

# THE ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

BOX 658

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CHURCH STREET ANNEX

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NEW YORK CITY

#1

A.A. BULLETIN

11/14/40

We wish to thank our many friends and correspondents all over the country for their cooperation in keeping the national headquarters informed of developments in the various groups. It is through such a central exchange that vital information and contact points can be brought to the attention of those who seek the solution to alcoholism which means so much to us.

This bulletin is an effort to develop a mutual idea exchange sheet to establish a closer feeling of friendship between A.A. groups from the east coast to the west, and we hope it will prevent the secession from the A.A. ranks of our San Francisco group who threatened to call themselves "Dipso-maniacs Incognito" unless they heard from us more frequently. A bulletin has been contemplated for some time but delayed due to lack of sufficient personnel and office facilities. We now have at least the equipment and hope to be able to make this bulletin a periodic spree (not alcoholic).

This office has in the past year handled over 2000 inquiries answering each by personal letter. In addition, correspondence is maintained with about 50 centers where A.A. work is in operation, varying from the solitary efforts of single isolated A.A. members to groups of 150.

In view of the fact that in April 1939 there were only about 100 A.A. members, and the fact that there is now a total of approximately 1400, your efforts and ours have been exceptionally worth while. Continued A.A. activity will mean a great deal not only to each of us as individuals, but also to the many who are still unaware of the fact that there is an answer to the alcoholic problem which is practicable on a large scale.

Our correspondence reaches not only the four corners of the U.S. but also touches Alaska, Africa, England, France and Australia. Although nothing of consequence has developed as yet in these distant places, nevertheless it is indicative of the widespread interest in Alcoholics Anonymous, of the far reaching results already obtained, and the possibilities for the future.

For the general information of all A.A. members, we list below those cities where there are isolated A.A. members who have recovered either through the book alone or through brief contact with established centers.

COHOES, N.Y.  
BUFFALO, N.Y.  
DENVER, COLORADO  
SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA  
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA  
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

BURLINGTON, VERMONT  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE  
EAU CLARE, WISCONSIN  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

There are several "working" A.A. members in each of the following cities where meetings are in a get together stage.

PITTSBURGH, PA.  
BOSTON, MASS.

WALLINGFORD, VERMONT  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

And following is a list of communities where A.A. work is well established and weekly meetings are held:

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.  
SOUTH ORANGE, N.J.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
RICHMOND, VA.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
JACKSON, MICHIGAN  
COLDWATER, MICHIGAN  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
BALTIMORE, MD.  
WAUNAKEE, WISCONSIN  
GREENWICH, CONN.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
AKRON, OHIO  
TOLEDO, OHIO  
DAYTON, OHIO  
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The secretary or correspondent of each group has the name and address of at least one member in each of the established groups for the use of travelling or visiting members. However, at the request of many of these groups may we ask that the New York office be used as a clearing house for all correspondence since but few local groups are equipped to handle the correspondence now coming to them from so many different directions. We shall gladly give full particulars about any of the listed communities upon request.

We all know that the A.A. solution really works if followed with patience, honesty and sincerity so we sympathize with the new prospect who said he certainly DID want to stop drinking but after listening a few minutes to our A.A. story said "Oh that! - I tried it for two weeks and it doesn't work".

We shall appreciate receiving ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc. of general interest for the purpose of this bulletin is to relate the many A.A. groups in a friendly spirit.

So best regards to all and let us hear from you at any and all times.



Secretary

P.S.

Since it is not possible at the present time for us to furnish enough copies for distribution to every A.A. member, perhaps you will feel it advisable to read this copy aloud at a meeting.

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CHURCH STREET ANNEX

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NEW YORK CITY

#2

A.A. BULLETIN

1/15/41

FLASH!!!!.....THE SATURDAY EVENING POST will publish an article on Alcoholics Anonymous to appear in the Feb. 22nd, 1941 issue which appears on the news-stands about Feb. 19th. We know that every A.A. member joins us in an expression of appreciation to the Post and to Jack Alexander, the writer, who so ably pictures A.A. in a thoroughly comprehensive manner.

If the number of inquiries received in response to the Post article even approximates the present estimate, every individual in the various A.A. groups will find it necessary to "stand by for active duty". All inquiries will be relayed along to the secretary or correspondent of the group nearest to the address of the inquirer as soon as possible.

And now for some current A.A. information. Alcoholics Anonymously speaking, things are developing as rapidly as ever. In addition to the small beginnings listed in the last Bulletin, we now add -- BINGHAMTON, N.Y. -- HUDSON FALLS, N.Y. -- BAY CITY, MICH. -- NEW ORLEANS, LA. -- OTTUMWA, IOWA -- and some A.A. activity in VANCOUVER, CANADA.

Our San Diego, Calif. group, listed previously as in the "get together stage" took exception to that remark and in view of the fact that in the last five months they have developed a group of 20 active A.A. workers, we agree that they are entitled to appear in the White Star class. (White stars on our large office map indicate active groups meeting weekly). More power to you at San Diego!

St. Louis, Mo., which two months ago was virtually "without benefit of A.A.", now has ten members who meet every Wednesday evening. Best wishes to you too!

The correspondent of one of our newer groups, five in number, advises that they meet weekly in the Union Station of their particular city. This has inspired a somewhat alcoholic dream (or nightmare?) of immense A.A. meetings in the Grand Central Station of New York. To say the least, we can visualize some amazing reactions.

Another odd meeting place is the Coroner's office in a mid-western city. Obviously such oddities effect in no way the steady march of progress to the desired goal of complete sobriety for those interested in A.A.

"Honorary mention" to an A.A. from Cleveland who travels about a good bit in connection with his business and who was instrumental in originating three A.A. groups in the sunny south. He has made innumerable helpful contacts, is evidently indefatigable, and a man who never takes "no" for an answer. He advises that he may cover the southwest on his next business jaunt and we think it only fair, in view of his past accomplishments, to warn all alkies in that vicinity to do their drinking NOW - before our travelling A.A. catches up with them.

Among the many sources recently mentioning Alcoholics Anonymous was Walter Winchell on Jan. 14th. Such is progress - or is it!

*Ruth Hook*  
Secretary

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CHURCH STREET ANNEX

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NEW YORK CITY

#3

A.A. BULLETIN

6/30/41

Much water has gone over the dam since our bulletin of last January mailed just previous to the appearance of the Saturday Evening Post article. The necessity of answering all inquiries as promptly as possible has delayed this bulletin considerably and although some direct Post inquiries are still received daily in addition to other mail, it is now possible to keep the situation in hand.

To date, your central office has received 2325 SEP inquiries - with an additional 2075 during the same period from various other sources - making a total of 4400 letters answered from this office since March 1st, 1941. Approximately 50% of these letters were immediately referred to A.A. groups for personal cooperation, but the balance were so located as to make it virtually impossible to arrange personal contact, therefore it was necessary to lend encouragement and assistance by mail. Many of these facetiously called "mail order prospects" are making the grade remarkably well, some of them successfully working with others in their own particular localities.

Correspondence is also maintained with each of the 116 groups on the attached list - 62 White Star Groups, 24 Red Star Groups, and 30 Green Star. Sometimes a great many letters are exchanged, sometimes only a few, all depending upon the need and desire of the particular group or individual.

All inquiries received are kept in such order that it is a comparatively simple procedure to get together a list of interested people in one vicinity for any A.A. member who travels and wishes to continue A.A. work en route. There are now several such men who have accomplished some amazing results along these lines, because it sometimes takes only a little understanding friendship, an opportunity to talk with someone else who has "gone through the mill", to get a fellow started on the right track - particularly when he has read the literature and has some idea of what A.A. is all about.

One of our Chicago travelers had an interesting experience which seems well worth relating in view of the promised happy ending. He was sitting in his hotel lobby one evening when a celebrant sitting close by confided to him in a loud stage whisper, "I'm drunk". On a hunch our A.A. friend asked whether he ever read the SEP. To the vast amusement of the people assembled in the lobby, the drunk laughed uproariously and answered, "You mean that A.A. article? Hell, I wrote it". Nevertheless it was the beginning of an understanding friendship and several weeks later the man of the hotel lobby was getting along all right and rarin' to go. He will know when he reads this that we are all with him 100%.

One of our New York members clipped the following from the personal column of a New York paper, and since it seems to "hit the spot", here it is:

"GOD GRANT ME THE SERENITY TO ACCEPT THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE,  
COURAGE TO CHANGE THINGS I CAN, AND WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE".

So - until the next bulletin -

Regards,

*Ruth Hock*  
Secretary.

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CHURCH STREET ANNEX

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NEW YORK CITY

#4

A.A. CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

12/31/41

In this season of holiday festivity we in A.A. are grateful for having found a solution to our difficulties which not only enables us to stay happily sober, but helps us to understand and enjoy life as we never have before -- a way which gives us courage to face life as it is and not as we would like it to be -- a way which strengthens us to keep our balance in the midst of world chaos. Yes -- we have much to be thankful for no matter what our present problems may be and we find joy in the knowledge that we may bring happiness to friends and families where once there was desolation -- that as Americans we can now play the part expected of us.

A.A. Xmas and New Years parties are being reported by almost every A.A. group in the country whether large or small. Not only are such parties a source of grand fun for every member, they are often life savers to new members who have not yet had time to fully adjust themselves to this new way of life. Many groups have written requesting that we extend their greetings to all the others so to every such A.A. party we extend the best wishes of every other A.A. group.

Your central office still continues to handle an average of 125 inquiries a week besides maintaining a running correspondence with most of the 169 A.A. groups. Since the last bulletin was mailed to you, 54 new A.A. groups have been reported. Some of these are offshoots of established groups, some have been started by A.A. members from organized groups who have moved to new cities, and some have developed through correspondence with this office. Others originated through information furnished by this office to traveling members. An up to date list of the groups is attached to this bulletin.

You will note that a small beginning has been made in Montreal as well as in Vancouver, Canada. Also, through Spanish interpreters, we have been in touch with a man in Mexico ever since the S.E.P. article, and within the last month one of the Los Angeles members was able to visit our Mexican friend with the consequent report of good possibilities for a group there in the not too distant future.

It will be much appreciated if all group secretaries advise the central office of the number of A.A. members in their local groups. Since for the purpose of this bulletin we were obliged to estimate the membership of some of the groups, the figures given though conservative are approximate. Nevertheless the total of 5500 members thus compiled will be of interest to doctors, ministers and friends, as well as to ourselves. Please advise of any corrections.

Doc Smith and Bill Wilson send you their Christmas greetings and wish me to express their profound gratitude for the truly great work you are all doing.

### A thought for the New Year!

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH TO SEE THEY CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES!

The Good Will Spirit of Christmas is in the air - may we of the A.A. reflect that spirit daily throughout the coming year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!

*Ruth Hock*  
Secretary.