

August 1978

Around AA

Items of AA information and experience



AA Film Project, New Trustee Chairman Presented at Conference
The AA Fellowship's unique ability to meet changes without losing continuity or departing from its basic principles was demonstrated strongly at the 28th General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada), held April 16-22 in New York City.

Conference members, with no dissent, approved carrying the message to the general public through the film medium, after viewing test footage prepared under the guidance of the Audiovisual Subcommittee of the trustees' Literature Committee. Noted documentary producers David and Karen Cromie shot these scenes to show how real AA members could be photographed with no anonymity breaks, and how the AA spirit could be captured on film. They will proceed with a 25-minute film, to be presented to the

1979 Conference. It can be released only with Conference approval.

This Conference was the last chaired by John L. Norris, MD, who retired as chairman of the General Service Board after the last session. Dr. Jack, a trustee for 27 years, chairman of the board for 15 years, and now chairman emeritus, was immediately succeeded by Milton A. Maxwell, Ph.D. (left).

Also a nonalcoholic, Milton was a director of The AA Grapevine, Inc., 1967-1972, and was elected as a trustee in 1971. He is an authority in the alcoholism field and has been a devoted friend of AA since the 1940's. After his retirement from directorship of the Summer School of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University, Milton moved to Olympia, Wash., where he is continuing his writing activities.

Presentations/discussions, workshops, and reports offered a wide range of topics to the 135 Conference members (area delegates, trustees, directors of AA World Services and the Grapevine, and staffs of the Grapevine and the General Service Office). A sampling: "The Twelve Traditions—Why It Works," "How and Why AA Grows," "Participation of the GSR," "Are We Letting Others Do Our Work?"

Among the Advisory Actions that the Conference agreed upon were the following recommendations (reprinted here, with permission, as condensed in the GSO bulletin *Box 4-5-9*):

Agenda—recommended 1979 Conference theme be built around idea of "The Legacies: Our Heritage and My Responsibility."

Cooperation with the Professional Community—suggested that AA groups meeting in treatment facilities function better if AA members employed by the facilities do not run the AA meetings, and that such groups try to abide by the self-support Tradition.

Correctional Facilities—approved publication of new pamphlet for inmates, with the

title "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

Finance—raised area contribution for Conference expense from \$200 to \$300; recommended that new pamphlet on finance be prepared, to be titled "Self-Supporting? The 60-30-10 Plan."

Literature—recommended that in next printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, foreword to second edition be included as it was originally published in second edition.

Policy/Admissions—suggested that Conference and trustees' Literature Committees consider publication for all members of early Conference talks made by co-founder Bill W. and Bern Smith (nonalcoholic), former chairman of board and architect of much of our Third Legacy structure. Next Conference dates are April 22-28, 1979.

Public Information—recommended that existing GSO TV spots and those made available from Northern Florida remain in use, but new spots be considered in 1979.

Trustees—board is to consider restudying regional structure and report back in 1979. Term "trustee-at-large" is to replace term "general service trustee—U.S./Canada."

Grapevine—Advisory Actions involving the GV were as follows (in full):

- That delegates continue their efforts in using the area and district service structure to achieve the goal of a Grapevine representative in every group.

- A Grapevine information table be made a regular feature at all conferences, conventions, and assemblies. (A Grapevine Conference Display Kit is available at no cost.)

- Committees on public information, cooperation with the professional community, correctional facilities, and treatment facilities explore the use of the AA Grapevine in their endeavors.

- Area and state functions consider Grapevine workshops similar to other workshops held at the area level from time to time.

As Conference sessions ended, those who had taken part could fully grasp the feelings to be expressed for the public in the forthcoming AA film: "the inspiration, the excitement, the magic, and the spirit of our Fellowship, and . . . joy in being sober."

AA Literature and Service Materials Stay Up-to-Date

Within the past year, new pamphlets, new flyers, a new filmstrip, and literature re-

visions have emerged from the AA General Service Office to meet the needs of a growing and diversifying membership. The following are all now available:

- "Too Young?"—cartoon pamphlet, speaking to teenagers in their own language, tells how six young people (13 to 18) faced drinking problems and found AA. (25¢)

- "Circles of Love and Service"—15-minute filmstrip, in color, with sound, traces the AA service structure from home group to General Service Conference; accompanying folder, with the same title, explains our structure in words and graphics, for further study. (Filmstrip, \$6.50; folder, no charge)

- "The Co-Founders of Alcoholics Anonymous"—combining two earlier pamphlets, this one presents brief biographies of Bill W. and Dr. Bob together with their last major talks. (20¢)

- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*—at Conference request, the long form of the Traditions has been added to this basic book.

- *As Bill Sees It*—in this collection of Bill W.'s writings, page references to the "Twelve and Twelve" have been changed to accord with the above-noted revision.

- "GSR May Be the Most Important Job in AA"—this folder has been rewritten, with a sprightly new layout. (5¢)

- "AA at a Glance"—new flyer condenses facts on the Fellowship, for public information use. (No charge)

- "Carrying the Message Inside the Walls"—flyer gives suggestions for speaking at correctional facilities. (No charge)

- "Where Do I Go From Here?"—this flyer is intended for people leaving treatment facilities, to help in their transition to "outside" AA. (No charge)

A complete Literature Order Form, available from GSO (Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017), gives group and individual purchase prices for books and discount prices for bulk orders of pamphlets.

And here's a news note on a Grapevine publication, "Best of Bill," five small pamphlets (enclosed in a folder) reprinting GV articles by our co-founder. The five articles have been translated into French in Canada and have been printed there (with permission from The AA Grapevine, Inc., of course) in a single pamphlet of standard size. Titled "Par Bill," it is available from Service de Littérature AA du Québec, 7210, rue Saint-Denis, Montreal, Que.. Canada H2R 2E2.