

AA EXCHANGE BULLETIN

NEWS AND NOTES ON ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLDWIDE

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Dear friends:

A very happy A.A. New Year to everyone. May 1959 be the very best yet. To start off with a bang, we're trying a new format for the Bulletin, (as you see) which we hope you will like. Each of the Staff Members will have a corner to share with you the news and highlights of her particular service assignment and we'll hope for a real exchange of experience amongst us all.

HAZEL'S PIECE: (She is Staff Coordinator)

We are all thinking Long Beach these days: Perhaps this isn't living the twenty-four hour plan but a big Convention requires lots of thinking and planning. Hank has just returned from meeting with the Committee. The members were chosen from the hat at last year's Conference and from various states and provinces of Canada. We'll have more of this as plans progress. The dates? July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Long Beach, California.

January is a very active month here...the General Service Board of Trustees gather for their regular quarterly meeting the last Monday of the month. Just before the meeting, there are meetings of the Finance and Budget Committee, Public Information Committee, Nominating and Policy Committees.. Sounds very elaborate, but actually it's very simple and each Committee serves a vital function. We'll let you know more about who's who and what's what committee-wise in a later bulletin.

It won't be too long now till the annual meeting of the General Service Conference.. Dates April 22nd through 26th, 1959...Place: The Commodore Hotel, New York City.

JANE'S DEPARTMENT: (corresponding with Institutions)

~~Hats off to our Institutional Groups.. A word of special thanks to secretaries and sponsors.. you're wonderful! And extra special thanks for the generous cooperation of the authorities who make it possible for A.A. groups to function within an Institution.~~

We want to use the Exchange Bulletin as a means of sharing experience and to express current needs, such as Sponsorship, books and literature, Grapevines, movies, tapes, speakers, visitors.. Let us know what you need and we'll try to help supply it. Keep your publications coming! We love them.

The Fellowship Group of the Alabama State Prison wants other prison groups to know that they tape all meetings and would be more than willing to exchange. The address: Secretary, Frances R. Group Kilby Prison, Rt. 3, Box 115, Montgomery, Alabama.

Jane who is also the Nominating Committee Secretary has this announcement: Following suggested Third Legacy procedure, A.A. groups in Minnesota have submitted in nomination the name of Pat Cronin as a class B Trustee.

Alcoholic Trustees serve a term of four years and, in accordance with A.A. traditions may not succeed themselves.

This nomination will be presented to the Board of Trustees by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at their January 1959 meeting. His name will be included with

Trustees to be re-elected and presented to the General Service Conference in April, 1959 for approval. Final action will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees following the Conference in April 1959.

LYB'S COMMENTS FROM EVERYWHERE

(She's corresponding with all groups outside the United States and Canada)

From Selma, Alabama: "Just a line to let you know what we have done as a group for one of our 'loners' in Leon, France. We held a closed meeting the other night for our loner and as one of the group had a tape recorder, we recorded the whole meeting on **tape and each one of us said hello and a few personal words.** I am sure that **this** will be a welcome present for any 'loner' who has access to a tape recorder and can hear the voices from his old group saying that although he is a loner at present, he still is a member of the group."

REPORT FROM FINLAND

Emma, a member of the Finnish-American Group in New York City, visited the General Service Office and translated for us the report of the three day Conference of A.A. in Finland, which was held in Hyvinkää, October thirty-first through November second.

On the evening of October 31st, almost one hundred members and their relatives gathered together for an evening of fun. The next day others arrived until approximately three hundred met together for the first big meeting. It was the second largest meeting ever held in Finland. The first, when four hundred celebrated the Fifth Anniversary of Finnish A. A.

ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION--A SCOTTISH INTER-GROUP SERVES THE PUBLIC

Bill J., the Glasgow Inter-Group Secretary, reports in the November issue of THE ROUNDABOUT, the monthly journal of A. A. in Scotland, on their latest public relations activity.

Last October the Scottish Television authorities wrote to the Glasgow Central Group **expressing their interest in the growth of A. A. in Glasgow.** They mentioned the gravity of the problem in this particular city and asked if they could have further information about A. A.

As a result, two members had a two hour talk with the Television Authority's research department, followed by an invitation to representatives from TV to attend the Tuesday opening meeting.

Prior to this open meeting, a pattern of an American television script, provided by the General Service Office, has been received by the Inter-Group Secretary, and this was given to the television representatives purely for their guidance. **This stresses the importance of the anonymity of A. A. members at the public level.** To further safeguard A. A. interests, the script and film, when finally completed, will come before the Inter-Group Committee for vetting.

As well as the possibility of this half-hour TV show, the Inter-Group Committee, at its last meeting stressed the importance of public information through newspaper advertising in the personal columns of the TIMES AND CITIZEN. **These ads have been successful,** resulting in many new members and inquiries from relatives. It was decided to repeat these advertisements which are not over-costly, and to use any surplus of the money earmarked for advertising on the provision of free literature for hospitals.

A letter has also been sent from Inter-Group to two doctors in the city public health department who are concerned with the admission of alcoholics to hospitals. They want to know more about A. A. and an Inter-Group deputation is ready to meet them at short notice to discuss this important matter.

ANITA'S COMMENTS: (She's Group Records, you'll remember)

You'll soon be receiving Directory Cards to be filled out with accurate information for the 1959 Directory. Please help other members to share the benefits of an accurate and useful Directory. **All cards should be returned not LATER than FEBRUARY 1, 1959.** We are counting on your cooperation.

EVE'S CONFERENCE CORNER AND PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTH:

It has been my pleasure to participate in several Assembly and Area meetings this past two or three months. It is heartwarming to find so much interest in our Legacy of Service. It is only in this way that the General Service Conference can truly express the conscience of A.A. The following excerpts from letters indicate that A.A.'s who have accepted invitations to speak (anonymously, of course) before non-A.A. groups are finding it rewarding.

From P.G., California: "Would it interest GSO to know that for the past three years I have been making AA talks to the Senior Psychology Classes at the San Francisco Theological Seminary - a Presbyterian College in San Anselmo, California on the subject of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"This is a sort of activity that I feel is very worthwhile. After his talk P. received the following letter from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. "This is just a formal note from the seminary and particularly from my department to express our deep appreciation for the very fine presentation which you gave to my class in Personal Dynamics last week."

From L.L.B., Michigan: "I gave a talk at Thurston High School here last week. Contrary to the belief of many, these young people are quite serious in their quest for an answer to this problem.

We all have a great responsibility to the coming generations."

From a new Delegate from British Columbia, Bill S:

"Because there appears to be a great deal of confusion here as to what a GSR does and how an election is carried out under the Third Legacy, we propose calling a special meeting here next Sunday. Attending will be GSRs from groups in the Vancouver-North Shore-New Westminster zones. Our plan is to bring together the retiring GSRs and the incoming GSRs -- the former to explain how they have functioned; the latter to ask questions to clear up any misunderstandings."

If there are G.S.R.'s who are uncertain as to their role in the General Service Conference we would welcome their questions.

Eve has also contributed the following two announcements as secretary of the Public Information Committee. "The Public Information Committee at General Service would like to express its appreciation to all of the Intergroups and Central Service Offices throughout the United States and Canada, who sent in such complete reports on local reaction to the October 2nd production of "The Days of Wine and Roses." These reports made the story in the December Bulletin possible, and we are truly grateful.

The Public Information Committee is planning the schedule for the exhibit of Alcoholics Anonymous, which has been designed solely for use at national professional meetings. So far, we are definitely showing it at the American Public Health Association Meeting, the American Medical Association Meeting, and the Nurses Association.

ANN'S SHORE TO SHIP SIGNAL: (Group Relations and correspondence with Internationalists)

Look for a January Internationalists Bulletin soon. The December one should be in your hands by now. Because of this "Special" Bulletin, you won't find much Internationalist news here.

The welcome mat is out for you Internationalists in Liverpool. The phone number to call there is Stoneycroft 2193. Owen will answer.

There are a couple of announcements about Anniversaries and Banquets. Pittsburgh, (Pa.) will be holding its annual banquet on Sunday evening, February 22, 1959 in the ballroom of the Penn-Sheraton hotel.

The Kentucky State Conference will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, March 6th, 7th and 8th, 1959.

The Oklahoma State Conference will take place June 6th and 7th, 1959, and the Twelfth North Carolina Convention will be held at Winston Salem on May 22, 23 and 24th.

Our fellowship is growing all the time. There were 69 new groups registered with us in the month of November, 24 overseas, 6 new clubs, one Intergroup, 11 loners, 6 prison groups, 3 hospital groups and 7 Internationalists. We have had 120 visitors since last the bulletin appeared! They came from all over, one from as far away as Hawaii.

Thank you for all your beautiful Christmas cards. We wish we could acknowledge each one personally.

Please let's hear from you. Only in this way can we do a good job together. Let's hear gripes if you have any and suggestions for improving our services. We'd like especially to know if you like this new kind of Bulletin. We do, because it makes us seem closer to you and this is what A.A. is, a sharing and a closeness. Until next month then, A.A. blessings on you!

P. S. Do you know? . . . That Hank, Anita, Ann, Eve, Hazel, Jane and Lyb are all members of A.A. ? **We've found that some people don't realize that the six female "staffers" and our male General Service Committee Chairman are all A.A.'s.**

. . . . that Dolores, the clerical supervisor and the girls who work with her are non-AAs, as is Dennis the Accounting Supervisor and his staff and Al the shipping supervisor and his. All of these guys and gals are devoted to A.A. and their enthusiasm and hard work make our jobs here a pleasure. **We couldn't get along without these grand people, and this gives us an opportunity to say "Thanks" where it can be heard.**

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