

September 1951

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST



THE emergencies of war changed the habits and affected the lives of many AAs in Chicago, just as it did in the rest of the nation. Members found themselves working the dog watches and the graveyard shifts and were denied their customary Thursday discussion meetings and Tuesday general meetings. Into Chicago came many transient

members.

To provide group activities for these members, and to avoid the "Ionesome Sunday", the Sunday morning breakfasts came into being. Appropriately enough, the first Chicago breakfast was held on Saint Valentine's Day at the Hayes hotel on Chicago's south side, in February, 1943. Seven members attend-

ed that first meeting. Today the weekly attendance is from 50 to 75.

Members Perform KP

In 1946, another south side breakfast club was started, called the Beverly Breakfast, but which now meets at the Field house at 96th Street and Longwood Drive. Members provide the food, do their own cooking and dish-washing. Approximately 60 members are served each Sunday.

Five Years Without "Repeater"

On Oct. 20, 1946, the West Side Breakfast club has its first meeting in the Austin YMCA. Meetings have continued weekly without interruption and without a "repeater" speaker for five years. This group now embraces about 135 members.

From 7 to 75

In 1947, the North Side Breakfast club was started in the Sheridan Hotel and after a few months moved to the Wilson Ave. YMCA. Like other breakfast clubs, it had a small beginning, original membership being but seven. However, the growth was steady and now the

weekly attendance is from 60 to 75.

Another Sunday morning breakfast is held at Wagtayle's restaurant on the north side. This is informal, there is no speaker assigned, and the affair is confined to cross table conversation.

Uniform Procedure

Procedure at the Chicago breakfast clubs is fairly uniform. After breakfast, which is usually served from 9 to 10, the meeting is opened with a quiet time, announcements are read, followed by introduction of the speaker who talks for a half-hour or so on a prepared theme. This is followed by remarks from various members in the audience who either volunteer or are called on by the chairman. Meetings are closed by the entire group repeating the Lord's Prayer.

600 Breakfast Members

The Chicago Sunday morning breakfasts are open only to members of AA, some of whom have no church affiliation. Many others find time to attend their own church services and the breakfast meeting as well.

All in all, about 600 members attend Sunday morning AA breakfasts in the Chicago district.