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30 Years Ago in the Grapevine

In light of the million-plus membership and 42,000 groups, in 110 countries, estimated for AA today, it's interesting to look back a few decades. The December 1951 Grapevine reported the presenting to AA of the American Public Health Association's Lasker Award (October 1951), "in recognition of its unique and highly successful approach" to alcoholism.

"Since its founding sixteen years ago, Alcoholics Anonymous has brought recovery to more than 120,000 chronic drinkers formerly thought hopeless. Today this world fellowship of 4,000 groups, ... in 38 countries, is rehabilitating 25,000 additional persons yearly. . . .

"Alcoholics Anonymous works upon the novel principle that a recovered alcoholic can reach and treat a fellow sufferer as no one else can."



The Lasker Award statuette, replica of the classical Winged Victory of Samothrace, symbolizing victory over death and disease, now has a place of honor in the AA archives.