NEW AA SIZE
Spring 1969

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>8,595</td>
<td>148,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Members</td>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,556</td>
<td>21,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Members</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Hospitals</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>18,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Prisons</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>33,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationalists</td>
<td></td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>222,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>14,747</td>
<td>283,329</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated only, until Part II of the World Directory is published in August 1969.*

(Including nonreported members, actual membership is estimated at more than 425,000 worldwide.)

Young AAs and the Traditions

"Dear GSO: Two months ago we held our first meeting of young people here, with many unstable feelings, apprehensions, and a great need. We had only two members and a fellow alcoholic from jail.

"We have seven alcoholics now, six under 40. We made a Twelfth Step call on a girl just before she was committed to a mental institution. We corresponded with her faithfully, and she contacted us to a mental institution. We corresponded with her faithfully, and she contacted us when she returned. We've given our literature away freely.

"We attend other groups two or three times a week. We follow the Twelve Steps suggested for recovery, and use the Twelve Traditions, as the mainstay of our group."

—Joyce L. Box 4-5-9

AA's Twelve Traditions Are a Lively Issue Today

Mail currently reaching the Grapevine indicates a growing interest in AA's Twelve Traditions. The new groups constantly springing up everywhere rely on the Traditions to insure group effectiveness and survival, just as the individual AA relies on the Twelve Steps. And the great influx of young people often calls for a closer look at the Traditions, to see how these principles apply to the different problems of rapidly changing times.

The following recollections of early AA experience are reminiscent of the risky process of trial and error out of which the Traditions were born.

In 1940, we organized AA in California (not knowing any better). We had a president, a vice-president, a membership committee, membership rules. We also incorporated AA for the whole of the state. We were going to give out charters for starting groups. We even put in Roberts' Rules of Order for a while (talks limited to three minutes, etc.). Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".

We had a "goon squad" for the slippers. When someone slipped, the goon squad would find him, take him home, and get him sober (whether he wanted to sober or not). One night, Mort got a call from two members who had slipped. He sent two of the goon squad to save them. An hour later, he got a call from one of the squad. They were drunk also. He sent four more goons. Another call. Now there were eight drunk people. Well, all hell broke loose. Mort, the president, couldn't be at a meeting, so he asked someone other than the VP to run the meeting. This made the VP mad, and he got drunk (haven't seen him since). The secretary's husband got drunk because he wasn't given a title (he rejoined five years later). The membership committee got mad because the people they wanted only "pure alkies".
we figured the "big man" had no place in AA. As for the proper use of money and where its misuse began, we found that out in 1941, the hard way. When the local pastors began to help us, we became affluent; the mother group had four or five hundred members, and we accumulated about $500 in the bank. Mort announced this to the group and asked them what to do with it. All hell broke loose again! Every member had an opinion and fought to get his way. For three Friday nights in a row, all a newcomer heard about was what to do with $500. Then our treasurer (wiser than his AA years) drew the money out of the bank and sent it to AA headquarters in New York. The next Friday night, when the fight started, he got up and said we had no money, therefore no problem.

—C. W., Whittier, Calif.

The 18th Floor Group—Just Alcoholics

A special meeting of the 18th Floor Group was held Monday morning, at which three regional Trustees and Mary Ellen U., latest AA addition to the GSO staff, told their AA stories.

Committee meetings at GSO tend to be very serious, as all present try to fulfill their responsibility of keeping an eye on every aspect of AA for the rest of us. But the AA meeting, like any other meeting of any AA group, was warmly human—both informative and inspiring.

That's the GV group, too! We Grapeviners cross to the GSO side of the 18th floor and join our fellow alcoholics in the regular AA closed meeting.

—The Editors

Those 'Purple' Words

After spending 17 years in the Marine Corps, I don't suspect anyone would refer to me as an "English purist." I've heard and used some of the saltiest profanities ever uttered—but in their place—i.e., in barracks, in barrooms, on forced marches, and the like. However, these profanities were used in the company of other men, and even marines had enough feeling for the amenities to hold their swearing vocabularies behind their teeth when in mixed company.

I feel that the use of four-letter words at an AA meeting cannot be justified by the wildest type of rationalization. If individuals are in such a mental state that they feel compelled to use this type of language, I think they are in dire need of some kind of treatment that AA simply does not have to offer.

—Anonymous

New Pamphlet With a 'Now' Look

Yes, that cover belongs to a regular GSO pamphlet. It's a completely new edition inside, too, leading off with a "True or False?" lineup of familiar rationalizations ("But I'm too young to be an alcoholic!") and the AA answers.

Ten members, whose ages upon joining AA range from 26 down to 16, tell their own stories in this pamphlet. Almost any young newcomer should find points of identification somewhere in the widely varied experiences that take the reader from college campus to urban ghetto. For the old-timer or middle-timer who may sometimes be baffled by the newest generation of AAs, here's a guide toward, better understanding.