

July 1962

## Conference Report

# "One Primary Purpose"

*was the theme of the 1962 General Service Conference held April 25-29, at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, and attended by eighty-five Delegates and four Observers from overseas*



## Action Highlights

### 1965 convention

Plans for the 30th Anniversary International Convention of AA in Toronto, in 1965 are progressing smoothly. During the year meetings have been held in Toronto and New York with AA members who will play a key role in assuring success of the Convention and agreement has been reached on vital pre-Convention financing arrangements, among other matters.

### Trustee ratio

Reaffirmed, by a 72-to-36 vote, decisions of earlier Conferences that the principle of having a majority of non-alcoholics as Trustees of the General Service Board should be retained. (The present ratio is eight non-alcoholics to seven members of AA.)

### Enlargement of G.S.B.

Approved, 87 to 20, recommendation of the Trustees that steps be taken to enlarge the General Service Board through the addition of two non-alcoholic Trustees and two AA Trustees to be selected from the areas in accordance with a plan submitted by Bill.

### Bill's Twelve Concepts adopted

The Twelve Concepts, by Bill, were adopted by the Conference and made part of the Third Legacy. In addition, Bill's Seven Recommendations to strengthen the General Service Board of the Future were considered. These suggestions, in the language of Bill's introduction, "simply try to indicate and remedy certain flaws which, if not eliminated, may lead to serious malfunction and dam-

age later on." Recommendation No. 1, suggesting a revision of the traditional Trustee ratio giving non-alcoholics a majority over AAs on the top AA governing board, was turned down. Some Delegates felt that further study of all seven recommendations, in the light of the newly-adopted Twelve Concepts, was in order for future conferences.

### Informing the groups

Recommended that a special pamphlet containing the following materials be prepared and distributed

to Delegates and Area Committeemen: (1) Seven Recommendations by Bill for strengthening the General Service Board for future services; (2) Comments by the Trustees on Bill's recommendations, and (3) A "minority report" by Bill, analyzing the Trustees' comments .

### Public information

Correspondence with 55 local P.I.C.'s and with individual members who are interested in public information activities indicates an increased awareness of AA's responsibility for

improving public understanding of the AA program and establishing communication with others in the community who are helping alcoholics.

### **Outside agencies**

Recommended that Delegates, while adhering to the traditional principle of "Cooperation, Yes—Affiliation No," establish lines of communication to directors of State and Provincial alcoholism programs.

Approved continuation of the policy whereby the Public Information Committee of the General Service Board maintains informal contact with representatives of other agencies concerned with the problem of alcoholism.

### **Internationalists**

Approved a proposal that will permit "Internationalist" (seamen) members of AA to have a non-voting observer at future General Service Conference.

### **GSO operations**

As of April, 1962 690 new groups have been added to the 8,615 mentioned in the 1961 Spring Directory. Exchange Bulletins are being mailed

on a monthly basis to all of these, and 690 packets of complimentary new group literature have gone out to them.

### **AA overseas**

There are five "exciting" aspects of AA's development overseas during the past year: 1. The growth in "native" groups in countries which until recently had only English-speaking groups. 2. The increased awareness of the meaning of "AA responsibility." 3. The establishment of AA service committees and conferences. 4. Improved public information programs. 5. Development of local publications or newsletters.

### **Translation program**

Reaffirmed the importance of an adequate program of literature translations in making AA available to alcoholics in non-English-speaking countries and approved continuance of a special fund for this purpose.

### **Grapevine**

Recommended that retiring Delegates be encouraged to become Grapevine representatives, with particular reference to the need for recruiting additional GVRs.