

April 1964

1964 CONFERENCE



"PRACTICING THESE PRINCIPLES"

IF there are any key words in the fellowship of AA, I believe that they are the words "love and service." To me, service is putting love into action. Initially, this takes the form of "sharing our experience, strength and hope" with other alcoholics that they may have the opportunity to recover in this blessed fellowship, even as you and I have.

The first "sharing" of recovery is usually at regular group meetings. Then groups share with other groups and more new people have an opportunity to participate. This "sharing" is unity, based on the guides of the Twelve Traditions. We learn that, "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority ... a loving God as He may

express Himself in our group conscience. . . ."

On April 21, 1964, Delegates (about 85 in all, from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico) will join together with the Trustees, AA World Service and Grapevine Directors and the Staff members, in the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

In "sharing our experience, strength and hope," each Delegate brings to the Conference the shared experience of his own area, thereby providing for a further continuity of service.

The AA group's purpose is to maintain a meeting place with the door opened wide for the new alcoholic attracted to our fellowship. The purpose of the Conference could be said to guarantee that that door and the thousands of other doors all over the world will be kept open as long as AA is needed.

To quote from Concept Nine of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*: "Let's remember that the base for our service structure rests on the dedication and ability of several thousand General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s), several hundred Area Committee Members, and nearly a hundred Delegates. These are the direct agents for the AA groups; these are the indispensable links between our fellowship and its world service; these are the primary representatives of AA's group conscience."

To share in love and give in service will help each of us to *act* in the spirit of mutual respect and love and maintain the very essence of democracy—in action and in spirit. To paraphrase: We hope that our General Service Conference will always be a symbol of this liberty.

*Eve M., GSO Staff Member
Conference Sec.*