

August 1981

Around AA

Items of AA Information and experience

31st General Service Conference Picks Montreal for 1985 Convention

The 1981 AA General Service Conference (U.S./Canada), meeting April 26 - May 2 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City, named Montreal, Que., as most-favored site for the 1985 International Convention celebrating AA's 50th anniversary. Runners-up were San Diego, Calif., and Minneapolis, Minn. After looking more thoroughly into facilities offered by the three cities, the General Service Board will make the final choice.

Carrying out the theme "AA Takes Its Inventory," the 31st Conference also looked into the financing of International Conventions and the effectiveness of its own committee system. The 130 Conference members (delegates from the 91 areas of the U.S. and Canada, trustees, A.A. World Services and Grapevine directors, and General Service Office and Grapevine staffs) worked through a week of lively discussions, sparked by informative and challenging presentations.

By the end of the week, the Conference had agreed upon 50 Advisory Actions, some introduced through the reports of its committees, others brought directly onto the floor. Highlights follow (as condensed in the GSO bulletin *Box 4-5-9* and reprinted here with permission):

Agenda—that the theme for the 1982 Conference be built around one of the following: "Equal Voice — Equal Responsibility," "Equal Authority — Equal Responsibility," "The Traditions — The Way to Unity," and "AA — Its Structure."

—That presentation/discussion subjects

for 1982 be "Equal Authority — Equal Responsibility" and "How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming to Us From Outside Agencies."

Cooperation With the Professional Community—that AA publish a leaflet addressed to labor and management.

—That the leaflet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community" be reinstated.

Correctional Facilities—that the pamphlet "Memo to an Inmate Who May Be an Alcoholic" be continued, and reviewed again in one year.

Finance—that all future events such as International Conventions be planned not to operate at a deficit and to be self-supporting.

—That a complete financial report of International Conventions be included in *Final Conference Reports*.

—That the graphics of the 60-30-10 folder indicate that the formula is subject to local autonomy.

Literature—that a subcommittee be formed, with a member from each trustees' committee that prepares literature, to review existing pamphlets, consider which might be combined or dropped, and report to the 1982 Conference.

—That the suggestion of a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be tabled until the 1982 Conference, so that delegates can obtain the group conscience of their areas.

Policy/Admissions—that printing of the Ask-It Basket questions in the present form be discontinued but they be included in the *Conference Report*.

Public Information—that the rewrite of the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" be

accepted and go into production.

—That the trustees' PI Committee and AAWS develop a pamphlet, tabletop display, and wall poster of the 1980 membership survey if feasible.

Report and Charter—that *The AA Service Manual* and *Twelve Concepts for World Service* be combined into one volume.

—That the *Directory of AA Groups in Treatment Facilities* be discontinued.

Treatment Facilities—that changes in the treatment center pamphlet reflect the types of meetings held there, that the six-point definition of an AA group be included, to clarify the difference between a group and a meeting, and that treatment center groups be called treatment center meetings.

Trustees—that the question "Are you a salaried employee in the field of alcoholism?" be removed from regional and at-large trustee resumes.

Floor Actions—that clubs should not receive the AA literature discount.

—That distribution of the filmstrip "Markings on the Journey" be confined to showings within the Fellowship.

—That all areas be notified before TV and radio stations are informed of the availability of TV and radio spots, so that local autonomy can be exercised.

The Conference accepted three out of the four recommendations in the report of its Grapevine Committee. The resultant Advisory Actions are given here in full. It was recommended:

- That the Grapevine provide a discount package of Grapevine miscellaneous items for sale to groups and central offices/intergroups with a reasonable discount. [See page 48.]
- That delegates, in their continuing effort to achieve GvRs in their groups, work toward establishing district GvRs.
- That the Grapevine Corporate Board consider increasing the cover price of the Grapevine.
- That the yearly Grapevine income statement reflect the money held in escrow for unfulfilled subscriptions, and the interest accrued by this amount be shown. The Conference did not accept this recommendation, but requested that it be tabled and referred to a joint meeting of the 1982 Conference Finance and Grapevine Committees.

A complete list of all Advisory Actions of 1981 will appear in the *Final Conference Report*, available late in the summer (to AA members only, since it uses full names).

New AA Materials Cross Barriers Of Age, Language, Disability

Within the past year, new developments in AA literature and audiovisual materials have reached out to a wide range of alcoholics and have strengthened service inside our multi-lingual Fellowship.

For public information work with teenagers (usually in schools), the illustrated pamphlet "Too Young?" has proved so useful that its price has been reduced from 25¢ to 15¢. Excerpts from that pamphlet make up the new leaflet "A Message to Teenagers" (free).

Another new leaflet speaks to anyone coming to AA for the first time. "A Newcomer Asks..." originated in Great Britain and was adapted — chiefly by translating British idioms into American — for printing by AA World Services. It is priced at 10¢.

A teenage voice is one of the six heard in new radio public service announcements. In addition, there are two radio spots in Spanish and two in French. PI committees interested in trying to get the AA message on the air may purchase these spots for \$5.00 each.

There are also six new color TV announcements (\$12.50 each), including one in Spanish, one in French, and one captioned for the hearing-impaired.

The rapidly growing number of French- and Spanish-speaking AA groups within the U.S./Canada structure has brought a steady increase in services. The Group Handbook (free to new groups, \$4.00 for others) is now available in French and Spanish; the GSR Kit, in French (free to new GSRs).

Groups may buy a discount package of AA literature in Spanish — \$12.00 for 66 items that would cost \$15.00 if ordered separately. And the archives filmstrip, "Markings on the Journey," may now be purchased (at \$8.50, for use within AA only) with Spanish audio.

Back to basics: For those who would rather listen than read — and for those who have no choice — a prize package at \$25.00 is a box enclosing seven tapes (with Braille tabs) that record pages 1-192 of the Big Book.

And for those who read Italian, *Alcolisti Anonimi* is the latest translation of the Big Book. It may be ordered by writing to the office where it originated: Alcolisti Anonimi, Via Napoli 58, 00184 Rome, Italy. Or, at a cost of \$12.50, it may be ordered from the same source as the other foregoing items: General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.