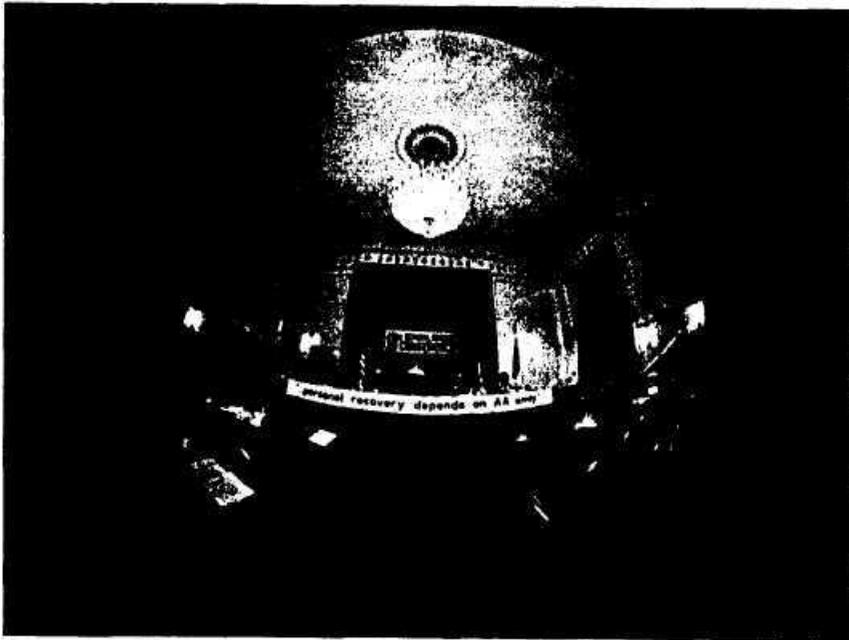


August 1968

Around AA

Items of AA information and experience



Eighty-nine AA delegates representing the U.S. and Canada met in this room at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, April 22-27, to review the past year's activities at AA headquarters and to assess the needs of the coming year. Theme of the deliberations: "Personal recovery depends on AA unity."

Photos by Anne F.

Final Report of the Annual Meeting of the 18th AA General Service Conference

The curtain rang down on the 18th General Service Conference—"group conscience" of the AA Fellowship in North America—on Saturday, April 27, after a full week of reports, presentations, questions, answers, and just plain, old-fashioned AA socializing.

Delegates heard about new ideas for carrying the message; they reviewed finances for GSO and the Grapevine; exchanged views concerning their respective areas; and set down more than forty specific advisory actions to guide GSO staff workers in the coming year.

Among these was approval of plans for a first World Service Meeting to be held in New York City in the fall of 1969. The Conference outlined first steps toward bringing together representatives of the many nations where AA is now in existence, in what is certain to be a historic assemblage.

Full details of the 1968 Conference, and all pertinent AA financial reports, are printed in the *Final Report of the Annual Meeting of the 18th General Service Conference*, available now at \$1.50 per copy. Write: GSO, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017. Ask for "Conference Report," and enclose payment in check or money order.

	Active Membership	Groups
1940	1,400	50
1945	12,986	554
1950	96,475	3,527
1955	131,619	5,927
1960	151,604	8,211
1961	162,037	8,615
1962	176,474	9,305
1963	189,702	10,070
1964	209,434	10,934
1965	217,967	11,752
1966	232,105	12,444
1967	251,615	13,279
1968	263,026	14,154

Grapevine Goes Over 50,000

Looking through past issues of the Grapevine is a nostalgic undertaking, as much because of the striking consistency of the AA message the magazine carries as because of memories of oneself in those gone-by months of sobriety. It hardly seems possible that twenty-four years of Grapevines have been readied, printed, and sold!

The first issue came out in June 1944, the work of some volunteers in New York. By January 1949 circulation was 14,300. January 1954 — 28,778. January 1959 — 33,973. January 1964 — 44,116. The April issue this year hit 50,087. Hallelujah!

The editorial staff is working on plans for a little celebration for the Grapevine's twenty-fifth anniversary. Strictly nonvinous of course, but heady. Stand by for further bulletins.

— *The Editors*

Apple Green AA

AA has made it to the "Apple Green Room"! Behind this door is a green room sometimes used for AA meetings on the SS——(a merchant ship).

Usually, at sea, there are two of us present (the tape recorder and myself) but sometimes three or four. Last month, though, we had a large proportion of the Newport, Oregon, group aboard. As the little green room measures only 6 x 8 feet, we were practically drinking coffee from each other's shoes! But it was a grand meeting, and I love these small groups!

I almost forgot: in the foreground, W7FNE/MM, one of the few mobile

stations devoted exclusively to AA work! I never knew it was possible to love an inanimate object, but this rig is dearer to me than all the gold in Fort Knox! It



has been around the world three times and across the Pacific, the U.S., and the Atlantic many times. I have seldom been over 200 yards from it in the past three years. I keep in touch with my sponsor and other members every day with it—truly a wonderful lifeline and one of God's special answers to me, one I had never even thought of!

— *Ben L.*

Happy sobriety is the difference between attendance *at* meetings and participation *in* meetings.