Film About AA Wins Approval of 1979 General Service Conference

A new way of carrying the AA message received the hearty endorsement of the 29th AA General Service Conference (U.S./Canada), meeting in New York City April 22-28, 1979. For the first time, AA has made a film designed for the general public, to give an accurate picture of life in our Fellowship. Last year, after seeing test footage shot by filmmakers Crommie and Crommie, Inc., the 28th Conference gave the go-ahead signal to the trustees’ Literature Committee, which had assigned its Audiovisual Subcommittee to the project.

The completed 28-minute color film, titled *Alcoholics Anonymous—An Inside View*, was shown to the 1979 Conference in answer-print form. Approval was voted with the proviso that the quality of the sound track would be improved and a voice-over explanation would be added to point out the techniques used in preserving members’ anonymity. Real AAs are shown engaged in lively group activities and the individual joys of sober living, but the camera leaves these members unidentifiable.

Immediately after the Conference, the General Service Office was besieged with requests from committees eager to rent the film, not only for outside organizations interested in alcoholism, but also for local AA Gatherings. GSO had to reply that no prints are available in the U.S. and Canada, the 1979 Conference had been put into effect.

Public Information—recommended trustees' PI Committee and GSO produce new radio and TV spots, including Spanish-language spots; recommended use of sign language for the deaf on TV announcements.

**Resort and Charter**—recommended a more detailed index of service subjects in "The AA Service Manual."

**Treatment Facilities**—approved for publication with revisions) new pamphlet "AA in Treatment Facilities."

**Trustees**—approved slate of new trustees; recommended no restructuring of regions at this time.

"Alcohol and Pills" groups—recommended that groups which by name are for dually addicted members not be listed in AA directories.

**Grapevine**—Advisory Actions involving the GW were as follows (in full):
- It was recommended that, when feasible, groups consider bulk orders as a means of making the Grapevine available at the group.
- Grapevine representatives recommended to their groups that they sponsor subscriptions, where possible, for institutions, treatment facilities, and professionals being "sponsors.
- The Grapevine office make available Grapevine prepaid gift certificates.
- Delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.
- No changes be made in magazine format.

The film decision, the P.I. Advisory Actions, and the heavy reliance on illustrations in the new pamphlet for residents of correctional facilities are to bid on taping 1980 Conference be built around "Participation—the Key to Recovery."

**Cooperation with the Professional Community**—recommended that members, through CPC committees, notify treatment facilities and court programs which meetings are available for prospective members.

**Correctional Facilities**—recommended publication of "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell," new pamphlet for residents of correctional facilities.

**Finance**—recommended maximum contribution (or bequest) acceptable from a member to be $500, not $300, because of inflation, but emphasized group contributions are primary base of support for world services.

**International Convention**—three commercial radio stations air sessions, using volunteer AA tapers to assist.

**Literature**—approved for publication the pamphlet for older alcoholics, "Now It’s Time to Start Living—Stories of Those Who Came to AA in Their Later Years."

**Policy/Admissions**—recommended delegates never have less than 66 2/3% of total Conference votes, but no arbitrary ceiling be set on the number of GSO/GW staff eligible to vote.

**Summary of Conference actions**

- Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous—summarized the Conference recommendations 1951-1978. (For the next few years, as succeeding Conferences will be available on loose pages, as supplements.)
- "Ask-It Basket"—summary of questions and answers at the 1951-1978 Conferences.
- (To be updated in the same manner as the actions.)
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions window-shade displays (easily rolled up) for meeting rooms.
- $200.00 each; $35.00 for set of both Steps and Traditions.
- AA meeting sign—the triangle-in-circle symbol, enclosing the letters "AA," on a blue background, metal disc, to hang outside meeting rooms.
- $3.00

All these items may be ordered from the General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017; Note: The first "PO Box 459" is available for use within AA only, since faces of members are shown.

**AA Growth Speeds Up in Italy**

You don't have to know Italian to translate *Acolisti Anonimi*, letterhead on a communication of good news from the new Central Italian Office, in Rome.

After a slow start, the spread of AA in Italy seems to be accelerating. Developments have come fast within the past year: an all-Italy AA convention; the founding of the country’s first intergroup office; local publication of AA literature in Italian; ample coverage in newspapers; a two-hour program on AA broadcast on national TV; and the establishment of AA telephone numbers, operating 24 hours a day.

Calls from central and southern Italy go to the number of the Rome office: (06) 47 55 14. People in northern Italy seeking help or information may call a Milan number: (02) 60 85 952.