

August 1983

# Around AA

*Items of AA information and experience*

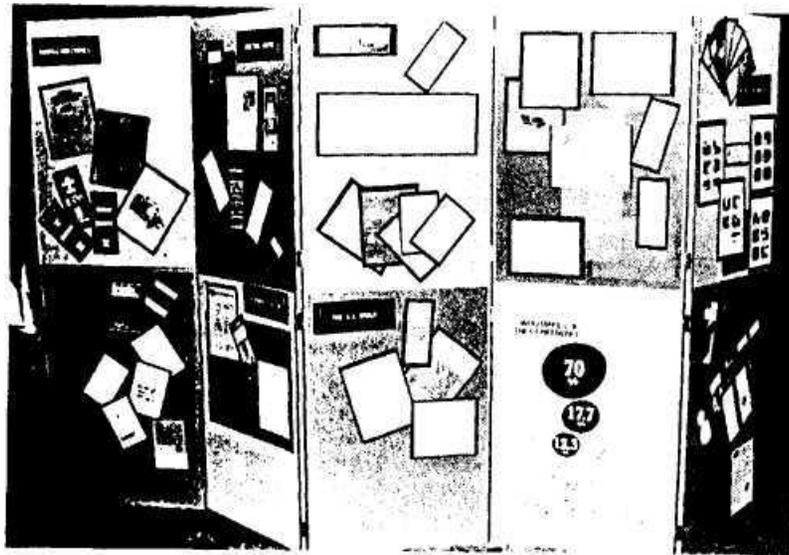
## Actions of 1983 Conference Affect AA Publications

Both spring and excitement were in the air as members of the 33rd General Service Conference met at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, April 17-23, 1983, for a demanding and productive week. Delegates from the 91 areas of the U.S. and Canada, along with trustees and GSO and Grapevine directors and staff, explored this year's theme, "Anonymity—Our Spiritual Foundation."

After a sharing session Sunday afternoon and an opening dinner and AA meeting Sunday night, the official Conference business began

Monday morning and continued through five days of committee meetings, reports, a workshop, presentations/discussions, an Ask-It Basket session, a "What's on Your Mind?" sharing session, and consideration of committee recommendations. A closing talk by nonalcoholic Nell Wing, who retired as archivist in December 1982, ended the business portion. Saturday morning brought all together one last time for the annual closing breakfast, featuring talks by rotating trustees.

Of the 1983 Conference's 40 Advisory Actions, the following are of particular interest. They are summarized as they appeared in the Conference edition of the GSO bulletin *Box*



New literature display brightens the meeting room at the Roosevelt Hotel.



A trio of firsts: Joan Jackson, Ph.D., a sociologist, educator, and longtime friend of AA, becomes the first woman Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee; Gordon Patrick, nonalcoholic chairman of the General Service Board, presides over Conference for the first time; and Victor E. emerges from the Grapevine as a cover attraction and GV message-carrier.

4-5-9, and are reprinted here with permission. It was recommended:

**Agenda** — that the 1984 Conference theme be "Our Primary Purpose," or "The Frontier for AA's Future — The Group," or "Gratitude — The Language of the Heart"; that 1984 Conference presentations include "How Does AA Respond to a Changing World?"

**Cooperation With the Professional Community** — that the statement "AA does not provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc." be included in three more pamphlets, a flyer, and a Guidelines.

**Correctional Facilities** — that a workbook be developed; that "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls" be translated into Spanish.

**Finance** — that flyers in English, French, and Spanish, showing a cartoon illustration of the Regular Contribution Plan, plus an article by Bill, supplement the pamphlet "Supporting the AA Support System."

**Literature** — that distribution of "The AA Member and Drug Abuse" be continued until it is revised for consideration by the 1984 Conference; that the word "suggested" not be reinstated in the title of the Twelve Steps; that the draft of the pamphlet for homosexual alcoholics be approved for distribution among all Conference members, so an informed policy decision may be made in 1984.

**Policy/Admissions** — that this committee and the Conference Report and Charter Committee consider, at their 1984 meetings, the possibility of combining the functions of the two committees.

**Public Information** — that a membership survey be undertaken in 1983, to be conducted on a random basis by area; that a reference to photographs be added to the Anonymity Card. **Report and Charter** — that the reinclusion in *The AA Service Manual* of past experiences of GSRs and DCMs be on the 1984 committee's agenda, to add experience on their financial support.

**Treatment Facilities** — that the *Treatment Facilities Bulletin* be sent to alcoholism treatment facilities, with a cover letter suggesting they get in touch with AA; that delegates ask local committees to help in compiling a GSO mailing list of facilities to receive the bulletin.

**Committee on Trustees** — that the General Service Board study the practice of rotation in our two corporate boards and committees.

**Floor Action** — that we invite a member of AI-Anon to share with us spiritually on Sunday morning at the 1985 International Convention.

**Grapevine** — Advisory Actions relating to our magazine are given here in full. It was recommended that:

— A trial tape cassette of articles from the Grapevine classic issues be prepared and made available as a special item, with future taping to be considering by the 1984 Conference.

— Delegates research the need for the "About Alcoholism" section in their areas, and that the question of the function of and need for this section be brought to the 1984 Conference.

— All communications to area Grapevine chairpersons also be sent to delegates.

— Making the Grapevine available to outside agencies be left for area service structures to handle, in the spirit of autonomy.