

July 1966

The 1966 General Service Conference

Eighty-eight Delegates representing AA groups on the North American continent gathered in New York April 18 to 23 for the sixteenth Annual Conference. This is a brief review of the highlights of the sessions. AA World Services has published a full report, which is available to members for \$1.00. Write P.O. Box 459, New York, New York 10017.

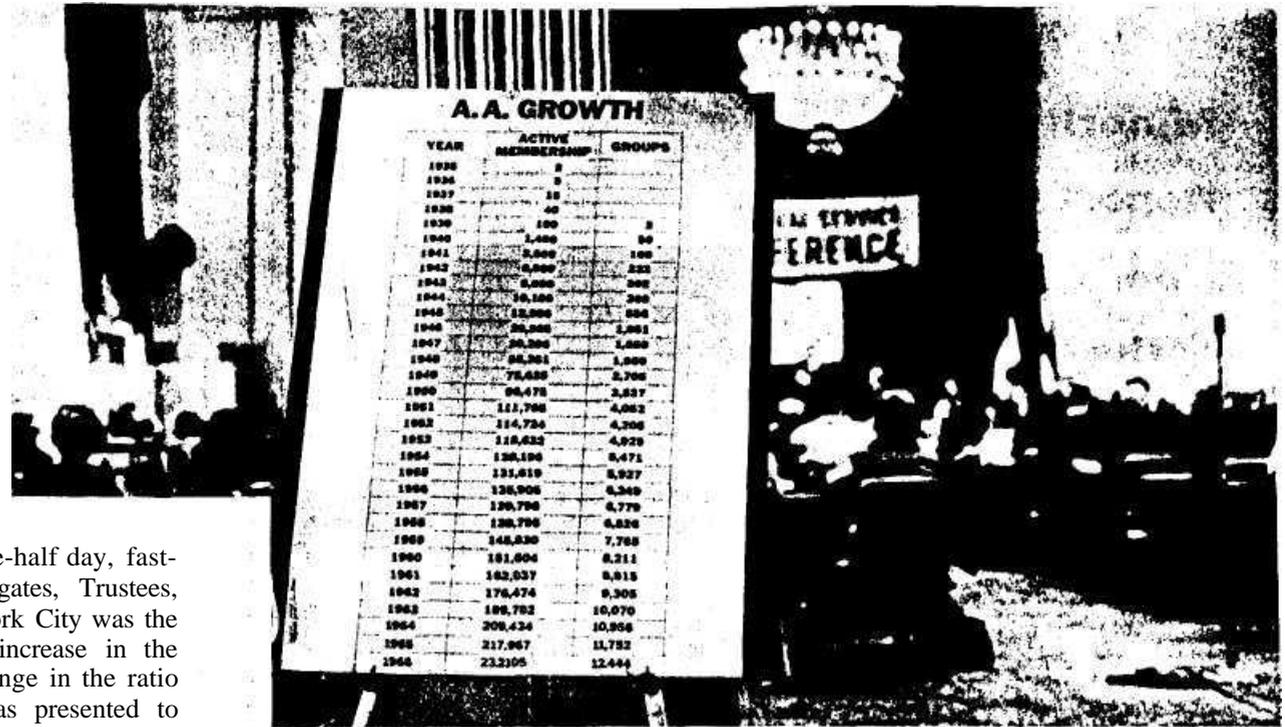
A Vote for Responsibility

THE most important vote taken in a five-and-one-half day, fast-paced meeting of AA's General Service Delegates, Trustees, Directors and Staff, at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City was the approval, 92 to 24, of the Trustees' plan for an increase in the number of General Service Board Trustees and a change in the ratio of nonalcoholic to alcoholic Trustees. The plan was presented to Grapevine readers in the January, 1966 issue.

The number of Trustees on the Board, which has responsibility for the operation of AA's World Services and the Grapevine, will be increased by the Conference vote from 19 to 21, and when the new structure is finally in effect there will be fourteen alcoholics and seven nonalcoholics on the Board. From the inception of AA's Foundation (the old name for the General Service Board) until now, nonalcoholic members held the majority of seats.

This Conference vote signals the acceptance by AA's elected Delegates of the concept of direct AA responsibility for the headquarters activities, and is another big step in AA's growth.

The twenty-one members of the new Board will be apportioned as follows: There will be seven Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees; eight Regional Class B (alcoholic) Trustees, six from the U.S. and two from Canada; and six General Service Trustees, four from N. Y., one from Canada, and one from the U.S. outside N. Y. Nine present Class A Trustees will continue to serve without limit of term and, as openings arise, the number will gradually be reduced to seven. New Class A Trustees will be elected for three-year terms, and will be eligible for three consecutive terms.



Photograph by Anne F.

At the Conference, all area Delegates reported briefly on the state of AA in their areas—this Conference demonstrated unusually thorough advance preparation. Delegates had frequent opportunities to put questions on problems and progress in their areas before the other Delegates and the General Service Staff. All Delegates assembled for presentations of the work of World Services and the Grapevine, and broke into smaller groups for Committee meetings, sharing sessions and interview times on questions presented by and to General Service Staff members. Up for discussion (just a few of the many topics): The present practice of anonymity *within* AA—more than half of the Delegates said there had been no change, but of the remainder, thirty-five felt that anonymity within AA was slackening, only three said it was tightening. A 1970 Convention—Miami is first choice of location; Chicago, second. A hard cover book containing selections from Bill's writings—approved. What's the line between attraction and promotion?—a new, one-minute TV public service film presenting AA was screened by the Public Information Committee.