

May 1960

Guest Editorial

DECADE OF SERVICE

A A MEMBERS need no interpretation of love. From our first feeling about AA, it is everywhere visible in our daily affairs. Service, however, is not so visible. It usually takes time before we help make the coffee and take part in our group's business affairs.

So it is not surprising that AA World Services and its service structure, the General Service Conference, are still invisible and not known to all AAs. Happily, however, there are those who do know about it and to whom the Third Legacy of Service has personal meaning. And more are becoming interested each day.

Now, in AA's twenty-fifth anniversary year, the General Service Conference is ten years old. Since 1951, it has met each year so that delegates from the United States and Canada can discuss AA world services and have an interchange of views with the Trustees, Directors and General Service staff members.

But the annual meeting in April is by no means the whole General Service Conference story. Throughout the year, hours of dedicated work are given by Area Committee Members and GSRs. Theirs is the vital role of linking AA groups to AA as a whole. The true voice of AA can only be heard when communication flows freely between an informed group membership and the annual Conference. This informed group conscience is the basis of AA democracy.

To keep AA as a whole free of organization and government, the General Service Conference was structured so that its foundation rests upon the GSR. Today, the GSR's place in the AA service structure is beginning to be understood by group members. The Third Legacy of Service is now more readily visible and is a real part of our communication with one another. It is stirring the hearts of old and new members alike, giving us all new insight into our common purpose—to carry the message to those who need AA help.

Lyb, 1960 General Service Conference Secretary