

June 1963

## CONFERENCE NEWS FLASH

*"Our Common Welfare" theme of 1963 General Service  
Conference held in New York City, April 24-28*

THE SHARED EXPERIENCES OF AAs everywhere is one of the great needs of our Fellowship. The Conference Secretary, Beth, told the Delegates about the two experimental sharing sessions which were held during the past year for Committee members and GSRs. The sessions are set up so as to reduce debate and achieve maximum exchange of ideas. Your Delegate will tell you how this scheme works.

THREE NEW REGIONAL trustees (Howard B., Ohio; Roy S., Oklahoma; James M., California) were added as AA Trustees (Class B) in elections held on the floor of the Conference for the first time.

A REQUEST from the Province of Quebec for an additional Delegate to represent French-speaking groups will receive further consideration by the Admissions Committee.

GV NOTES: We are pleased to report that the Conference voted complete confidence in the guidance and co-operation which the GV editors received through the Corporate Board... a meeting of the GV Committee reaffirmed last year's decision to have the outgoing Delegates act as GV Representatives in their respective areas. It was also agreed that all Conference Delegates would seek to secure the co-operation of their area groups in establishing a GVR within each group. The function of the GVR is to keep all of you informed about our magazine and to foster its use as one of the important tools of recovery.

STATISTICS NEED NOT be dull, especially as they apply to AA growth. The Financial Report shows that in 1945 there were 983 groups world-wide and 10 employees at GSO. Ten years later there were 6000 groups and 27 GSO employees. Today there are

10,070 groups served by the General Service Office. In 1962 there were 1,280 new groups registered. Seven hundred and ninety-seven were in the U.S. and Canada, 302 overseas, 8 in hospitals and 97 in prisons.

OVERSEAS, new groups in English-speaking areas indicate AA continues to develop. Complimentary literature, a Directory, and information on local services are sent immediately. The "Exchange Bulletin," as well as correspondence, is shared with all English-speaking overseas groups. The problems of AA's development in overseas areas have invariably resulted from a lack of understanding of our Traditions. AA is fast developing in many areas which are economically depressed, such as in South and Central Americas. As a result of Conference recommendations, the literature in Spanish has been reprinted to make it possible for these areas to develop their own literature purchases. The growth of AA in foreign language areas when GSO is able to make available AA information and service in the language in question shows the way in which AA can develop.

FOR THE FIRST TIME Finland sent an Observer and the Internationalists had an Observer present in the person of Captain Jack. Other countries represented were Norway, Holland, Sweden and France.

THE NEED for taking the Fellowship's inventory and accepting criticism from outsiders as an aid to healthy growth was discussed by three AA Trustees (non-alcoholic). The friendly critics who took us apart and put us together again were Professor Harrison Trice, Austin MacCormick and Dr. Harry Tiebout. Bill W. followed with a moving talk on AA's early struggles. Accepting responsibility, he said, was a painful accompaniment of maturity.

GREETINGS FROM the 1965 Toronto Convention were conveyed to the Conference by Jack K. of Northern Ontario. A fund of \$6,500 has been raised in Canada as a guarantee against a possible deficit. Herb M., chairman of the Convention Committee, will go to Toronto in the fall to help work out further details. This, incidentally, will be the first official international convention of AA.