

## ■ 70 Years and Counting: A.A.'s 'Basic Text' Hits Another Milestone

The year was 1939. Hedy Lamarr, Rita Hayworth, Lana Turner and Greta Garbo were the country's pin-up queens. "There's no place like home" and "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn" were the most popular quotes from the most popular films released that year, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone With the Wind*, which won the Oscar for Best Film. Germany invaded Poland, signaling the official beginning of World War II. The World's Fair opened in New York City with the theme, "Building for the World of Tomorrow," and a time capsule was buried which is not to be opened until the year 6939. Robert May, an employee of Montgomery Ward, created the story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer as a Christmas promotional gimmick. Batman made his comic book debut. *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck, was published. And the Yankees won the World Series.

But, to a hardy band of 100 or so alcoholics, trying against all odds to hold onto their sobriety, doubtless the most important thing to happen in 1939, for them and for the countless alcoholics to come, was the appearance, in print, of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the book that bore the name of the society of recovering drunks it represented.

"We of Alcoholics Anonymous," says the foreword to the first edition, "are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book."

Plagued by high expectations, foundering with dissension, chronically under funded and dashed by one mishap after another, it is truly a wonder that the book was ever published; a miraculous event, according to some, dependent on a perfect storm of people, places and things.

The story of A.A.'s basic text—how it was written, published and promoted—is a story too long to recount in detail here.

Yet, like the story of the Fellowship it represents, it is a story of how, through many failures, the seeds of success were sown. The story, told in detail by Bill W. in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* and *The Language of the Heart*, is the story of a truly alcoholic venture—a plan so crazy and improbable, as some would say, "it might just work."

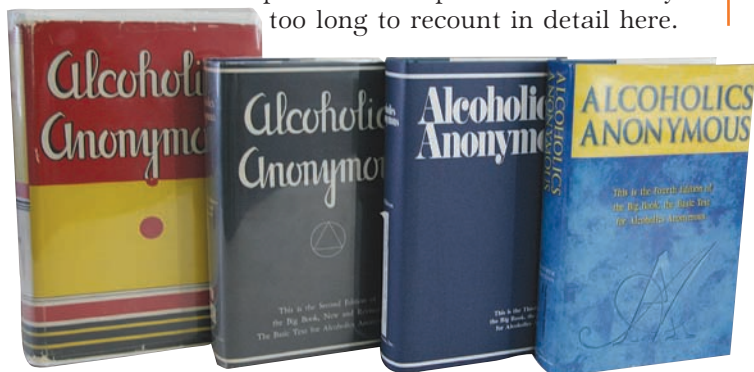
As Bill W. wrote in a July 1947 article titled "Book Publication Proved Discouraging Venture," reprinted in *The Language of the Heart*, describing the dilemma the fledgling Fellowship found itself in once the book had been printed, but had no takers, "What were we to do with those other thousands of books? What could we say to the printer, whose bill wasn't half paid? What about that little loan of \$2,500 and those forty-nine subscribers who had invested \$4,500 in Works Publishing stock? How could we break the awful news to them? How could we tell them that since we had no publicity we could sell no books? Yes, that A.A. book venture was, I fear, very alcoholic!"

The desire to write and publish a book of their own experiences in the adventure of getting—and staying—sober came out of a recognition by Bill and co-founder Dr. Bob, that in order to keep the message intact and pass it on to the countless alcoholics out there who were waiting for some kind of help, they needed to codify what they and the early members had done and to explain the program in specific terms.

In a talk he gave at a banquet in Fort Worth, Texas, in June 1954, Bill W. recalled how it all came about:

"On a late fall afternoon in 1937, Smithy [Dr. Bob] and I were talking together in his living room." By then, the groups in Akron and New York were firmly established, "and the thing had leaked a little over into Cleveland and it began to move south from New York. But it was still flying blind—a flickering candle indeed, because it might at any minute be snuffed out. So we began counting noses. How many people had stayed dry in Akron, in New York, maybe a few in Cleveland? And when we added up that score, it was a handful, 35 to 40 maybe. But enough time had elapsed on enough really fatal cases of alcoholism that Bob and I foresaw for the first time that this thing was going to succeed.

"I can never forget the elation and ecstasy that seized



**Box 4-5-9** is published quarterly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, © Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 2009

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

**G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site:** [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**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.

us both. It had taken three years to sober up the handful, and there had been an immense amount of failure. How could this handful carry its message to all those who still didn't know? Not all the drunks in the world could come to Akron or to New York. How could we transmit our message to them?" The two began mulling over the possibilities. Bill, always the entrepreneur, had big ideas. He wanted to create a chain of hospitals to sober up thousands of drunks and to send out missionaries to spread the word.

"And, we reflected, we'd have to get some kind of literature. Up to this moment, not a syllable of this program was in writing. It was a kind of word-of-mouth deal, with variations according to each man's or woman's understanding...."

"How could we unify this thing? Could we, out of our experience, describe certain methods that had done the trick for us? Obviously, if this movement was to propagate, it had to have literature so its message would not be garbled, either by the drunk or by the general public."

The first step in this plan was, of course, to actually write the book. Yet, in prime alcoholic fashion, Bill got the cart before the horse and set into motion a series of intricate promotional plans to raise money to finance the vast recovery empire he envisioned. Once financing had been secured, the book would be published, and they would all sit back with the "money rolling in."

"These reflections led us straight into a typical alcoholic fantasy!" wrote Bill in 1947. "Why not publish the book ourselves? Though told by almost everybody who knew anything of publishing that amateurs seldom produced anything but flops, we were not dismayed. This time, we said, it would be different."

After convincing a number of the early members to buy stock certificates in the "hastily organized" Works Publishing Company—the company formed to receive the untold millions Bill and his friend Henry P., another alcoholic promoter, expected would roll in—confidence was high. "Not only were we selling common stock on a book

to cure drunks—the book itself hadn't yet been written. Amazingly enough, we did sell that stock, \$4,500 worth, to alcoholics in New York, New Jersey, and to their friends. No one of the original 49 subscribers put up over \$300. Almost everybody paid on monthly installment, being too broke to do otherwise...."

In May 1938, when Bill finally began work on the first draft, he had been sober about three and a half years. Dr. Bob was sober a few months less than three years, and the other 100 early members who contributed in one way or another to the writing of the book had been sober for periods ranging from a couple of years to a couple of months.

They were a contentious, cantankerous bunch of newly dry drunks, clinging together desperately to preserve their hard-won sobriety, and still figuring it out by a process of trial and error. Yet, this shaky, often fearful group of men and women somehow brought to publication, in April 1939, a book that provided a blueprint for recovery from alcoholism that has been followed successfully for seventy years by millions of sober alcoholics in over 180 countries around the world.

How did they manage to set forth a clear description of their experience that would stand the test of time? Bill tells the story in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*. Early on, he had written a few chapters of a possible book to use in raising money, and after *Reader's Digest* expressed interest in an article on A.A. and its (as yet unwritten) book—interest, by the way, that would ultimately never come to fruition—Bill set out to complete the manuscript. "Each morning I traveled all the way from Brooklyn to Newark where, pacing up and down in Henry's office, I began to dictate rough drafts of the chapters of the coming book."

Throughout, he consulted the group conscience, reading each chapter as it was finished to the New York group at its weekly meeting and sending copies to Dr. Bob to share with the Akron group. From Akron, he reported receiving good support, but the chapters "got a real mauling" from the New York bunch. "I redictated them and Ruth [Hock, Henry P.'s nonalcoholic secretary] retyped them over and over." In spite of all this, the first few chapters went easily, until he got to Chapter 5, when the alcoholics realized that "at this point we would have to tell how our program for recovery from alcoholism really worked. The backbone of the book would have to be fitted in right here.

"This problem had secretly worried the life out of me," wrote Bill. "I had never written anything before and neither had any other member of the New York group.... The hassling over the four chapters already finished had really been terrific. I was exhausted. On many a day I felt like throwing the book out the window.

"I was in this anything-but-spiritual mood on the night when the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous were written. I was sore and tired clear through. I lay in

bed... with pencil in hand and with a tablet of scratch paper on my knee. I could not get my mind on the job, much less put my heart into it. But here was one of those things that had to be done. Slowly my mind came into some kind of focus.”

Up to that time, the A.A. program had been strictly word of mouth, using basic ideas evolved from the Oxford Groups, William James, and Dr. Silkworth, “the little doctor who loved drunks.” It came down, essentially, to six steps: admitting powerlessness over alcohol, taking a moral inventory, sharing shortcomings with another person, making restitution, helping other alcoholics, and praying to God for power to practice these ideas. There were considerable variations on this general procedure, however, and at that point, nothing in writing.

“As my mind ran over these developments, it seemed to me that the program was still not definite enough. It might be a long time before readers of the book in distant places and lands could be personally contacted. Therefore our literature would have to be as clear and comprehensive as possible. Our steps would have to be more explicit....

“Finally I started to write. I set out to draft more than six steps; how many more I did not know. I relaxed and asked for guidance. With a speed that was astonishing, considering my jangling emotions, I completed the first draft. It took perhaps half an hour. The words kept right on coming. When I reached a stopping point, I numbered the new steps. They added up to twelve. Somehow this number seemed significant.”

Then began the grueling process of refining and calibrating these twelve new steps to the point where they would pass muster with the rest of the alcoholics Bill had brought into the process, those in Akron and New York. On the whole, the Akronites liked the new steps and supported the remainder of the text based on them. “But in New York the hot debate about the Twelve Steps and the book’s contents was doubled and redoubled. There were conservative, liberal, and radical viewpoints.”

Bill, as the writer, was “caught squarely in the middle of all this arguing.... For a while it looked as if we would bog down into permanent disagreement....”

Yet, just before the manuscript was finished, “an event of great significance took place.... We were still arguing about the Twelve Steps. All this time I had refused to... change a word of the original draft, in which... I had consistently used the word ‘God,’ and in one place the expression ‘on our knees’ was used. Praying to God on one’s knees was still a big affront to [several of the alcoholics]... we finally began to talk about the possibility of compromise. Who first suggested the actual compromise words I do not know, but they are words well known throughout the length and breadth of A.A. today: In Step Two we decided to describe God as a ‘Power greater than ourselves.’ In Steps Three and Eleven we inserted the words ‘God as we understood Him.’ From Step Seven we deleted

the expression ‘on our knees.’ And, as a lead-in sentence to all the steps we wrote these words: ‘Here are the steps we took which are suggested as a program of recovery.’ A.A.’s Twelve Steps were to be *suggestions* only....

“God was certainly there in our Steps, but He was now expressed in terms that anybody—*anybody at all*—could accept and try. Countless A.A.s have since testified that without this great evidence of liberality they could never have set foot on any path of spiritual progress or even approached us in the first place. It was another one of those providential ten-strikes.”

Concluding his description of the book-writing process in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Bill made it clear that all the hassles had been worth it. “It should here be emphasized that the creation of A.A.’s book brought forth much more than disputes about its contents. As the volume grew so did the conviction that we were on the right track. We saw tremendous vistas of what this book might become and might do. High expectation based on a confident faith was the steady and sustaining overtone of feeling that finally prevailed among us. Like the sound of a receding thunderstorm, the din of our earlier battles was now only a rumble. The air cleared and the sky was bright. We all felt good.”

Sometime in 2009, in its fourth edition and 70th year of continuous publication, it is expected that the 30 millionth copy of *Alcoholics Anonymous* will be sold. Available in 58 languages, including American Sign Language and Braille, multiple print and audio formats, A.A.’s basic text has carried the message of hope and recovery literally around the world.

Quite a record of success for a book whose seeds were sown of failure.

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## ■ Central Office/ Intergroup Seminar

Rochester, New York, will be the site of the 24th Annual Central Office/Intergroup Seminar, October 2-4, 2009. Hosted by the Rochester Area Intergroup, the event will be held at the Rochester Plaza & Conference Center. This year’s theme is “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message—Enthusiasm & Gratitude in Action.” This annual Seminar provides a forum, through workshops, discussions, and the exchange of ideas and shared experience, for those who are on A.A.’s front line.

Attendees are Intergroup/Central Office managers, Intergroup representatives and representatives from the G.S.O. staff, and the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Boards.

Please make your hotel reservations, at special seminar rate, by August 30, by calling 1-866-826-2831, with the 3 digit code RAI.

Registration fee is \$25.00. For a Seminar registration/questionnaire, or other information, contact Kay D., office administrator, (585) 232-6720; raacog@frontier.net.

## ■ In Memoriam

Two former staff members at the General Service Office recently passed away, leaving behind a rich legacy of service and a whole host of friends. Spanning multiple decades from the 1950s through the year 2000, both Lib S. and Lois F. were dedicated and trusted servants of the Fellowship, offering support and guidance to countless A.A. members and groups around the world. Lib passed away on March 19, 2009, at the age of 96, with 63 years of sobriety, and Lois died on May 11, 2009, at the age of 72, with 36 years of sobriety.

Collectively, in their many years of service to Alcoholics Anonymous, both saw numerous changes in the Fellowship and at G.S.O. itself. While different modes of communication characterized their individual tenures at the office, the most precious communication between one alcoholic and another, the “language of the heart,” as Bill W. called it, was always at the center of their work.

Lib once wrote of her early years at the office in the 1950s, “There were few of us staffers then, the volume of mail and phone calls was escalating rapidly, and the office was chaotic much of the time.” And, similarly, said Lois at the time of her retirement from the office in 2000, reflecting back on her own early days in the late 1970s, “We did all our correspondence on the typewriter back then. Computerization was just coming in, and the Fellowship was worried about depersonalization. Actually, technology sped up the mechanical process, giving us the time to be more personal than ever. We used to get more snail mail at G.S.O., though these days online communication, faxes and phone calls are the norm. However we did it, I’ve loved being able to chat and share one-on-one with A.A.s all over the world.”

Lib, who served at G.S.O. for ten years, from 1952-1963, treasured and shared her spiritual life and faith broadly, and had a special relationship with many as a mentor and friend. Her family was the center of her life and, according to those close to her, Lib “always shared and advised from her heart. She was a shining example of searching for the positive in every situation and her special ‘silent laugh’ was a gift that she shared with many.”

Lois F. joined the G.S.O. staff in New York in September of 1977 after nearly five years of A.A. service at the local level in California—as secretary of both the San Francisco Young People’s Group and the Friendly Circle Group, and turns as a G.S.R., D.C.M. and chairperson of the California Northern Coastal Area Assembly.

After 23 years of service, Lois retired from G.S.O. in 2000. “She was a voice of calm and reason and experience,” said Susan U., herself a retired staff member at G.S.O. and a colleague of Lois’ for over two decades. “Lois’ gratitude for A.A. and her sobriety came from her heart and soul,” said Susan. “As a staff member she was incredibly organized, well-prepared, and thorough,” handling numerous assignments over the years, including serving as coordinator of the 1990 International Convention in Seattle.

## ■ Two New ‘Friends of A.A.’ Join the General Service Board

From the earliest incarnation of its corporate structure, A.A. has relied on a constant stream of nonalcoholic friends to provide professional expertise, sound business judgment, and balance to the collection of trustees who donate their time and interest in service to Alcoholics Anonymous. As Bill W. wrote in 1966, “In the days when A.A. was unknown, it was the nonalcoholic trustees who held up our hands before the general public. They supplied us with ideas.... They voluntarily spent hours on end, working side by side with us and among the grubbiest of details. They gave freely of their professional and financial wisdom. Now and then they helpfully mediated our difficulties.”



*Frances Brisbane, Ph.D.*

Today’s Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees remain a rich resource of wisdom and perspective, and, importantly, can do certain things the Class B (alcoholic) trustees cannot do, such as facing the camera head-on or using their last names without violating the Traditions and principles of anonymity that are designed to keep A.A. members out of the public eye.

Presented to the 59th General Service Conference “for disapproval, if any” and subsequently elected by the General Service Board to individual three-year terms, Frances Brisbane, Ph.D. of Medford, New York and Corliss Burke, B.Ed., MINT, of Whitehorse, Yukon, will begin their service to the Fellowship in August 2009.

Frances has a long association with Alcoholics Anonymous, from both a personal and professional perspective. “In many ways,” she says, “it ‘saved’ my life by saving the lives of people significant to me when I was too young to alter my own situation.”

Currently dean and professor of the School of Social Welfare at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she has been since 1972, Frances brings to the board a long professional career in the field of alcoholism, including teaching and clinical work with alcoholics and their families. She is an accomplished writer, researcher and teacher, with numerous books, monographs and articles to her credit. Awarded the U.S. Presidential Service Award for extraordinary and effec-

tive lifetime volunteer services and achievements in 2008, she was also chosen by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse in 1992 as one of eight N.Y. State women who had made an extraordinary contribution to the field of substance abuse in the 20th Century. “With



*Corliss Burke, B.Ed., MINT*

over 40 years of knowledge and experience working in the field of alcoholism,” says Frances, “I am open and willing to be used in any area where my skills and background can be most helpful.”

Like Frances, Corliss Burke has a long association with Alcoholics Anonymous. Her addictions experience began with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (A.A.D.A.C.) in 1977 as a counselor and later in positions of trainer and supervisor of A.A.D.A.C. Training Programs. Most recently, she held the position of Executive Director of the Yukon Alcohol and Drug Secretariat, reporting to the Minister of Health and Social Services, where she supervised the planning, design, development, and implementation of the complete range of gender-specific adolescent and adult addictions programming for the Yukon. Since her retirement, Corliss has been working closely with First Nations and other communities across Canada, in developing community capacity for the delivery of addictions services.

“Early in my career, when I worked as a counselor at a residential treatment center, I began to attend A.A. meetings so that I could, in an informed way, recommend the program to my clients. I began to realize that the program was relevant to my own life as well, even though I have not experienced an addiction to alcohol,” says Corliss.

“Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life. Some of the most rewarding experiences for me have been my work in Canada’s North, with First Nations communities that are struggling with so many challenges, but continue to demonstrate their resilience, their ability to effect change, and their hope for the future. There is, of course, still much to do, to ensure that the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous is there, in these isolated areas of Canada and the rest of the world, but, with the help of A.A., alcoholics can and do change their lives.”

As a new trustee, Corliss says “I look forward to learning from the experienced and new board members, staff, and delegates, as well as from my A.A. friends in the Yukon, across Canada, and around the world.”

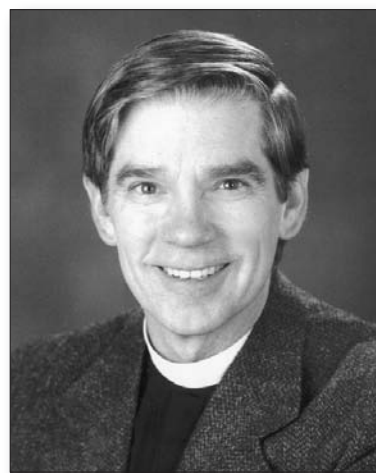
## Board Selects New Chairperson

No stranger to A.A.’s General Service Board, The Very Rev. Ward Ewing, D.D., dean and president of the General Theological Seminary in New York City, one of the few seminaries in the country offering courses on alcoholism and addiction, became chairperson of the General Service Board following the 59th General Service Conference in May.

Ward has been involved in the A.A. service structure since his selection in 2004 as a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee. Replacing outgoing chairperson Leonard Blumenthal, L.L.D., Ward has served on the trustees’ Nominating Committee, the Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities Committee, and was chair of the trustees’ Public Information Committee.

Before Ward assumed his present position at the General Theological Seminary, he spent 13 years as rector of Trinity Church in Buffalo, New York. He has also served congregations in Tennessee, Florida, and Kentucky, representing a diversity of size, environment, and social class.

He became involved with A.A. and alcoholism, he says, while serving as vicar of St. Peter’s-in-the-Valley, Louisville, Kentucky, in 1975. “First I became aware of alcoholism as a disease, then I began attending seminars on alcoholism and took a full semester course on alcoholism.” Combined with the awareness of A.A. that he was gaining on a first-hand basis from members of his parish who were recovering alcoholics, Ward developed a separate support group where persons in recovery could meet on a weekly basis to talk about religious and spiritual issues in their lives.



*Ward Ewing, D.D.*

“Consequently,” he says, “I began to incorporate the Twelve Steps into my own life and my own spirituality in a real way.”

Hoping to build better communication and understanding, Ward recognizes the life and death nature of alcoholism and recovery and is dedicated as chairperson to staying focused on the basic mission of Alcoholics Anonymous. “I feel privileged to be a trustee of A.A.,” he says, expressing a profound faith in the recovery program upon which the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded.

## ■ Five New Class B Trustees Dedicated to A.A. Service

The General Service Board of A.A. welcomes five new Class B (alcoholic) trustees: Pamela R., East Central regional; Eleanor N., Southwest regional; Don M., trustee-at-large/U.S.; and two general service trustees—George M. and Don M. While the role of A.A.'s trustees is principally custodial, trustees are "concerned with everything happening inside and outside A.A. that may affect the health and growth of the movement," according to *The A.A. Service Manual*, and while no trustee can be said to "represent" a geographical section—all trustees represent the Fellowship as a whole—these newly-elected trusted servants bring to the board's deliberations a regional A.A. point of view and specific professional experience that will be invaluable.

**Pam R.**, of Beverly Hills, Michigan, sober since 1980, succeeds Bob M. as East Central regional trustee. "My main goal will be to report fairly and honestly to the delegates what's going on at G.S.O. and on the boards," she says, "and to report fairly and honestly to the boards the sense of the region."

A 1995-96 (Panel 45) delegate, Pam was "excited and surprised" to be selected. "Immediately, there were delegates inviting me to visit their areas into next year and I didn't even have a 2010 calendar," she jokes.

In her life outside of A.A., Pam teaches Criminal Justice and Sociology at a university in her home state of Michigan. She has also been involved as a peer counselor for women in transition at a local women's center and has been involved, through the Michigan Department of Corrections, in probation, substance abuse programs and community service work.

Her professional background, when combined with her A.A. experience, has provided Pam with a good mix that she believes will be helpful in her new work as regional trustee. "I've learned to sit back and hear all the opinions, and then—with respect—state my own viewpoints and allow whatever decision is made to stand, even though I may not agree with it."

**Eleanor N.**, of Walhalla, South Carolina, is also a past delegate from 2006-07 (Panel 56). Selected to replace outgoing Southeast regional trustee Howard L., El sees her upcoming service as a unique opportunity. "I am passionate about the well-being of our Fellowship, and it will be an honor as well as a joy to contribute to sustaining the integrity of the A.A. program and its service structure."

Sober since 1985 and recently retired, El was a university department head, has worked for the government as an international evaluator of higher education federal grants, and has done volunteer work as a mentor/teacher for undergraduate, masters and doctoral students, as

well as serving as an institutional effectiveness consultant to southeastern colleges and universities.

"My background in higher education and government will contribute to my being an engaged member of the board, accountable to my fellow board members as well as to the A.A. membership. Working with many types of people, I have used skills from my professional life while serving as both delegate and area chair—abilities such as policy planning, evaluation and accountability; and participating as a team member will certainly be useful in the years to come."

**Don M.**, (past delegate Panel 55) of Metairie, Louisiana, will replace Dorothy W. as the new trustee-at-large/U.S. For Don, service on the board represents "an incredible opportunity and responsibility to the Fellowship," he says. "The four years are going to fly by, but I'm looking forward to being a part of the process of supporting international service structures when they reach out."

Having traveled widely in the U.S., Don sees opportunities for Twelfth Step service work not only overseas but here in the U.S. as well. "When Hurricane Katrina tore New Orleans apart, I sat there and watched the media coverage, the looting, the people suffering, and I kept seeing the overwhelming need and opportunity that we have as a Fellowship to carry our message right here. A.A. is in all four corners of the earth—and I've seen it in some of those corners—but we have some spaces in between those four corners. We have such opportunities... It really is a small world."

Partner in a Louisiana law firm and sober since 1994, Don leads workshops and panels on various A.A. topics, helps facilitate group, district and other A.A. inventories, sponsors nearly a dozen men, and has been his home group's Grapevine Representative.

**George M.**, of Milford, Michigan, has been on the A.A.W.S. board as a nontrustee director since 2005, and hopes as a new general service trustee to "do my part to be ever mindful to place principles before personalities and to keep focused on the need to maintain our vital services in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic."

Sober since 1974, George, a lawyer, has been active in the program at the group level for 35 years, serving, among other positions, as G.S.R. for the Milford Group and as chair of the Administrative Committee of A.A. of Greater Detroit, the principal intergroup office for southeast Michigan, where he completed a comprehensive rewrite of the bylaws of that office, the first update in over 30 years.

Being a part of A.A.'s general service structure has been a pleasure for George and has provided the opportunity to get to know an ever-expanding number of A.A. members from both the U.S. and Canada. "I have now attended four General Service Conferences, and many

board, committee and subcommittee meetings; I find it endlessly fascinating how a group of diverse individuals with strongly held views can come together and share with each other and reach a consensus on what is best for the Fellowship. While we need to be financially prudent," he says, "our principal guide must always be our mission of service."

**Don M.**, (past delegate Panel 49) of Louisville, Colorado, has been active in local, area and regional service functions since getting sober in 1987, serving most recently as a nontrustee director on the A.A.W.S. Board from 2003 to 2006.

While he was drinking, Don had a varied work history and finally settled into a career in the computer industry, writing technical software for about ten years. After sobering up, he shifted focus and moved into the areas of marketing, program and project management and organizational development for a technology firm, where he gained international and domestic marketing and operations experience. For the past eight years, he has been active in the operations or on the boards of three different companies in various industries, including publishing, court reporting and data storage systems.

Serving as general service trustee is an unexpected honor for Don, and he hopes to utilize his technology background to "help us move toward greater utilization of the most useful and relevant technologies to carry the message and serve our Fellowship."

Says Don, "I just hope to be able to strike the right balance between good, solid, common-sense business and organizational things and serving a spiritual fellowship."

A.A.'s five new Class B trustees, plus the other nine on the board, each serve one four-year term; the seven Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees serve for six years.

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## ■ Regional A.A. Directories

The three regional A.A. Directories — Canadian, Western U.S. and Eastern U.S. — will *not* be printed this year. This decision is due to the ongoing economic condition and its impact on G.S.O. in terms of lower sales and contributions this year.

We will continue to print the following Directories for 2009: 2008-2009 International A.A. Directory outside the U.S. & Canada; 2009 Central Office, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada; 2008-2009 General Service Offices, Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Service Overseas.

Your local intergroup or central office has up-to-date meeting information as do some area Web sites. We are hopeful that the newcomer and our Fellowship will find direction and assistance through these service entities and by visiting our Web site [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

## ■ Registration Forms For 2010 Convention

Registration forms for the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, July 1-4, 2010, are now being sent out around the world. You can get your form from your G.S.R., your area structure, your local intergroup/central office, from G.S.O., and, of course, on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

The preregistration fee is \$95.00; after May 14, 2010, on-site registration will be \$110.00. Your registration badge entitles you to attend all Convention events, including the Thursday night Party in the Park, the Stadium meetings on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in the Alamodome, and all of the marathons, panels, workshops, topic, special interest and other meetings at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and nearby hotels.

Housing reservation information, including the Housing Bureau's contact information, will be included with your registration confirmation. Because of the number of hotel rooms available in San Antonio, housing for the 2010 International Convention will be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, you must be registered for the Convention before you may make your reservations. Once your registration form and payment have been received, you will receive housing information by the same method you sent in your registration. If online, a link to the Housing Reservation Web site will be sent to your e-mail address along with your registration confirmation. You will then be able to complete your hotel reservation online.

If you register by mail or fax, housing information will be sent to you by postal mail. Complete your housing and deposit information and send it to the address indicated on the Housing Reservation Form. Your hotel reservation will be processed and a confirmation mailed to you.

As at other International Conventions, many A.A.s will be accompanied by Al-Anons and Alateens (check appropriate badge box on form), and Al-Anon and Alateen have scheduled a variety of daytime activities, including meetings and workshops at the Marriott Rivercenter. Of course, Al-Anons and Alateens will join in the festivities at the Party in the Park, the Big Meetings and more.

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## ■ Why Should We Pay To Go to A.A. Events?

Why, some members have asked, do A.A.s have to pay a fee to attend an A.A. conference, convention or other special event? As one Californian wrote to the General Service Office, "Some of us have difficulty when it comes to having the A.A. name attached to any gathering that requires

payment to participate. What's more, some of the prices at many of these functions are not cheap." And, he adds, "what about the payment of travel expenses and lodgings for certain 'select' speakers?"

It's true that A.A. membership is free, and meetings and most A.A. events are self-supporting in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. But what about A.A. get-togethers beyond the group-meeting level, ranging from special one- or two-hour meetings to banquets and weekend events—area, statewide, regional and international? These events require months of planning, preparation and money presented upfront to the hotel and other business facilities involved. Arrangements may also be made for A.A.s with special needs: providing wheelchair accessibility, sign-language interpreters for the deaf and, in some instances, programs in Braille for the blind.

Additional expenses include the printing of flyers, schedules, postage and supplies, not to mention renting meeting space, insurance coverage, and travel and accommodations for the invited speakers, many of whom live a thousand miles or more from the convention site. A.A. members are not paid to share their experience, but as invited guests of a convention or conference, their expenses are generally reimbursed. As the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences, Conventions and Roundups, available from G.S.O., state, "It should be clear, when the speakers are booked, what terms are being made for expenses. Unless it's otherwise specified, speakers have a right to assume that all their travel, meal, and hotel expenses will be paid for the entire trip."

How are the costs of a convention covered, and what can be done to ensure that the venture won't go deep in the red? Registration fees cover costs for special events, and those who wish to participate in the Convention to pay their own way in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. According to the aforementioned Guidelines, "there's no substitute for common sense here; the committee must take a business-like approach to finances and keep expenditures somewhere within a conservative estimate of anticipated revenues.... Since the registration fees can be established at a level sufficient to cover the total costs, this should result in no actual out-of-pocket costs to groups. It's a good idea, though, to put the tickets on sale well in advance of the convention and to know where the break-even point lies."

At the area level, two sound methods for underwriting special events seem to be in general use: (1) underwriting of the event by area groups. Since the registration fees can be established at a level sufficient to cover the total costs, this should result in no actual out-of-pocket costs to the groups; and (2) building a convention fund to which the area groups contribute year-round. This method obviates the need to charge a registration fee except for visitors from out-of-state.

The criterion for using the A.A. name generally specifies that the event be put on by A.A.s for A.A.s about A.A. Although a golf tournament or a dance is beyond the

purview of A.A.'s primary purpose, such events are often scheduled as social adjuncts to the main meetings and workshops scheduled.

When Al-Anon participates in an A.A. convention, the relationship and financial arrangements usually follow one of two patterns: When an A.A. convention committee invites Al-Anon to participate with its own program, A.A. may pay all expenses (for meeting rooms, coffee, etc.) and keep all income from registrations and such in a single fund earmarked to cover the convention bills, after which any excess income reverts back to A.A. Alternatively, Al-Anon may have a separate registration and cover its own expenses directly, besides assuming its share of common expenses. In this case, Al-Anon receives its own share of the registration income and also shares in any losses incurred.

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## ■ 'What Happened to My Check?'

With the tremendous volume of checks and money orders flowing in to the General Service Office, it is sometimes difficult for G.S.O. employees to discern what payments are to be applied to exactly which accounts, especially given the dearth of information A.A. members sometimes provide on the checks or money orders themselves, making it trickier to track down specific payments. Sometimes A.A. members call G.S.O. inquiring about their check or money order that seemingly has not been cashed or credited. With patience and persistence, the right connections are invariably made and the funds properly processed, yet with limited information to go on, G.S.O. employees are sometimes at a loss regarding exactly how to credit certain checks and money orders received from the Fellowship.

Says Zenaida Medina, the (nonalcoholic) bookkeeper in G.S.O.'s finance department, "There are a couple of things that people could do to speed the processing of their payments along if they would just provide us with a little bit more information." For one thing, says Zenaida, "if you paid by money order, keep your receipt." A lot of members, it seems, either toss or misplace the receipt after sending the money order so that when they call about a payment, there's little to go on in tracking it down. "Members also should try to have a group service number on the check or money order, whether it's a contribution or a literature payment. If they don't know their group service number, they can always call us and we'll get it for them."

The difference between funds sent in for contributions and funds sent in to pay for literature orders can also get confusing. To help clarify, checks and money orders for contributions should be made out to the General Service Board, and those to cover literature orders should be made out to A.A. World Services. Going even further, writ-



ing on the check or money order just what the payment covers can help keep any confusion to a minimum, i.e., “Contribution” or “Literature payment.”

While it may be uncomfortable to find that your payment has taken a temporary detour before being credited in the way you intended, there’s something you can do about it. When it comes to submitting checks and money orders to G.S.O., either for contributions or literature orders, provide as much information as possible for each payment. In this case, more is definitely better.

## ■ Staff Rotation at the General Service Office

There’s the return of the swallows to Capistrano, the running of the bulls in Pamplona, the Idatarod in Alaska, and, of course, staff rotation at the General Service Office. Perhaps not as grueling or as elegant as the aforementioned, staff rotation is an important part of G.S.O.’s service to the Fellowship, making manifest the spirit of Tradition Twelve and “ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.”

Rotation occurs throughout the A.A. service world—from the group level to the board of trustees—reemphasizing the importance of the message over the messenger. Along with A.A.’s Traditions on anonymity, rotation seems to be the best way we have of keeping the desire for personal recognition from distorting our best intentions. “While A.A. is important to the existence of the individual,” our first (nonalcoholic) trustee chairperson Bernard Smith cautioned back in 1956, “no individual must be vital to the existence of A.A.”

Began in 1951 as a means of broadening the pool of knowledge and experience among staff members, providing a chance for each staff member to contribute, and minimizing any competitiveness among staff members, staff rotation has become a fixture at G.S.O. every two years since. Every staff assignment has expanded in scope with the ongoing growth of A.A. and from time to time assignments have been adjusted to best reflect the needs of the Fellowship. Since 1951 however, the number of rotating staff members has remained close to eleven.

This year, staff rotation occurred on July 13, 2009, with each staff member stepping into a new assignment, with the exception of the **2010 International Convention Coordinator**, Rick W., who is involved in the planning of A.A.’s 75th anniversary, July 1-4, 2010, in San Antonio, and will also serve as co-secretary of the trustees’ and Conference Committees on International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums. The new staff assignments are as follows:

**Conference Coordinator**, Adrienne B.: secretary to the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference and the Conference Agenda Committee; responsible for *Final Conference Report* and the Conference issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**, Mary Clare L.: co-secretary of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities; secretary of the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community; handles East Central regional correspondence; liaison with other Twelve Step Fellowships; responsible for *About A.A.*

**Corrections**, (position to be filled): secretary of trustees’ and Conference Committees on Corrections; handles West Central regional correspondence; responsible for *Sharing From Behind the Walls* and Corrections Correspondence Service.

**International**, Valerie O’N.: secretary of the trustees’ International Committee; handles all French and international (outside U.S./Canada) correspondence; coordinator of the World Service Meeting and responsible for World Service Meeting Report.

**Literature**, Julio E.: secretary of trustees’ and Conference Literature Committees; co-secretary, A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee; handles Spanish (U.S./Canada) and Southeast regional correspondence; responsible for *Box 4-5-9*.

**Nominating**, Mary D.: secretary of trustees’ Nominating Committee and Conference Committee on Trustees; secretary of A.A.W.S. Services Committee; handles Southwest regional correspondence; responsible for G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.

**Public Information**, Warren S.: secretary of the trustees’ and Conference Public Information Committees; handles Eastern Canada regional correspondence.

**Regional Forums**, Eva S.: co-secretary of trustees’ and Conference Committees on International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums; secretary of Conference Report & Charter Committee; handles Western Canada regional correspondence; responsible for Regional Forum reports; alternate coordinator for 2010 International Convention; supervisor of Service Material; liaison with Intergroups/Central Offices.

**Staff Coordinator**, Doug R.: assistant secretary of General Service Board; secretary of trustees’ General Sharing Session; secretary of Conference Policy/Admissions Committee; A.A.W.S. director; responsible for G.S.O. Quarterly Report and A.A.W.S. Highlights.

**Treatment Facilities**, Gayle S. R.: co-secretary of trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional

Community/Treatment Facilities; secretary of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities; handles Northeast regional and LIM correspondence; responsible for Special Needs/Accessibilities and *Loners/Internationalists Meeting*; liaison with Remote Communities.

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## Corrections

### ■ Penitentiary A.A. Meeting Celebrates 65 Years

On Thursday, May 7, 2009, 35 men and women of Alcoholics Anonymous gathered outside Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Oregon's only maximum security prison, located in Salem, Oregon. They were there to celebrate the 65th anniversary meeting of the Mill Creek Group of Alcoholics Anonymous at Oregon State Penitentiary. The first meeting of the Mill Creek Group at OSP was held May 30, 1944.

After moving into a visitors' registration area, verifying their identification, and passing through a metal detector, each attendee was issued a temporary prison pass and all were escorted into the visitors' center, deep within the prison. The crowd was courteously met by a small group of incarcerated A.A.s who saw to it that each visitor got a seat and some light refreshments. Shortly thereafter, the visitors were joined by a larger group of inmates who mingled with the guests. It was the typical activity seen before any other A.A. meeting—A.A. members engaged in casual and friendly conversation.

The anniversary meeting began with a prayer, a few readings, and some remarks by a group leader. Sharing opened with a former inmate, a friend of several of the current inmates, who is now confined to a wheelchair. He gave an inspiring talk about his sober experiences on the outside. He was followed by several inmates and a few guests who shared their experience, strength and hope. Outside visitors received personalized certificates commemorating the event.

The prison residents then closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. This was followed by another very ordinary thing at any meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous – all A.A. members stood around, chit-chatting. Eventually, the guards arrived to conduct the inmates back to their cells, and the visitors drove off into the late dusk of a warm evening. Wherever the A.A. members ended up, however, all reaped the benefits of a good Alcoholics Anonymous meeting—much like the evening, 65 years before, when the light of A.A. first appeared in the prison to dispel some of the darkness in an alcoholic night.

### ■ A Pre-Conference Meeting Behind the Walls

Back in March, 2009, anyone familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous would not have been surprised to see the following: a group of A.A. members, seated around a table, discussing Corrections topics that may be brought up at the upcoming General Service Conference in New York City in April, 2009.

Dave A., Area 58 (Oregon) delegate, and Chase B., Area 58 chair, were conducting this pre-Conference discussion with an A.A. group uniquely qualified to talk about Corrections service—the group members were inmates at Oregon's maximum security prison, Oregon State Penitentiary, in Salem, Oregon.

That day marked the first time in recent years that inmates in Area 58 were asked to participate in the process that would carry the group conscience of incarcerated A.A. members to the General Service Conference. Indeed, it is one example of how the Conference becomes “the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society” (*The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, p. 62)—regardless of whether that “society” is inside or outside the walls. During the meeting, enthusiasm was high and the inmates had many penetrating questions—including several about Conference-approved literature. Members were especially keen to discuss one Corrections pamphlet due to be revised; these A.A.s shared their own unique perspective from behind the walls to be carried by their delegate to the General Service Conference.

After more than an hour and a half of spirited discussion, the A.A. members were required to leave the meeting—but not before the usual “meeting-after-the-meeting” small talk. All A.A.s involved look forward to a post-Conference meeting in the coming months of 2009.

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### ■ Coming This Fall from G.S.O.

- *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*. Revision of the previous DVD; follows script of original version, but with new graphics. (DV-09), \$10.00.
- Young People's Poster. A 12"x18" wall poster targeting young people. Blank space is provided for local A.A. offices to supply contact information. (M-7), \$1.00.
- A.A. Videos for Young People. A DVD of four five-minute videos, submitted by A.A. members who got sober in their teens or early twenties. (DV-10), \$10.00.
- “A.A. for the Native North American.” Revision of original pamphlet; contains new personal stories. (P-21), \$.40.
- “A Message to Teenagers.” Revision of flyer for use in schools. (F-9), no charge.

20% discount applies to all of the above.

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.

September

- 3-6—*Beaver, Utah.* 34<sup>th</sup> Great Outdoor Beaver Mtg & Campvention. Write: Ch., Box 1442, Beaver, UT 84713-1442; www.greatoutdoorbeavermeeting.com
- 4-6—*Monterey, California.* Monterey Bay Area Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 51486, Pacific Grove, CA 93950; www.aamonterey.org
- 4-6—*Saint Louis, Missouri.* Fall Classic Conf. Write: Ch., Box 63027; St. Louis, MO 63136; fallclassicinfo@yahoo.com
- 4-6—*Albuquerque, New Mexico.* 37<sup>th</sup> Conv. Hispana de Estados Unidos y Canada. Inf: Com. Org., Box 65425, Albuquerque, NM 87193; www.hispanaaa37newmexico2009.com
- 4-6—*Gatling, Tennessee.* TN State Conv. Write: Ch., 3638 Big Springs Rd., Friendsville, TN 37737
- 4-6—*Houston, Texas.* Area 67 Bi-lingual Correctional Svc. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 925241, Houston, TX 77292-5241; www.aa-seta.org
- 4-6—*Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada.* 3<sup>rd</sup> BCYPAA. Write: Ch., 33771 George Ferguson Way, #422, Box 8000, Abbotsford, BC V2S 6H1; www.bcyppaa3.org
- 4-6—*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.* Ottawa Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 689 Melbourne Ave., Ottawa, ON K2A 1X4; www.ottawaaa.org
- 4-6—*Saguenay, Quebec, Canada.* Congres du Royaume du Saguenay. Écrire: Pres., 7484 Pl des Hirondelles, La Baie, QC G7B 3N8
- 4-7—*Tampa, Florida.* 23<sup>rd</sup> Tampa Bay Fall Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33685-2545; www.tampabayfallroundup.com
- 11-13—*Cocoa Beach, Florida.* 10<sup>th</sup> Serenity Wknd Women's Conf. Write: Ch., 8025 Gillette Ct., Orlando, FL 32836
- 11-13—*Duluth, Minnesota.* 64<sup>th</sup> Duluth Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816-0771; www.duluthroundup.org
- 11-13—*Park Rapids, Minnesota.* 19<sup>th</sup> Heartland Round-up. Write: Ch., 30284 Oakland Dr., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- 11-13—*St. Cloud, Minnesota.* West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; regionalforums@aa.org

- 11-13—*Kansas City, Missouri.* 19<sup>th</sup> Bridging The Gap. Write: Ch., 2618 Patee St., St. Joseph, MO 64507; btgwcoordinator@hotmail.com
- 11-13—*Burnet, Texas.* 27<sup>th</sup> Bill W. Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 868, Kingsland, TX 78639
- 11-13—*Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.* Grand Prairie 50<sup>th</sup> Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 85, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3A1; www.grandeprairieaa.com
- 11-13—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada.* 43<sup>rd</sup> Dunnville Conv. Write: Ch., 215 Alexandra St., Port Colborne, ON L3K 2Y9; dunnconvention@hotmail.com
- 11-13—*Ste. Ursule, Quebec, Canada.* Congres du Dist. 89-17. Écrire: Pres., 253 Ave. Ste. Dorothee, Louisville, QC J5V 1P8
- 18-20—*Topeka, Kansas.* 52<sup>nd</sup> Area 25 Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3824, Topeka, KS 66604-3824; www.kansas-aa.org
- 18-20—*Newbury, Ohio.* 84<sup>th</sup> Punderson Park Conf. Write: Ch., Box 570, Newbury, OH 44065
- 18-20—*Marshfield, Wisconsin.* Area 74 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 774, Marshfield, WI 54449; www.area74.org
- 19-20—*Kingman, Arizona.* Hualapai Mtn Round-up. Write: Ch., 212 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St., Kingman, AZ 86401
- 24-27—*Woodland Hills, California.* 13<sup>th</sup> Nat'l Archives Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 372354, Reseda, CA 91337-2354; www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com
- 25-27—*Crescent, City, California.* 23<sup>rd</sup> Sobriety By The Sea Rally. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531; sbs.rally@gmail.com
- 25-27—*Plymouth, California.* 23<sup>rd</sup> Gold Country Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 195,

Pine Grove, CA 95665; www.goldcountryroundup.com

- 25-27—*Somerset, New Jersey.* 53<sup>rd</sup> Area 44 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 917, Old Bridge, NJ 08850
- 25-27—*Bountiful, Utah.* Area 69 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 973, Kaysville, UT 84037-0973
- 25-27—*Gatineau, Quebec, Canada.* Congres Gatineau. Écrire: Pres., 5 Rue Schingh, Gatineau, QC J8P 2B6

October

- 2-4—*Sioux City, Iowa.* Sioux City Tri-State Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1823, Sioux City, IA 51102
- 2-4—*Bozeman, Montana.* Area 40 Fall Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 6596, Bozeman, MT 59771
- 2-4—*Smithville, Texas.* Fellowship In The Pines. Write: Ch., 282 Old 71, Cedar Creek, TX 78612
- 2-4—*Lynnwood, Washington.* Western WA Assembly. Write: Ch., 3711 196<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036; assembly09chair@area72aa.org
- 3-4—*Superior, Wisconsin.* Area 35 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 808 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Superior, WI 54880; www.area35.org
- 9-11—*Morrilton, Arkansas.* ARKYPAA XXVII. Write: Ch., Box 250309, Little Rock, AR 72225; www.arkypaa.org
- 9-11—*Des Moines, Iowa.* Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 8174, Des Moines, IA 50301; 2009fallconference@live.com
- 9-11—*Lafayette, Louisiana.* Dist. 13E Big Book Workshop. Write: Ch., 115 West Bayon Shore, Lafayette, LA 70508

Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the Box 4-5-9 Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. at least four months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to Editor: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or literature@aa.org

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE OR PROVINCE

Address to list: \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. BOX (OR NUMBER AND STREET)

CITY STATE OR PROVINCE ZIP CODE

Web site or E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (NO PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME PHONE # AND E-MAIL

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

9-11—*Mackinac Island, Michigan*. 21<sup>st</sup> Fall Wknd. Write: Ch., 1915 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. D, Lansing, MI 48912; [www.aalansingmi.org](http://www.aalansingmi.org)

9-11—*Dallas, Texas*. SW Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

9-11—*Salt Lake City, Utah*. 4<sup>th</sup> Conv. Hispana de Utah. Inf: Com. Org., 3646 Redhood Rd., Salt Lake City, UT 84119; [www.aaconvenciondeutah.org](http://www.aaconvenciondeutah.org)

9-11—*Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada*. 39<sup>e</sup> Congres du Dist. 88-02 & 88-15. Écrire: Pres., 1505 Montmartre, Sherbrooke, QC J1N 3X4; [congrasaasherbrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:congrasaasherbrooke@hotmail.com)

15-18—*Macon, Georgia*. 56<sup>th</sup> GA Pre-paid Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209

16-18—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 69<sup>th</sup> Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6, Bovard, PA 15619

16-18—*Toronto, Ontario, Canada*. Toronto Gratitude Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 31, 552 Church St., Toronto, ON M4Y 2E3; [www.torontogratitude roundup.org](http://www.torontogratitude roundup.org)

16-18—*Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines*. 14<sup>th</sup> Internat'l Fall Round-up. Write: Ch., 13-13A Sarita St., Diamond Subd., Balibago, Angel City, Philippines 2009; [aa\\_angeles\\_ph@yahoo.com](mailto:aa_angeles_ph@yahoo.com)

23-25—*Santa Barbara, California*. 25<sup>th</sup> Santa Barbara Conv. Write: Ch., Box 91731, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1731; [www.sbaaconvention.org](http://www.sbaaconvention.org)

23-25—*Bossier City, Louisiana*. 64<sup>th</sup> Tri-State Conv. Write: Ch., 2800 Youree Dr., #362, Shreveport, LA 71104-3646; [www.aacentraloffice.us](http://www.aacentraloffice.us)

30-1—*Portland, Oregon*. Sponsorship Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1307, Lake Oswego, OR 97035

## November

6-8—*Denver, Colorado*. Area 10 Assembly. Write: Ch., 3853 Sky Hawk Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80109; [www.coloradoaa.org](http://www.coloradoaa.org)

6-8—*Weymouth, Massachusetts*. 46<sup>th</sup> MA State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 361, Weymouth, MA 02188; [mastateconvention@aaemass.org](mailto:mastateconvention@aaemass.org)

6-8—*Cincinnati, Ohio*. Buckeye Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 225, New Richmond, OH 45157; [buckeyeroundup@hotmail.com](mailto:buckeyeroundup@hotmail.com)

6-8—*Green Lake, Wisconsin*. 58<sup>th</sup> Area 75 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 573 Scotto St., Fond Du Lac, WI 54935

6-8—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., 208-323 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3C1

6-8—*Nice, France*. 5<sup>th</sup> South of France Conv. Info: [www.aa-riviera.org](http://www.aa-riviera.org)

12-15—*Helen, Georgia*. Chattahoochee Forest Conf. Write: Ch., 311 Jones Mill Rd., Statesboro, GA 30458

13-15—*Kalamazoo, Michigan*. East Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

20-22—*Jonesboro, Arkansas*. Jonesboro Thanksgiving Program. Write: Ch., 1409 Wildflower St., Truman, AR 72472

20-22—*Lake Geneva, Wisconsin*. 20<sup>th</sup> McHenry Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 717, McHenry, IL 60051-0717; [www.soberfest.org](http://www.soberfest.org)

## December

11-12—*Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. Area 27 Corrections Conf. Write: Ch., 202 Wylie Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808; [area27cc@gmail.com](mailto:area27cc@gmail.com)

31-3—*Eugene, Oregon*. WACYPA 13. Write: Ch., PM Box 506, Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97401; [www.wacypaa13.org](http://www.wacypaa13.org)

## January

8-10—*Dodge City, Kansas*. 40<sup>th</sup> SW Kansas Conf. Write: Ch., 705 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Scott City, KS 67871