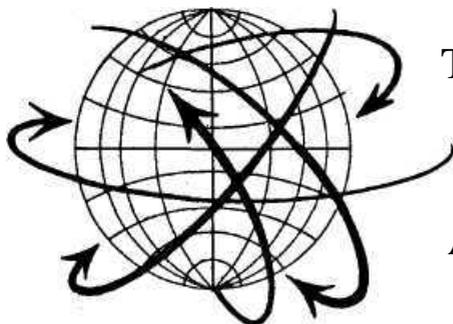


April 1962



THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AND YOU

ALL the Staff at GSO are looking forward to the annual meeting of the General Service Conference which will take place, as it has for the last eleven years, in New York City. The date of the opening session will be April 25 and we will meet together for four days with Delegates from all the States, Puerto Rico, the Provinces of Canada, Observers from overseas and our Trustees and Directors.

I was asked to tell you what the Conference has meant to me. Well, that's not so easy, as it has meant many things and I don't have many pages, but I can say first and foremost it increased my feeling of belonging, a major need for most of us. I have had the good luck to attend all the Conferences since the very first one, and each one has strengthened a feeling of belonging to our dear Fellowship that now stretches round the world.

Second, it has increased my faith in my fellow AAs, a faith that has sometimes been a weak, wobbly and leaky receptacle for the love that was certainly there. Knowing so surely my own fallibility I worried about the fallibility of others. The Conference has demonstrated to me beyond any doubt that when the group conscience is at work, we can be confident that what is wise and right for AA is working also.

Many good and fine things have taken place at every Conference and many that were not so fine and not so good, but what I have gained from participation is the heartening knowledge that the right for AA does prevail. For this I am truly grateful. AA has always been a partnership. We do not do it alone. The Conference links us to one another in a constructive sharing of experience that can mean AA's survival in the years to come.

Each year the Conference has grown in understanding and experience due to an increased knowledge and understanding of world service and to the continuing efforts of past Delegates. This, the twelfth Conference, will probably be the best yet, as we have felt about every one since the start!

Ann M., GSO Staff Member