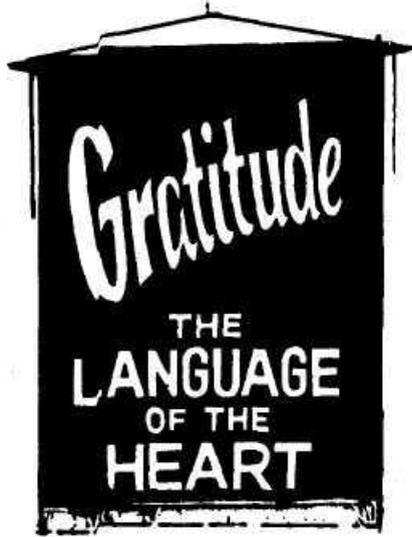


August 1984

Around AA

Items of AA information and experience



Earnest Thought Underlies 1984 Conference Decisions

Hard work undertaken in a spirit of harmony and concern for AA as a whole characterized the 34th U.S./Canada General Service Conference at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, April 15-21, 1984. Sunday night's opening dinner and inspiring AA meeting set the scene. Then Monday morning, all 133 Conference members (area delegates, alcoholic and non-alcoholic trustees, directors of AA World Services and The AA Grapevine, Inc., and GSO and GV staff) began a rigorous week of

committee meetings, presentations/discussions, workshops, reports, and Ask-It Basket and sharing sessions.

The week wound up with a closing breakfast on Saturday morning, where departing trustees (Al H., Western Canada; Joan S., West Central U.S.; and Don D. and John B., general service trustees) gave farewell talks. While Al, Joan, and Don were rotating off the board, John B. resigned to take up a different task as general manager-to-be of the General Service Office. New trustees elected at the close of the Conference are Dan B. (West Central U.S.), Jack F. (Western Canada), general service trustees Thomas J. and Ralph R., and Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Robert Morse, new board treasurer replacing Frank Smeal, who resigned.

All participants could look back on well-thought-out decisions. After each report from a Conference committee (identified in heavy type below), recommendations included had been considered by the whole Conference. Some significant Advisory Actions resulting are summarized here as they appeared in the Conference edition of the GSO bulletin *Box 4-5-9*, and are reprinted with permission. The 1984 Conference recommended:

Agenda — that the 1985 Conference theme be "Service — The Golden Key," "Love and Service," or "Golden Moments of Reflection."

Cooperation with the Professional Community — that CPC news be included in *Box 4-5-9*, eliminating the *PI-CPC Bulletin*.

Correctional Facilities — that the Correctional Facilities Workbook be approved; that correctional facilities news be included in *Box 4-5-9*, eliminating the *Correctional Facilities Bulletin*.

Finance — that area contributions toward Conference expenses be increased from \$300 to \$400.

International Convention — that all principal speakers at the major AA meetings be AA members; that local convention committees be alerted to the possible effect of the International on attendance at other AA events held between May 10 and August 23, 1985.

Literature — that the Bill W. biography, *Pass It On*, be approved; that the pamphlet replacing "The AA Member and Drug Abuse" be approved with revisions; that a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic not be developed; that "The AA Group" pamphlet remain essentially as it is; that "Twelve Concepts Illustrated" be developed; that the updated version of the film-strip "PO Box 459" be approved.

Policy/Admissions — that Spanish-speaking groups and committees be encouraged (in six specific ways) to participate in the general service structure.

Public Information — that "The AA Member" flyer, display, and poster be updated with results of the 1983 membership survey; that a 60-second TV spot featuring the Pre-amble be developed.

Report and Charter — that the AAWS Board appoint a subcommittee to review AA directories' content and format; that "The AA Service Manual" clarify the Third Legacy procedure.

Treatment Facilities — that the 1978 Conference action on forming an AA group in a treatment facility be reaffirmed; that a workbook be developed; that there be separate Guidelines on treatment facilities and on correctional facilities.

Committee on Trustees — that the trustees' Nominating Committee survey delegates and trustees on the question of electing all Class B trustees to four-year terms, no matter when vacancies occur.

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

— Because of the positive response to the trial cassette, the Grapevine produce at least one tape a year as a special item.

— The Grapevine continue to publish the "About Alcoholism" section, along with the disclaimer.

— The "Portable AA Meeting" brochure be included in mailings of GSO bulletins, and that a supply of this brochure be made available to all area Grapevine chairpersons.

— The Conference reaffirm the 1977 Conference recommendation that "delegates be responsible for establishing area Grapevine

committees, using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group." Also that delegates explore the possibility of utilizing alternates throughout the service structure as Grapevine representatives.



Meet in Montreal in 1985 to Salute Half a Century of AA

AAs from all over the world will celebrate "50 Years with Gratitude" at the 50th Anniversary International Convention in Montreal, July 4-7, 1985. Major events (Friday night's flag ceremony and big AA meeting, the professional show on Saturday night, and Sunday morning's spiritual meeting) are scheduled for Olympic Park Stadium. The opening dance — and of course, the disco dance — on Thursday night, as well as panels, workshops, and alkathons, will be held in the modern, three-floor Convention Center, which is convenient to major hotels.

In the fall of 1984, the General Service Office will mail out registration forms (including a list of hotels and motels with prices and a location map). Anyone planning to attend should register through GSO, which has contracted with all nearby hotels to make rooms available at convention rates on a first-come, first-served basis. (These hotels will accept registrations only through GSO.)

Traveling to historic Montreal is a breeze: The city has two international airports with connections throughout the world, as well as easy rail and bus connections. As many as 28,000 AAs and others from far and near are expected to be there. Will you be among them?