

Welcome to Your A.A. General Service Office

The door is always wide open at the General Service Office, home to members everywhere who, in co-founder Bill W.'s words, "trudge the Road of Happy Destiny." (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 164)

Almost every day A.A.s visit G.S.O., which overlooks the Hudson River on Riverside Drive and 120th Street, New York City. They come individually, in groups of two, five and six, or busloads of 100. As they look about the offices that house not only G.S.O. but the Grapevine and the Archives, then meet the staff and other employees, they frequently well up with emotion. Wrote Marty and Morris M., of New Brighton, Pennsylvania, after visiting G.S.O. in November: "At last we are able to speak with confidence, to those not able to make the trip, of the awesome job that is accomplished worldwide by so very few. . . . Oh, I wonder what our co-founders would think if they could see us now."

What *would* Dr. Bob and Bill W. think? No one can say for sure, but chances are they would ogle the hundreds of e-mail messages spewing out of computers daily and the approximately 4,500 visits a day to A.A.'s Web site (www.aa.org), the faxes, and the myriad phone calls, the service material printed on more "new-fangled" machines—and quickly relate them to the communication between one drunk and another that got A.A. started and made it grow.

Visitors to G.S.O. are welcomed with open arms because, as one staff member explains, "it gives us the opportunity to share about the direct connection of this office with the early days of A.A. We remember those early members, none of them had longtime sobriety, but they carried the message under extreme emotional and financial duress and suffered the great social stigma of alcoholism at that time. In spite of these difficulties, the oldtimers made an anonymous spiritual commitment to provide information about A.A. to anyone who asked—member, nonmember, alcoholic, nonalcoholic, inmate in

a correctional facility, media professional, treatment facility professional, student, worried parent or frantic family member. And today G.S.O. remains committed to providing information about A.A. to anyone who requests it."

Visitors get off the elevator at the 11th floor, where their eyes first alight on a wall with various plaques of the Serenity Prayer in 21 languages, as well as Dr. Bob and Bill W.'s last messages to the Fellowship.

At the reception desk, visitors sign the guest book and receive G.S.O. name badges that many take home as souvenirs. Chances are, they'll be greeted by non-alcoholic receptionist Jimmi Larrossa, who answers the phone, takes literature orders, and is one of several bilingual G.S.O. employees who can converse both in English and Spanish with ease as they escort the many hundreds of A.A.s who visit G.S.O. yearly. Says Jimmi, "The average group numbers anywhere from 20 to 40. Whether people come alone or in groups, by plane or car or bus, we know they've traveled more than miles to get here. They have known the pain of alcoholism and the work of recovery, and G.S.O. is *their* office. We just represent what they want done in Alcoholics Anonymous."

First Jimmi, or a fellow worker, takes the visitors past the reception area and the glassed-in conference room to the offices of the 10 staff members, all of them recovering alcoholics, who warmly greet the visitors and explain what their assignments entail. Staff members rotate every two years out of one assignment (such as Public Information, Correctional Facilities, International or Literature) and into another. People are surprised to learn that when the staff rotates, as they will this coming July, they literally move from one office to another.

Visitors love to hear about G.S.O.'s beginnings—how it began in the late 1930s as a small office in Newark, N.J., staffed by Bill and a secretary, non-alcoholic Ruth



475 Riverside Drive

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Hock, who maintained contact with the first 100 A.A. members. Soon the mushrooming Fellowship needed a real world service office, and “headquarters” was shifted to New York City, with moves from Vesey Street to Lexington Avenue to East 44th Street to East 45th, then to Park Avenue South and finally, in 1992, to A.A.’s present home on Riverside Drive. Visitors might well conclude that while G.S.O. is much larger today, the office still does what it always did, only on a vastly larger scale.

As they stop to chat with some of the 80 employees (including staff members), visitors see how closely they work together to process all Seventh Tradition contributions and literature orders from the U.S./Canada groups, keep track of contacts and general service representatives for more than 56,000 registered groups, coordinate the annual General Service Conference, Regional Forums, World Service Meetings, International Conventions, and much more.

An integral part of G.S.O. is the Publications Department and its busy publishing operation. Visitors are amazed to learn how much material is preset in-house, always with an eye to keeping the efficiency of producing A.A. literature up and costs down. The Fourth Edition of the Big Book, for instance, cost \$5 in hardcover, just \$1.50 more than it did 64 years ago. To date, over 23 million Big Books, in all formats, have been distributed.

Many are amazed at the volume of work handled by the accounting and shipping operations. Visitors learn that close to 10,000 literature orders are processed annually, and they meet the people who make it all happen. Then comes a high point of the tour: a visit to the Archives. That’s where those who may have been dubious about the need of a central Archives for an anonymous program come to appreciate author-poet Carl Sandburg’s observation that “whenever a society or a civilization perishes, there is always one factor present; they forgot where they came from.”

Some stop to gaze at first editions of the Big Book, housed among other artifacts in a glassed-in cabinet. Others gravitate to the bound newspaper volumes span-

ning the years 1939 to 1943. Inside these pages in headlines, articles, columns and editorials, the reader can trace the beginning and growth of A.A., the changing opinions about alcoholism, and the lessons of our own transformation that helped us forge our Traditions of anonymity, self-support, unity and singleness of purpose.

With relish a visitor will read, say, a review in the Aug. 17, 1939, *Christian Science Monitor*: “The book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, on the subject of Liquor addiction and its remedy, seems designed for a wide usefulness It has indeed been proved true . . . that something more than individual willpower, or won’t power—is necessary to heal what at least one special sanitarium recognizes in its advertising as a disease.” Another visitor chuckles at an April 5, 1942, item in a Boston newspaper. Captioned “Women Drunkards, Pitiful Creatures, Get Helping Hand,” the report states that “A.A.’s reformed lady tipplers do not mind being referred to as elbowbenders, ex-inebriates or lady drunks”

Reports Jimmi: “A lot of people get teary when they sit on Bill’s couch in the Archives, the only piece of furniture from the original office. Quite a few ask to have their picture taken as they sit there, which we do gladly.”

Then it’s on to the Grapevine, where executive editor Des T., or another member of the staff, is happy to talk about the magazine that is written mainly by A.A.s in every stage of recovery and is, quite literally, “a meeting in print.” Today the Grapevine is circulated monthly to more than 100,000 groups and individuals worldwide. Not shabby for a publication that was jump-started as an eight-page newsletter in 1944 by a few hardworking A.A.s— “six ink-stained wretches,” as Bill W. affectionately dubbed them.

Since G.S.O. offers total accessibility for the handicapped, getting around presents no problem. “Visitors love to look at the view of the Hudson River from our 11th floor windows,” Jimmi says. “Sometimes people will walk or wheel themselves into a corner office and get so caught up with the view, they forget for a moment that someone’s sitting there waiting to be introduced.” One thing’s obvious, he adds: “Most everyone is pleased to be here.”

S.M.A.A. Transfers Services to New York

On January 3, 2003 the services provided by Services Mondiaux des Alcooliques Anonymes (S.M.A.A.) in Montreal were transferred to A.A. World Services in New York. French-speaking Canadian A.A. members, groups and intergroups can use the existing telephone number, 514-381-6266, to place literature orders, update group records, and to get information concerning contributions.

Sponsorship — What We Used to Be Like

“Go to meetings, and get a sponsor” — two strong suggestions that virtually all A.A.s hear at their very first meeting. For both the shaky newcomer and the seasoned oldtimer, sponsorship has always been an essential component of solid sobriety. The theme of this year’s General Service Conference, “Living A.A.’s Principles Through Sponsorship,” offers the Fellowship as a whole an opportunity to reexamine its effectiveness today. In workshops and scheduled presentations, Conference members will take a hard look at how well we are fulfilling our responsibility for sponsorship, ask whether it may be fading away, and discuss ways of providing information to medical and other professionals.

The experience of our past reveals how the practice of sponsorship developed from a sometimes rigid system of indoctrination to the often informal approach we are familiar with today. The roots of sponsorship precede even the founding of A.A. In November 1934, Ebby T., an old friend and drinking buddy of A.A.’s co-founder Bill W., came to visit him — sober for the first time Bill could remember, and eager to talk about his new way of life. In a memorial to Ebby in the June 1966 Grapevine, Bill wrote: “As most A.A.s know, he spoke to me of the release from hopelessness that had come to him (through the Oxford Groups) as the result of self-survey, restitution, outgoing helpfulness to others, and prayer. In short, he was proposing the attitudes and principles that I used later in developing A.A.’s Twelve Steps to recovery.” It would take Bill a while longer to sober up, and Ebby had difficulty achieving long-term sobriety, but it was Bill’s first experience of the power of one alcoholic talking to another, and throughout his life he would continue to refer to Ebby as “my friend and sponsor.”

That amazing power of one-to-one sharing has always been the heart of A.A. life and growth. In the summer of 1939, Bill W., away from home and family and desperate to hang on to his newly achieved sobriety, sought out another drunk, and carried the message to co-founder Dr. Bob S. That meeting marked the true beginning of the A.A. Fellowship, and together these two found other drunks and brought them the message of hope. Our founding members in Akron and New York went eagerly to work, twelfth stepping alcoholics in hospital wards or wherever they could be found, and making sure they practiced the steps that the budding Fellowship was beginning to develop as a program of recovery.

The small band of ex-drunks in Akron, and then in New York, clung together out of sheer necessity, and several sober members would be sent to call on new prospects and keep track of their progress. In the earliest days, drunks often moved in with sober members

until they could get on their feet (both Bill W. and Dr. Bob had housefuls), but after a few years — and several unhappy experiences — they realized that few of their boarders actually got sober, and they might be doing them more harm than good.

The book *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* (pp. 108 ff.) describes the gradual growth of A.A. in Akron in the period after Bill left to go back to New York. “In February 1937, another count was taken, and there were seven additional members in Akron, for a total of 12. . . . There were dozens of others who were exposed to the program. . . . Over this period, Dr. Bob and the early members worked out with new prospects a procedure that was very rigid at first but became more and more flexible and open as the months and years passed.”

First, they would interview the wife, asking whether the husband really wanted to stop drinking. Then Dr. Bob would talk to the man himself, assuring him that if he was serious about it, he could be helped. “In Cleveland or Akron, you couldn’t just walk into A.A. the way you can today,” said Cleveland’s Clarence S., one of those early members. “You had to be sponsored. The wife would call, and I would go to see her first. I told her my story. I wanted to find out several things about the prospect. . . . Then I would know how to approach him, figure out how to reach him. I might set some kind of trap for him. I had a lot of whammy working.”

“We didn’t know anything about a program of attraction,” said Warren C. . . . “We called the wife. . . . We might even talk to his boss. . . . When we went and sat down with this fellow, we knew all about him.” . . .

“Following this preliminary questioning, the new prospect would be hospitalized and “defogged.” . . . When the newcomer was well enough, all of the members in town visited him every day — three or four in the beginning, 20 or more a few years later. . . . If the newcomer agreed to go along, he was required to admit that he was powerless over alcohol and then to surrender his will to God — in the presence of one or more of the other members.”

One-to-one sponsorship as we are familiar with it today apparently has its roots in the Cleveland Group. In October 1939, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* published a series of articles about A.A. “that ushered in a new period for Alcoholics Anonymous, the era of mass production of sobriety.” Bill W. wrote in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (pp. 20-21): “The newspaper’s switchboard was deluged.” Calls were relayed to the tiny group in Cleveland. “For weeks and weeks A.A.s ran about in desperate haste to make Twelfth

Step calls on the swelling list of prospects. . . .

“It was soon evident that a scheme of personal sponsorship would have to be devised for the new people. Each prospect was assigned an older A.A., who visited him at his home or in the hospital, instructed him on A.A. principles, and conducted him to his first meeting. But in the face of many hundreds of pleas for help, the supply of elders could not possibly match the demand. Brand new A.A.’s, sober only a month or even a week, had to sponsor alcoholics still drying up in the hospitals.”

When the first group grew too large, a second was started, and then a third. “Luckily the A.A. book had come off the press six months before, and some pamphlets were also available,” which “probably kept the hectic situation from confusion and anarchy.”

The oldtimers in New York and Akron had serious misgivings — “How could they possibly manage? We did not know. But a year later we *did* know; for by then Cleveland had about thirty groups and several hundred members. . . . The Cleveland pioneers had proved three essential things: the value of personal sponsorship; the worth of the A.A. book in indoctrinating newcomers, and finally the tremendous fact that A.A., when the word really got around, could now soundly grow to great size.”

As A.A. expanded, many groups began to establish programs to instruct new members, and in the mid-1940s, the editors of A.A.’s new national magazine, the Grapevine, asked readers to share their experience of group plans for sponsoring new members. The June 1945 issue described four Thursday night educational meetings established by the Wilson Club, one of four St. Louis groups. The first meeting dealt with Bill’s story, drunk and sober, and the growth of A.A. to the time it reached St. Louis. “During a 15-minute recess, each man is asked to write in a few words just what he considers an alcoholic to be.” These are followed by the reading of an address by a local doctor discussing the medical angle.

The second Thursday covered the spiritual angle and the Twelve Steps, and ended with a reading of an address by “a greatly revered Jesuit priest, Father Dowling, who really started the St. Louis groups.” The third week discussed all chapters of the Big Book and included a talk given by a Protestant minister. The final meeting reviewed the A.A. literature and explained the operation of the Wilson Club.

“Wilson Club members are not considered full, active members until they have attended these four educational meetings. They are then presented with a Wilson Club membership card — a white one. At the end of one year’s sobriety this is replaced by a gold card.”

In the September issue that year, members of the Genesee Group in Rochester wrote that their plan also

included four talks, but it differed from the St. Louis plan “in this respect: Our prospects, or novices as we call them, are given a personal ‘canvass or workout’ by their sponsors before they are permitted to attend a group meeting. . . . It has been our observation that bringing men into the group indiscriminately, and without adequate preliminary training and information, can be a source of considerable grief and a cause of great harm to the general morale of the group itself.” They believed that a prospect had to accept the program without any reservation before being granted membership. “The time when the novice’s progress has reached [that point] varies according to his mental capacity, his eagerness to learn, and the sincerity of his self-examination. . . . The sponsor’s judgment of when his novice is ready is accepted by the group as final and the sponsor then brings him to his first meeting.”

The July 1945 Grapevine published a list of 19 things that constitute a good sponsor, contributed by the Minneapolis Group. After outlining a number of suggestions that might have come straight out of the current A.A. pamphlet, “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship,” numbers 15 to 18 offered a lesson in alcoholic human nature:

15. When a drunk goes to another sponsor with tales of persecution, if the second sponsor doesn’t talk it over with the first sponsor, the issue becomes one of personalities, and the second sponsor will find that the slipper has outsmarted him.

16. Don’t listen to a lot of gossip by slippers.

17. Second sponsor should get in touch with the first sponsor and find out what has been done, so that he can’t pull the same stuff on the second sponsor.

18. If a new member alibis about coming to class and meetings, after a short while the sponsor should impress on him the importance of attendance. If you can’t get him to come, then he has put you in a position where you cannot help him, as he will not let you. So drop him. The seed has been planted; redirect your energies elsewhere. Somewhere along the line he will be back when he *wants* A.A.”

In subsequent issues, the experience of groups in St. Paul and Chicago echoed the need for instructional meetings for new members. St. Paul’s consisted of three meetings, starting with the principles of the first three Steps, then covering inventory and restitution and winding up with the spiritual aspects of the program. Chicago devised a system of neighborhood groups, which began with two of the older members who “conceived the idea of an informal bull session with the men under their sponsorship,” inviting new men to their homes to discuss any problems they were having. The experiment was successful, and “presently it became apparent that the idea could well be systematized. The city was divided into 10 areas and a

discussion group to meet regularly on Thursday nights was formed in each one.”

The article goes on to describe the experience of Tuesday night meetings in the Loop. “As time went on the increasing number of newcomers appeared to justify a special instruction meeting. The first of these was held informally in one corner of the large meeting hall by a volunteer older member who gathered the newer ones and talked to them and answered their questions. This haphazard plan was so evidently successful that a definite regular meeting was arranged to precede the main meeting.”

By far the most attention-getting article in the Grapevine series appeared in the September 1947 issue under the title “Little Rock Plan Gives Prospects Close Attention.” It set forth a remarkably thorough and formal system.

“The Little Rock Plan was, we believe, the first of its kind in the country. By adhering strictly to the Plan, hundreds have been brought into A.A. . . .

“It is not easy to become a member of this group. When a person has expressed a desire to achieve sobriety and has had a sponsor appointed for him, he must leave his work or position for at least two weeks. Usually the prospect is required to spend that entire time within the confines of the club rooms, studying, preparing a case history, meeting and filling assignments laid out by the sponsor.

“If, after two weeks, he has discharged his assignments to the satisfaction of his sponsor, he is brought before the executive committee and there his request for membership is presented by his sponsor in his presence. . . . If he is deemed eligible. . . he is brought before the next meeting, receives a warm welcome, and is handed a copy of the ‘Approach Program’ and the Twelve Steps.

“That is not all, however. We do not simply say, ‘Now . . . go your way, and may God bless you.’ No, we do not cut him off in mid-air, so to speak. We give him a small diary and ask that each day thereafter for 28 days, he record his impressions of the day. . . and enter therein, ‘I have not taken a drink this day,’ and sign his name.

“At the end of this period he returns the diary to the club, is again welcomed, and is admitted to full membership. . . . He is then assigned to a squad, given some definite task, and encouraged to work, guided by some older member, with new prospects.”

Two months later, in the Grapevine’s letters page, readers reacted with indignation: “This sounds more like the police department or probation department plan. There is only one A.A. plan and that is right out of the book. No organization. No rules. That’s the plan we in Southern California try to follow,” wrote A.M. from Los Angeles. From Detroit, H.E.T. exploded: “Good grief and little fishes! What have they got out there in

Little Rock, Arkansas — a concentration camp? . . . Where do they get the authority to keep anybody out of the group? . . . Imagine bragging about making it tough for anyone to join A.A.!” And E.B.T. from Boston protested: “So Little Rock prides itself on being tough. . . and obviously the article you published sounded as though they pride themselves more on their slip record than on letting everyone who asks have a helping hand from A.A. That may be a group of something, but it didn’t sound like an A.A. group.”

While the Little Rock Plan went much too far for the vast majority of A.A.s, there have always been as many styles of sponsorship as there are sponsors and newcomers. Some members have been able to make it through the rough days of early sobriety only because their sponsors made them toe the line — “my sponsor never made suggestions,” we hear from speakers today. Others could only have thrived under far gentler guidance, from sponsors who were always available but let sponsees find their own way. At its heart, like so much in A.A., sponsorship can often be effective in spite of the people involved. As an anonymous Grapevine contributor wrote in a group discussion page on the subject in May 1948: “A.A. is an opportunity to give God a chance.”

Preparing for the Conference

For one week, from April 27 to May 3, the 53rd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous of the United States and Canada will meet at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan, for A.A.’s annual “business meeting.” The 135 Conference members consist of delegates from the 93 Conference areas, 21 trustees of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members. This year the Conference theme is “Living A.A.’s Principles Through Sponsorship.” The June/July issue of *Box 4-5-9* will cover highlights of the Conference. The more complete *Conference Final Report* will be available in August.

G.S.O.’s Conference coordinator, staff member Warren S., reports that, “Serving as Conference coordinator for the past two years has been an absolutely awesome experience. At times it has felt as if I were about to be run over by a giant snowball charging down a steep mountain of things to be done. Yet the Conference process is, for me, perhaps the most potent example of the divine or providential inspiration which surely guided co-founder Bill W. in his unending quest to insure that the message of Alcoholics Anonymous would be available to the still-suffering drunk for generations to come.”

'Grateful to Be Together' at the Intergroup Seminar

"In fall 2001 we met for the Intergroup Seminar the weekend just before the terrible events of September 11—and when it was over, no one knew what was happening or if we'd ever meet again. So this year we were especially grateful to be together."

Recalling the waves of gratitude that pervaded the 17th annual Intergroup/Central Office Seminar, held September 26-29, MaryLou M., manager of the Pittsburgh Area Central Office that hosted the event, adds, "In every respect the seminar went really well, thanks in large part to the efforts of our volunteers here in the Pittsburgh area. Not long after the seminar, we received a wonderful letter—now framed and on our wall—that was illustrated by a picture of Pittsburgh taken from the program. It read: 'Please accept our most sincere gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and effort of the Pittsburgh Central Office staff and volunteers for hosting one of our most memorable seminars . . . From all your friends in the Fellowship across the U.S. and Canada.' "

All told, says MaryLou, "217 people were on hand, more than ever before at one of our seminars, I believe." The gathering, which was held at the Holiday Inn Greentree, included intergroup/central office managers and employees from the U.S./Canada. Also on hand were staff members of G.S.O. and the Grapevine.

A concern expressed at an open session of the seminar, whose theme was "Our Primary Purpose," focused on the increasing numbers of people sent to A.A. who have such nonalcohol-related problems as drug abuse, anger, and domestic problems. One participant told of a situation that involved someone who had been fraudulently signing court cards; later the member whose signature had unknowingly been forged was ordered to appear in court. It was further noted that some intergroup/central offices are suggested that, in concurrence with the courts, groups use a group stamp instead of signing a card.

The 15 workshops gave attendees the opportunity to share a myriad of challenges and the solutions some had found. Together they examined key issues such as anonymity, what to list on a Web site, usage of Conference-approved literature, how to enlist stronger support from local A.A. groups, and much more. Some highlights:

Fundraisers. Most of those present at this workshop shared that they put on at least one fundraiser a year, with several people noting that otherwise they could not meet their operating expenses. However, one office representative said that the group conscience had



Vinnie McC., G.S.O.'s publications director, who died December 2001, conceived and planned the first Intergroup/Central Office Seminar in 1986. It was the first time that A.A.s who work on the front lines had the opportunity to meet and exchange information with others in the same line of work. As a tribute to Vinnie, participants of the 17th Seminar presented a lovely crystal bowl to G.S.O., which has been passed on to Vinnie's family, with the following inscription:

*Vinnie McC.
1943-2001*

*Intergroup/Central Office
A.A.W.S. Seminar
Started 1986*

With Gratitude for Bringing Us Together

decided to discontinue fundraising events; instead the aim is to encourage group contributions and literature sales by keeping area groups interested and informed about the services the office provides. Another participant noted that, in place of fundraising events, "we do have workshops and unity days on which any proceeds go into the general fund."

Web sites. Several offices reported having a "Web servant," an A.A. volunteer with the expertise and time to keep the site's meeting information updated. One participant related that a "lone ranger," impatient with the committee process, had gone out and created a Web site independently — launching it as the local office web site. Almost immediately afterward the office launched its official web site, and to this day some confused members still refer to the unofficial site. One representative expressed appreciation for the links from the G.S.O. web site, and several said that calls for

local meeting information had substantially decreased, thanks to its availability on their web sites.

Twelfth-Step calls and maintaining lists. Several people spoke of the importance of maintaining lists of Twelfth Step volunteers and assuring that they are confidential and for A.A. use only. An attendee noted how helpful its annual Twelfth Step workshop is in getting more members involved, generating enthusiasm and promoting unity. It was suggested that maintaining lists of members speaking languages other than English, including ASL (American Sign Language), is helpful when an alcoholic speaking only Spanish, say, or French or Polish, is in need of help. Another A.A. noted that in handling calls pertaining to problems other than alcohol, she was grateful that her local intergroup listed the phone numbers of other Twelve Step groups.

At the Friday night open session Tom J., senior adviser to the general manager at G.S.O. and then-interim publications director, described the scope of A.A. World Services' publishing activities "in terms of distribution and the extent to which the details of manufacturing are performed in-house." In 2001, he reported, A.A.W.S. manufactured and distributed about 2.3 million books and booklets, and in excess of 3.8 million pamphlets in the English language alone. French and Spanish translations accounted for another 150,000-plus books and booklets, and 582,000 pamphlets." The sum total of *all* English-language products—including audiovisual material and service pieces—"exceeded 6.6 million items," he noted. "Moreover, the A.A.W.S. Publications department handles all phases of manufacturing and production—from purchasing the paper, binding and cover material to the selection of vendors." Thanks to cost-cutting efforts, he said, a hardcover Big Book that was \$4.65 about 20 years ago today costs only \$5.00.

In Pittsburgh MaryLou says she is still warmed by the "wonderful sense of community at the seminar. Best of all, it lasts all year long as we network by phone, fax and e-mail, and borrow from each other's experience to help ourselves to help the alcoholic." Copies of the Final Report of the 2002 seminar are still available. To order, contact: MaryLou M., Manager, Pittsburgh Area Central Office, 239 Fourth Avenue, Suite 713, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1712; phone: (412) 471-7472.

The 18th Intergroup/Central Office Seminar will be hosted by the San Diego Central Office, September 26-28, 2003, at the Weston Horton Plaza hotel. Says manager Connie J.: "We're excited about having the seminar here. I'll have 17 other offices here in Southern California helping out, along with our own wonderful volunteers." For further information, or to register contact: Connie J., San Diego Central Office, 7075 Mission Gorge Rd., San Diego, CA 92120-7075; phone: (619) 265-8762.

New from G.S.O.

- *Experience, Strength and Hope: Stories from the first Three Editions of Alcoholics Anonymous* (B-20) \$8.00. (See enclosed flyer/order form)
- *De las tinieblas hacia la luz.* Fourth edition stories in Spanish (SB-21) \$4.60
- *Alcooliques Anonymes.* Fourth edition Big Book in French (FB-1) \$5.00

Window shades:

- Twelve Concepts for World Service, English (M-20) \$29.00
- Twelve Steps, Spanish (SM-14) \$29.00
- Twelve Traditions, Spanish (SM-18) \$29.00
- Twelve Concepts for World Service, Spanish (SM-20) \$29.00

Canadians Share A 'Dream Come True' At Native Convention

The second A.A. Native Convention of Eastern Canada was held September 21-23, 2002 at Betsiamites, one of the nine communities that make up the Montagnais nation, on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River in Quebec. Reports an organizer, Pearl of Mist: "With great pleasure we encountered last year's friends and made new ones who came for the first time to our beautiful land. What energy, enthusiasm and brotherhood! The conventions are always events full of emotion, and this one was no exception. For those of us who were at the first convention, this one was a dream come true."

A.A. attendees came from far-flung Native American communities, as did the speakers, who, Pearl says, "came to share with us their humanity, their fears and their doubts, their failings and their strengths, their alcoholic bottoming out and their recovery in A.A." Pearl adds that "yes, there were some Montagnais, Algonquins, Atikamekw, Inuits and white people—but they all came together as alcoholics joined in recovery to share and pass on the A.A. message."

For many, Pearl notes, "the weekend convention provided an opportunity to open up completely in front of members other than those back home, where it is more difficult to share because of the small size of the community and because people know each other too well. Also, it is simply impossible for some of them to open up at home because alcohol consumption and all that goes with it is the norm and sobriety is a treat. Impossible to believe, you are telling me? It is, however, true. A speaker at the convention told us about a new group he is try-

ing to build. At one meeting a member who counts three years of 24 sober hours said it was the first time he had ever shared.”

Interestingly, “there were no advance meetings to prepare for the convention,” says Pearl, “just a few phone calls. Everyone assumed responsibility—Raymond found the speakers, Casimir handled the logistics, Martine and Diane took care of the publicity and programs, and Leopold supervised all from his workplace away in the woods. We kept everything very simple. By Friday night all was ready, everyone was at their posts, and we were waiting for the participants to come.”

On Sunday, the final day of the convention, a fun thing happened, Pearl says: “An A.A. reading the Fourth Tradition in French, should have said, ‘*Chaque groupe devrait être autonome*’ (Each group should be autonomous). Instead he read, ‘*Chaque groupe devrait être autochtone*’ (Each group should be native). In French the words *autonome* (autonomous) and *autochtone* (native) are very similar, and all the attendees were laughing to the tears!”

The convention closed with participants forming a huge friendship circle and singing. “Tears flowed,” Pearl remembers, “and then each person returned to his own land, eyes shining with hope and heart full of gratitude to A.A. and the Creator for all those wonderful dividends we received and were able to share with others.”

In Thailand Love and Service Are Making A Difference

In Thailand there are presently six A.A. groups listed with the General Service Office and one lone member. Copies of the Big Book in Thai are in short supply, and Karen D., an American A.A. stationed in the country with the Peace Corps, e-mailed the General Service Office last July for help.

“I live in a small village as a Peace Corps volunteer and have been here 17 months,” wrote Karen, noting that she had joined A.A. in the States in 1979. “I started carrying the message right off with the death of my Thai neighbor, who died of AIDS she had contracted from her alcoholic husband. Right now I am helping out at a hospital at Yasothon. I will be able to hold meetings here and hope to purchase some Thai Big Books for the hospital library. I am also working on getting other literature translated into Thai, though plans are all in the baby stages. My one A.A. contact has been sober nine months.”

Hearing from G.S.O. that she would be receiving copies of the Thai Big Book, along with the 2002-2003

edition of the International A.A. Directory, Karen was delighted. “I never thought,” she exclaimed, “that I would be carrying the message in another country.” The G.S.O. staff member further suggested, “If you expect to be in Thailand for more than a year and wish to join LIM—the *Loners Internationalist Meeting*, an A.A. correspondence service that enables members who are housebound or in isolated areas to stay sober by corresponding with each other—just let us know.”

In her next message, Karen spoke of visiting Bangkok, which is 35 times bigger than the Thai city next in size and is hot and humid year-round. “Bangkok is 12 million people all on the street at the same time,” Karen explained. “So sometimes when I’m there I can’t get to an A.A. meeting because it’s just too difficult. But I have come to a deeper place in my recovery these past two years. Thailand has given me so much that words can’t express—it seems to be falling in place with carrying the A.A. message. Last week I had contact with the vice governor, who is interested in this work too. I feel so blessed to be a part of our Fellowship. It is home, and it can be home to all who desire to live. . . . Love, light, laughter and smiles, Karen.”

Rotation at G.S.O.

Just as we rotate jobs in our A.A. groups, G.S.O. staff members rotate their assignments every two years. Basically this affords an opportunity to practice humility, as well as the practical fact of knowing each others jobs in case of emergency.

For many years rotation at G.S.O. traditionally occurred the first Monday after Labor Day. Recent research has failed to uncover *why* — just that “we’ve always done it this way.”

It has been decided, on a trial basis, to adjust the rotation date to July 1.

Expanded Web Site A Richer Resource

The A.A. Web site (www.aa.org) continues to be a work in progress. Begun eight years ago by the General Service Office as a public information tool, in English, French, and Spanish, the site’s usefulness is reflected in the number of visits by A.A. members, professionals and others. In January 1999, the site was visited nearly 47,000 times; by January 2002, more than 155,000.

The A.A. World Services Board has overall responsibility for the Web site through its Services Committee.

Two staff members assist the board and committee as Web site liaison and alternate liaison.

The Web site, upgraded two years ago, has recently undergone a major overhaul. The staff member presently serving as liaison, commented “This expansion represents a broadening of our mission to reach A.A. members, people in the community, including professionals who treat alcoholics, and, always, the still-suffering alcoholics.” The Web site is presented in three categories—About A.A., Services for Members, and A.A. Archives—in a user-friendly format. The graphics, on a background of blue and white, are pleasing and functional, thanks in large part to the expertise of Daniel Brown, G.S.O.’s longtime nonalcoholic Web manager.

Information about A.A., listed by title in a sidebar for quick accessing, includes the latest issue of *About AA*, G.S.O.’s quarterly newsletter for professionals, and several leaflets and pamphlets including “A.A. at a Glance,” “A Newcomer Asks,” “Do You Think You’re Different?” and “Is A.A. for You?” Also listed is material directed to the print and electronic media: press releases, the Anonymity Letter to Media sent out by G.S.O. every fall, and a sampling of A.A. public service announcements.

The newest Web site category is A.A. Archives. “As our oldtimers pass on,” explains the staff liaison, “there are fewer members around to tell us what A.A. was like in the beginning, and more than ever people are looking to G.S.O.’s Archives, as well as local archives, to fill in the gaps.” Under the Archives category is a mission statement. “To receive, classify and index all relevant material, including, but not limited to, administrative files and records, correspondence, and literary and artifactual works considered to have historical import to Alcoholics Anonymous. . . .” A neat sidebar adjacent to the statement lists available Archival information about research at the G.S.O. Archives, essential readings about A.A. history, available reproductions of Archives items, and the most recent edition of the A.A. Archives newsletter *Markings—Your Archives Interchange*.

Last but not least are Services for Members. Here are ways to communicate with G.S.O. by region or service activity; maps of the U.S. and Canada by region and area; the current issue of the G.S.O. newsletter *Box 4-5-9*: a new-group registration form; and information about service material. Regional Forums, and the 2005 International Convention. Also available are addresses of Web sites maintained by Area Assemblies in the Conference Structure, (U.S. and Canada); and a list of General Service Offices in other countries.

All pages have a header “Letter to Anyone New to A.A.” and “Contact Local A.A.” that provides links for contacting Canadian and U.S. central or intergroup offices and answering services, essential resources for purchasing A.A. literature, and for information on local A.A. meetings.

Also posted under Services for Members is the A.A. service piece “Ten Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. Web Sites.” On the subject of anonymity, the piece is clear: “We observe all A.A.’s principles and Traditions on our Web sites. As anonymity is the ‘spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,’ we practice anonymity on A.A. Web sites at all times. An A.A. Web site is a public medium that has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film.”

The staff liaison shared, “The A.A. Web site is constantly being improved. We update and add information to the site, yet the basic purpose stays the same: to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics.”

C.P.C.

Professionals and Us: Helping Each Other to Do Our Own Thing

On January 14, Elaine McDowell (nonalcoholic), chair of the General Service Board, along with several trustees and members of the General Service Office and Grapevine staff, met with professionals in the alcoholism treatment field to share experience and see how each organization, in its own way, could more effectively help the suffering alcoholic.

Among those present were Dr. T.K. Li, new director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA); and his associate Dr. Faye Calhoun, who reported on recent research initiatives of the NIAAA. They expanded on their vision for ever-better treatment and prevention of alcoholism, as well as removal of its stigma. Also on hand was Stacia Murphy, president of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD); and Kevin Heaney and Dr. Petros Levounis, directors at Smithers Drug and Alcohol Services. All three spoke positively of their experience in using A.A. as a resource.

Events such as this are an opportunity to clarify how A.A.’s singleness of purpose — to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety — is central to personal recovery in A.A. and is part of our collective strength; and to remind our visitors that, in the spirit of Tradition Six, ours is a policy of “cooperation but not affiliation” with the professional community.

The principles behind our Traditions, our singleness of purpose, principles of nonaffiliation, self-support, and anonymity, while familiar to us, often are difficult for non-A.A.s to absorb, and we welcome a chance to explain our basic principles.

Correctional Facilities

Why Go to A.A. If The Parole Board Says You Don't Have To?

The word "hope" skitters from definition. A.A.'s Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee George E. Vaillant, M.D., a psychiatrist, has consistently emphasized the role of hope in recovery from alcoholism, at the same time cautioning, "Hope is not something we can simply hand to another. We can share only our own hope, just as A.A.s can share only their own strength and experience in sobriety." (*About A.A.*, Summer/Fall 1998) And John F., an inmate in a midwestern correctional facility, pins his hope on "the A.A. program that provides the means for me to continue to build upon the footing of my new and sober life."

Writing in his Awakenings Group newsletter "compiled by A.A. members for A.A. members," John elaborates on his sense of hope. "It is time," he says, "to address the issue of why should I keep coming to A.A. if the parole board doesn't accept it as a requirement? My feeling is this: A.A. is not for anyone, or anything, other than myself. . . . In order to survive after incarceration, I had to learn a new way of living. It has taken many years for me to realize I am an alcoholic. Now that I have had that spiritual awakening, I need to keep building my new life. I am not alone in prison with my problems—many men here share them with me. At the meetings we are unified as one in search of a common

solution. One solution always returns to the tables: "Keep coming to meetings."

And the parole board? Says John: "We are given evaluations for our participation in any program sanctioned by the Corrections Department, including our attendance at A.A. meetings. Even though they aren't mandatory, the parole board members do look at our files and consider all relevant facts and circumstances regarding each case before them. Placing good things in our files is much better than placing bad things in them—but none of it will work unless we do it for ourselves and for no other reasons."

In the same newsletter, Ken P. also speaks of having found hope and freedom in A.A. As one familiar with prison's "revolving door," he says, "Some of us have yet to accept the fact that alcohol and/or drugs have played a part in our incarceration. In a story called 'A Five-Time Loser Wins,' another prisoner once wrote, 'We nearly always had good intentions when we were released from prison. But with the first drink, our good intention dissolved, our personalities changed. We reverted to the old way of life we knew — a life full of anger, vindictiveness, resentment, fear, dependence, denial, self-will and irresponsibility. And then we found ourselves back in prison, where our personalities became even more warped.' He emphasized that 'inmates who attend A.A. have their chances of remaining free greatly enhanced — this is a proven fact.'"

Ken notes that "everyone in prison knows someone who is back for a return visit because of that 'first drink that gets us drunk.' These are the people we must learn from. I challenge everyone soon to be released: Do not become a statistic of the recidivism rate. Do not take the first drink. There are many places to go, A.A.s to call, and help for us all if we want it. Life is how we live the day we are given, and that day is today."

BOX 459

Order Form

Individual:

Single one-year subscriptions (\$3.50). Please send _____ individual subscriptions \$ _____

Special Group Rates:

Bulk subscriptions (\$6.00 each unit of ten). Please send _____ units of ten \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:

Name _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____

State (Prov.) _____ Zip _____

Enclosed check or money order and make payable to:

**A.A. World Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10163**

BOX 459 BULLETIN BOARD

Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

April

- 4-6—*Montgomery, Alabama*. Alabama/NW Florida Area 1 Assembly. Write: Ch., 8121 Lillian Hwy., Lot 45, Pensacola, FL 32506-3771
- 4-6—*Kailua-Kona, Hawaii*. 15th Annual Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 390727, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739; www.bigisland-bash.com
- 4-6—*Fort Wayne, Indiana*. 23rd Annual NE Indiana Conv. Write: Ch., 1103 W. Berry Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
- 4-6—*St. Louis, Missouri*. Eighth Annual Show-Me State Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 29214, St. Louis, MO 63126
- 4-6—*Hudson, Ohio*. 28th Annual Northeast Ohio Mini-Conf. Write: Ch., 6245 New London Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004
- 4-6—*Cincinnati, Ohio*. River Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 30224, Cincinnati, OH 45230
- 4-6—*Columbus, OH*. Tenth Annual Columbus Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 819, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
- 5-6—*Trieste, Italy*. Seminar 2003: 2nd Tradition, 1st Concept. Write: Ch., via Saltuari 2, 34100 Trieste, Italy
- 10-13—*Cambridge, Massachusetts*. EACY-PAA 1. Write: Ch., Box 35280, Brighton, MA 02135
- 11-13—*Costa Mesa, California*. 18th Orange County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3462, Tustin, CA 92781-3462
- 11-13—*Westwego, Louisiana*. Serenity in the Swamp Dist. 19 Weekend. Write: Ch., 1028 Market Street, Metairie, LA 70003
- 11-13—*Easton, Maryland*. Area 29 2003 Mini Conf. Write: Ch., 1660 Thetford Road, Towson, MD 21286
- 11-13—*Nashua, New Hampshire*. 37th Annual Area 43 Conv. Write: Ch., 1330 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, NH 03106
- 11-13—*Ocean City, New Jersey*. Southeastern Pennsylvania Intergroup Roundup. Write: Ch., 444 N. 3rd Street, Suite #3E, Philadelphia, PA 19123
- 11-13—*Newport, Rhode Island*. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 81063, Warwick, RI 02888
- 11-13—*Lake Livingston, Texas*. Spirit of the Pines. Write: Ch., 2218 Avenue K, Galveston, TX 77550
- 11-13—*Burlington, Vermont*. 2003 Area 70 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2003, Wallingford, Vermont 05773
- 11-13—*Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*. 52nd Annual Miracles Rally. Write: Ch., 8-2020 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC V8T 4L1
- 11-13—*Dauphin, Manitoba, Canada*. Dauphin Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 453, Dauphin, MN R7N 2V3
- 17-20—*Eureka Springs, Arkansas*. 27th Annual Springtime in the Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 692, Eureka Springs, AR 72632
- 17-20—*San Diego, California*. San Diego Spring Round Up. Write: Ch., 4619 Huggins Way, San Diego, CA 92122

- 17-21—*Adelaide, South Australia*. 38th National Conv. Write: Ch., Box 346, Hindmarsh, SA 5007, ABN 55 253 253 603
- 18-20—*Vanouver, British Columbia, Canada*. Celebrate Sobriety Conf. Write: Ch., Box 93516, Nelson Park, Vancouver, BC V6E 4L7
- 25-27—*San Jose, California*. Sober and Free Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4707, San Jose, CA 95150-4707; www.soberandfree.org
- 25-27—*Galesburg, Illinois*. Spring Fling 2003. Write: Ch., Box 1772, Galesburg, IL 61402-1772
- 25-27—*Detroit, Michigan*. I.A.A.M.C. Write: Ch., Box 5803, Cleveland, OH 44101
- 25-27—*Fairmont, Minnesota*. Ninth Annual Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 748, Fairmont, MN 56031
- 25-27—*Hunt, Texas*. Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., 250 West Main, #289, Kerrville, TX 78028
- 25-27—*Superior, Wisconsin*. 58th Annual Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 996, Superior, WI 54880
- 25-27—*Banff, Alberta, Canada*. 30th Annual Banff Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 6744, Station D, Calgary AB T2P 2E6
- 25-27—*Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada*. District 4 Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 474, Fort Kent, ME 04743
- 25-27—*Osijek, Croatia*. Second Southeast Europe Regional Conf. Write: Ch., Kozarceva 29, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
- 25-27—*Homburg/SAAR, Germany*. 25th Annual Rheinland PFALZ Round Up. Write: Ch., Rudolf-Diesel Str NR 1, 67657 Kaiserslautern, Germany

May

- 2-4—*Marietta, Georgia*. 13th Annual Marietta Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 675452, Marietta, GA 30006
- 2-4—*Anna, Illinois*. Sixth Annual Little Egypt Roundup. Write: Ch., 14555 Allen Road, Herrin, IL 62948
- 2-4—*Grants Pass, Oregon*. 28th Annual Rogue Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1741, Grants Pass, OR 97528
- 2-4—*Greensburg, PA*. 59th Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., 1470 Blossom Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234
- 2-4—*Camp Greenville, South Carolina*. Carolina Women's Weekend. Write: Ch., 308-B Pinnacle Drive, Taylors, SC 29687

- 2-4—*Oliver, British Columbia, Canada*. 19th Annual South Okanagan-Oliver Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 392, Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
- 2-4—*Gold Coast, Australia*. Gold Coast May Weekend. Write: Ch., Box 2061, Southport, Qld. 4216 Australia
- 3-4—*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*. Ninth Annual Cedar River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 581, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
- 3-4—*Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada*. Victoriaville Congrès. Write: Ch., 59 rue Monfette, Local 235, Victoriaville, PQ G6P 1J8
- 9-11—*Boise, Idaho*. Idaho Area 18 Spring Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 191125, Boise, ID 83719
- 9-11—*Louisville, Kentucky*. 13th Falls City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37137, Louisville, KY 40233-7137
- 9-11—*Jackson, Mississippi*. MSCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 4797, Jackson, MS 39296
- 9-11—*Beachwood, Ohio*. 72nd Punderson Park Conf. Write: Ch., Box 22440, Beachwood, OH 44122
- 9-11—*Jefferson, Texas*. Serenity Weekend. Write: Ch., 5530 FM 2208, Jefferson, TX 75657
- 16-17—*Magog, Quebec, Canada*. 22nd Eastern Townships Roundup. Write: Ch., 12-247 Hauson, Cowansville, QC J2K 3E8
- 16-18—*Santa Barbara, California*. 14th Annual Santa Barbara Get Together. Write: Ch., Box 2337, Santa Barbara, CA 93120; www.silcom.com/~sbaa
- 16-18—*Laughlin, Nevada*. 19th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 27837, Las Vegas, NV 89126
- 16-18—*Dayton, Ohio*. 25th Dayton Women's Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 1527, Dayton, OH 45401-1527
- 16-18—*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*. State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 720805, Oklahoma City, OK 73172-0805; www.aaoklahoma.org
- 16-18—*Warwick, Rhode Island*. The High Road to a New Freedom Group Conf. Write: Ch., 181 Woodbine Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860; www.stepspirit.com
- 16-18—*Lake Brownwood, Texas*. Texas Man-to-Man Conf. Write: Ch., Box 140114, Irving, TX 75014-0114; www.man-to-man.org
- 16-18—*Port Angeles, Washington*. Annual Olympic Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1081, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0204

Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the Box 4-5-9 Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. three months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from _____ to _____, 19 _____

Name of event: _____

Place (city, state or prov.): _____

For information, write: (exact mailing address) _____

Contact phone # (for office use only): _____

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

- 17-18—*Smithers, British Columbia, Canada.* Special Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 17-18—*Eastman, Quebec, Canada.* 22nd Congress. Write: Ch., 74 rue Martin, Eastman, QC J0E 1P0
- 22-25—*Dallas, Texas. 17th Annual Gathering of Eagles.* Write: Ch., Box 35869, Dallas, TX 75235
- 23-25—*Monterey, California.* Monterey Bay Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 51446, Pacific Grove, CA 93950
- 23-25—*Covington, Louisiana.* 13th Southeast Louisiana Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 733, Ponchartroula, LA 70454
- 23-25—*Bellaire, Michigan.* Northern Michigan Interarea Spring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 362, Cadillac, MI 49601
- 23-25—*Bloomington, Minnesota.* Gopher State Round Up XXX. Write: Ch., Box 65295, St. Paul, MN 55165-0295
- 23-25—*Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.* Area 81 Spring Assembly & Roundup. Write: Ch., 101 Arlington Drive, Moncton, NB E1E 3H9
- 29-June 1st—*Daytona Beach, Florida.* 13th Spring Conf. Write: Ch., 34 Glen Falls Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174
- 30-June 1st—*Rochester, New York.* Central New York Area Conv. Write: Ch., Box 834, Pittsford, NY 14534
- 30-June 1st—*Huntington, West Virginia.* Tri-City Conv. Write: Ch., 9811 County Road 1, South Point, OH 45680
- 30-June 1st—*Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.* Area 75 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 270101, Harford, WI 53027
- 30-June 1st—*Evaston, Wyoming.* Area 76 Conf. Write: Ch., Box 729, Evanston, WY 82930
-
- June**
- 6-8—*New Orleans, Louisiana.* 35th Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 3117 Independence, Suite D, Metairie, LA 70006; www.aa-neworleans.org
- 6-8—*Waterloo, South Dakota.* Area 63 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 396, Watertown, SD 57201
- 6-8—*Creston, British Columbia, Canada.* 43rd Creston Central Group Annual Camp Out. Write: Ch., Box 849, Creston, BC V0B 1G0
- 6-8—*Vernon, British Columbia, Canada.* 31st Vernon Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 2006 45th Avenue, Vernon, BC V1T 3M8
- 6-8—*Wickwemikong, Ontario, Canada.* Ninth Annual Great Lakes Conf. Write: Ch., 1577 Kaboni Road, Wickwemikong, ON P0P 2T0
- 6-8—*Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.* 51st Anniversary Gateway Roundup. Box 592, Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R8; www.sask-gateway-roundup.ca
- 13-15—*Mobile, Alabama.* 22nd Annual Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36609
- 13-15—*Key West, Florida.* Sunset Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2557, Key West, FL 33045; KQ@sunsetroundup.com
- 13-15—*Springfield, Missouri.* 13th Annual Hear of the Ozarks Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- 13-15—*Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada.* Cache Creek/Ashcroft 28th Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC V0K 1H0
-
- 13-15—*Campbellton, New Brunswick, Canada.* Fourth Founder's Day Roundup. Write: Ch., 209 Miller Blvd, Dalhousie, NB E8C 2A2
- 13-15—*Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.* 31st Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 5720 50th Avenue, Apt. 107, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2C4
- 19-22—*Palm Springs, California.* Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255
- 20-22—*Grand Island, New York.* Northeast Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 27-29—*Waycross, Georgia.* Okfenokee Roundup. Write: Ch., 1306 Washington Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501
- 27-29—*Washington Island, Wisconsin.* Seventh Annual Keep It Simple Weekend. Write: Ch., RR1, Box 143-W, Washington Island, WI 54246-9746
-
- July**
- 3-6—*Portland, Oregon.* 46th ICYPAA. Write: Ch., PMB 381, NW 23rd Place, Suite #6, Portland, OR 97210-5599
- 4-5—*Rivière-du-Loup, Québec, Canada.* 28e Congrès de Rivière-du-Loup. Write: Ch., 10 rue VeZina, Rivière-du-Loup, PQ G5R 3Z5
- 4-6—*Columbia, Missouri.* 52nd State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 545, Springfield, MO 65801-0545
- 11-13—*Montgomery, Alabama.* NW Florida Area 1 Assembly. Write: Ch., 8121 Lillian Hwy., #45, Pensacola, FL 32506-3771
- 11-13—*Gonzales, Louisiana.* State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 792, Prairieville, LA 70769
- 17-20—*Raleigh, North Carolina.* 56th State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 71144, Durham, NC 27722-1144
- 18-20—*Columbus, Indiana.* East Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 20-26—*Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado.* Crested Butte Mountain Conf. Write: Ch., Box 10414, Irving, TX 75014-0114; www.cbconference.org