14 — *Longview, Texas*. 16th Annual E. Tex. Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2082, Longview, TX 75606
- 11-14 — *Morristown, New Jersey*. Spring Mtg. for Doctors & Other Professionals (sponsored by N.J. Medical Gp. in A.A.). Write: Secy., 86 Miller Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960
- 12-14 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Sixth Annual Celebrate Sobriety Roundup (gay). Write: Com., Box 718, Sta. A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N5
- 12-14 — *Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada*. Seventh Annual Rally. Write: Ch., 33926 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 1L7
- 12-14 — *Santa Rosa, California*. Annual H & I Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4998, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
- 12-14 — *Santa Clara, California*. Tenth Hispanic Conv. Write: Conv. Com., 1151 "C" St., Hollister, CA 95023
- 12-14 — *Tarrytown, New York*. 23rd Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1688, Madison Square Sta., New York, NY 10159
- 12-14 — *Seaside, Oregon*. Third Annual N. Coast Roundup. Write: Reg., Box 923, Seaside, OR 97138
- 19-20 — *Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Ninth Annual Roundup. Write: Secy., Box 1493, Rosetown, Sask. S0L 2V0
- 19-21 — *Clarksburg, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26301
- 19-21 — *Lake Charles, Louisiana*. 32nd Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 686, Lake Charles, LA 70602
- 19-21 — *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*. 13th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 52056 Range Rd. 214, Sherwood Park, Alta. T8E 1A3
- 20-21 — *Eureka Springs, Arkansas*. Ninth Annual Springtime in the Ozarks Conv. Write: Conv. Treas., Box 1512, Rogers, AR 72757
- 20-21 — *Penticton, British Columbia, Canada*. 39th Anniv. Write: Ch., Box 92, Penticton, B.C. V2A 6J9
- 26-28 — *Stillwater, New Jersey*. Third Annual Conf. Write: Conf., Box 2084, Westfield, NJ 07071
- 26-28 — *St. Charles, Illinois*. Spring Area Conf. Write: Conf., Box 729, Aurora, IL 60507
- 26-28 — *Fond du Lac, Wisconsin*. 34th Annual Spring Area Conf. Write: Treas., 2056 Fond du Lac Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- 26-28 — *North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada*. 24th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 479, Battleford, Sask. S0M 0E0
- 26-28 — *Casa Grande, Arizona*. 26th Sahuaro Agape Weekend. Write: Secy., Box 40214, Tucson, AZ 85717
- 26-28 — *St. George, Utah*. Area Spring Rally. Write: Secy., Box 305, St. George, UT 84770
- 27-28 — *Scottsbluff, Nebraska*. Panhandle Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 256, Scottsbluff, NE 69361