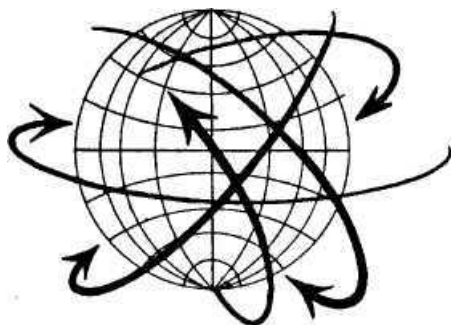


April 1961



THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE AND YOU

ON April 19, the eleventh annual General Service Conference will convene in New York City. For four days, eighty-three AA Area Delegates will meet with members of the General Service Board, the GSO and Grapevine Directors and staff members to discuss the business affairs of AA as a whole.

"What's that to me?" you may ask. "What has the Conference to do with my sobriety or my AA?" Perhaps nothing at all—or maybe a lot. Here's what it means to me.

Right from my first contact "AA as a whole" was a meaningful symbol. These were my people—the ones who understood my problem and cared about my recovery. Deep inside I knew that I had joined something wonderful.

During my first years in AA this symbol grew in beauty and feeling. Then I attended the General Service Conference as a member of the GSO staff. And I realized that "AA as a whole" was a reality. The symbol had taken on flesh and blood and had the wisdom to guide AA world service affairs. By their dedicated attitude, the Area Delegates made me realize that they were acting as the eyes, ears and hearts of the AA members in their areas.

Whenever I think of my AA heritage and trace it back to the first group in Akron, I am filled with gratitude to the pioneers who made possible the reality of the General Service Conference. Through its structure there is a way in which every AA member can participate in AA as a whole.

Lyb, GSO Staff Member