

## ■ Gratitude Month and the Birthday Plan

Gratitude sits in the middle of A.A. — gratitude for a release from active alcoholism and, as Bill W. points out in Step Ten in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (p. 95), “a genuine gratitude for blessings received.”

There is no timeframe on an A.A. member’s gratitude, no expiration date, and A.A.s have long been focusing on Thanksgiving week (November in the U.S. and October in Canada) as a tangible time to highlight their gratitude for A.A. and recovery and to turn that gratitude into action.

“In order to stay sober, we have to get involved in our own sobriety,” says Steve T. of El Reno, Oklahoma, 1998 area delegate. “Alcoholics Anonymous is a program of action. I don’t believe that simply sitting in a meeting will make me sober, any more than sitting in a hen house will make me a hen. It is the action of working and living the Steps and Traditions that ensures sobriety.”

At the same time, Steve says he has found that “involvement in my own sobriety is not enough,” that “more important is involvement in the sobriety of others: Twelfth Step calls, sponsorship, going to meetings — as much for others as for me — and service work. These are the things that make life meaningful in A.A. Furthermore, carrying the message means contributing money — something we dislike talking about, perhaps because we have difficulty connecting money to spirituality.”

During his years in A.A., Steve points out, “I’ve heard literally hundreds of these discussions, even though Bill W. has made it perfectly clear that ‘there was a place in A.A. where spirituality and money would mix, and that was in the hat.’ (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 163) Too seldom, it seems, we focus on the cash itself and not on the results of our contributions to service.”

Gratitude. It serves us best when it’s kept alive, in our individual lives and in our group conscience. Realizing this, countless A.A. groups over the years have used the months of October and November to open the door of gratitude ever wider. It’s a powerful way of insuring a continued healthy sobriety, group unity, and to avoid complacency and stagnation. Many groups observe Gratitude Month by holding Traditions meetings and taking up special contributions to the General Service Board for A.A. services worldwide.

So “what do our contributions provide?” asks Steve, answering his own question: “They pay for services to A.A. groups and fund the preservation of the artifacts of A.A.’s history so we do not have to relive the mistakes of the past. They provide for involvement in the sobriety

of those in correctional facilities, treatment centers and hospitals. They help carry the A.A. message to our friends in medicine, psychiatry, religion and the community — friends whom A.A. has needed to survive. They make translations of the Big Book and other A.A. literature possible so that people in distant lands can have a chance at sobriety. They provide the means for communication, so that Loners can connect with other alcoholics. In short, they offer a chance at sobriety for suffering alcoholics.”

Grateful for the sobriety they’ve been given and eager to pass it on, some A.A. groups hold topic meetings on the subject of gratitude, send money to the A.A. entity of their choice, or donate the A.A. Grapevine to someone homebound or in a treatment or correctional facility. Other groups may carry the message by preparing beginners kits — envelopes stuffed with a meeting book, a couple of pamphlets and perhaps a copy of *Living Sober*. Individual A.A.s may invite a sponsor or sponsee to lunch, or start a Step or Traditions meeting where there’s a need. Or they may make it a point to greet newcomers and out-of-towners who show up at their home group meetings.

And besides observing Gratitude Month, many members also use the Birthday Plan, “to give back what’s been given to me,” writes one A.A. in a letter with an accompanying check.

In terms of its history, the Birthday Plan was conceived during a coffee break at the Oklahoma State Convention in 1954. Delegate Ab A. was “inspired,” he later said, by fellow A.A. Ted R., who had “the great idea” that members might like to celebrate their sobriety by “giving it away to G.S.O.,” at the rate of a dollar a sober year, on their A.A. birthdays. Ab checked out the suggestion with members back home in Tulsa; the idea took hold and snowballed with spectacular results: Contributions nearly doubled inside the first year. The concept spread quickly across the U.S. and Canada, and in 1956 the General Service Conference approved the Anniversary Fund Plan, whereby older members would remind other A.A.s of their responsibility to G.S.O.

Speaking at the A.A. state meeting in Great Bend, Kansas, in 1956, Ab explained, “The way we approach these oldtimers is this: We ask them how they would like to do a little Twelfth Step work with money... We alcoholics are blessed with two birthdays: On the first birthday God gave us life and a soul, and we receive gifts. Along came old John Barleycorn and misjudgment, and we lost our soul; we lost it and we almost lost our life. Then this

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great philosophy of A.A. came along and through it we eventually found our soul, and for that we should give of ourselves in gratitude.”

Today, members still express gratitude for their sobriety with a Birthday Contribution. Some members contribute a dollar for each year of their sobriety, while others give a penny for each day of their sobriety — some give more, but the amount that the General Service Board can accept from an individual member is limited to \$3,000 for any year. Many A.A.s like to make birthday contributions to their local service entities as well.

Birthday contribution envelopes are available at no charge from G.S.O. (FR-2 for group contributions, and FR-5 for individual members), or birthday and recurring contributions can be made on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at [aa.org](http://aa.org) (click on the basket icon). Any and all contributions are welcomed, regardless of the size or frequency. The hope is that a future A.A. can one day say, as Ab did: “I have outlived my real birthday and I am living from my first contact in A.A.”

Similarly, in a letter written in 1959, Bill W. suggested that “Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you.” (*As Bill Sees It*, p. 29)

Some thoughts on Self-Support and the Birthday Plan from AA Grapevine:

“We have heard it often — I have said it too often — and I know it is horribly trite, but say it I must. How much more than ten dollars has each of us thrown away on just one drunk? What did we receive for our ten dollars then?” (A. F. K., Little Rock, Arkansas, September 1956)

“We alcoholics take too literally the ‘no dues, no fees’ part of the program.... We are a small group, and our collections are necessarily low, but we find that by setting aside only one dollar from each collection, and placing it in the group’s General Service Fund, which is not available for any other purpose, we will always have our group contribution to forward to the General Service Office. The dollar is never missed.” (The Bleeding Deacon of Deer

Creek D, Nevada City, California, October 1956)

“For the past three or four years now, I have had a growing feeling that the A.A. Birthday Plan isn’t being used nearly as much as it would be if more of our members knew of its existence.... To me, this seems most unfortunate, because lack of knowledge about this plan will keep many new members from ever knowing the feeling of satisfaction which comes from using it. There is real joy in earning the privilege of contributing to the work of the Fellowship.” (M. R., Cordell, Oklahoma, April 1969)

“Working on the General Service Committee in this area, I am getting educated to the big picture. I am learning from experience how difficult it is to talk about, let alone get real interest in, the fact that we have a worldwide responsibility for the maintenance and growth of A.A. Ours is a program of shared responsibility, as well as shared experience, strength, and hope. I believe it’s vital to our spiritual well-being for each of us to take on our part of that responsibility, in proportion with our individual means.... Let’s all of us who owe our lives to A.A. give more as we grow more.” (F. F., Bethesda, Maryland, October 1972)

“Think about what you could and should do, and remember that alcoholism is a family business: your children and grandchildren are stockholders and may not know it yet. What you invest today in this Fellowship will insure that the hand of A.A. will be there when and if a member of your family needs it.” (Stanley K., Temple, Texas, May 2000)

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## ■ Central Office/ Intergroup Seminar

Kansas City, Missouri, will be the site of the 31st Annual Central Office/Intergroup Seminar, November 3-6, 2016. Hosted by the Kansas City Area Central Office in North Kansas City, the event will be held at the Holiday Inn Kansas City Airport. The theme this year will be “We Are Responsible.”

This annual Seminar provides a forum, through workshops, discussions, and the exchange of ideas and shared experience, for those who are on A.A.’s front line. Attendees are Intergroup/Central Office managers, Intergroup representatives, G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members, and representatives from the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Boards.

Please make your hotel reservations, at special seminar rates, by calling 1-877-834-3613, or online at [www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/kansascity/mkeer/hoteldetail](http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/kansascity/mkeer/hoteldetail). Use group code “KAN.”

The registration fee is \$30.00. For any questions, or for a Seminar registration/questionnaire, contact Sue Ann K., director, (816) 471-7229 or [director@kc-aa.org](mailto:director@kc-aa.org).

## ■ Celebrating A.A.'s 85th Anniversary Detroit, Michigan — July 2-5, 2020



### ■ Name That Theme For the 2020 International Convention— *Deadline 10/3/16*

There is still time to submit your suggestions for a theme for the 2020 International Convention celebration of A.A.'s 85th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan, July 2-5, 2020. The theme will be selected by the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee from submissions from the Fellowship, so please let us hear from you by October 3, 2016.

To spark your thinking, the themes of past A.A. International Conventions have been: 1965 "I Am Responsible"; 1970 "Unity"; 1975 "Let It Begin With Me"; 1980 "The Joy of Living"; 1985 "Fifty Years With Gratitude"; 1990 "Fifty-Five Years — One Day At a Time"; 1995 "A.A. Everywhere — Anywhere"; 2000 "Pass It On — Into the 21st Century"; 2005 "I Am Responsible"; 2010 "A Vision for You"; and in 2015 "80 Years — Happy, Joyous and Free."

Send your ideas to: International Conventions Assignment, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, or [2020ictheme@aa.org](mailto:2020ictheme@aa.org).

### ■ Registration and Housing for 2020

Many A.A. members are beginning to write G.S.O. requesting information on registration and housing accommodations for A.A.'s 85th Birthday celebration. Please do not write or call G.S.O., as this information will not be available for some time.

Registration forms will be sent to all A.A. groups on our mailing list in the Fall of 2019. At the same time, local intergroup/central offices will also receive copies of these forms. Most of the hotels in and around Detroit are already committed to our Convention and the rates for each will be described in the housing information.

The procedures for registration and housing, beyond specifying this 2019 mailing date, are still in the planning stages. Notification of these procedures will appear in *Box 4-5-9* so that anyone who is interested will have timely and accurate information. As we do not maintain a separate mailing list of A.A. members who have requested information, please be sure your home group receives *Box 4-5-9* so that you and all members of your group will have access to this information as we get nearer to Convention time (for information on ordering *Box 4-5-9*, go to "G.S.O. Newsletters" on [aa.org](http://aa.org)).

Also, keep an eye on G.S.O.'s A.A. Website, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), for International Convention updates and information.

## ■ Three New Class B Trustees Join the General Service Board

Following election at the 66th General Service Conference in April, the General Service Board of A.A. welcomed three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees: Cate W., Western Canada regional; Thomas A., West Central regional; and Carole B., general service trustee. While all trustees represent the Fellowship as a whole and no trustee can be said to “represent” a geographical section, these newly elected A.A. members will bring extensive service experience to the board’s deliberations and an invaluable regional A.A. point of view.

Cate W., of Winnipeg, Manitoba, sober since 1997, succeeds Marty W. as Western Canada regional trustee (Marty passed away in 2014). A 2010-2011 (Panel 60) delegate, Cate has served A.A. in a number of different capacities at the group, district and area levels — from greeter and coffee maker to alternate delegate and Grapevine chair. “The group where I sobered up,” says Cate, “was, at the time, the best group in the world. They got me involved in service without me even realizing it was happening and they walked with me every step of the way. I later changed home groups, moving to a group that was closer to where I live and now my new home group is the best group in the world!”

In her life outside of A.A., Cate has an MBA degree and has worked for a large telecommunications service in Manitoba, as an information systems specialist, business planner, and corporate process consultant. “I started my career in IT and moved over into a Marketing/Business area. My IT cohorts told me I was going over to the dark side, my new Marketing coworkers told me I was coming from the dark side! I worked with many project teams that included both types and I found it quite rewarding to be able to work effectively with teams made up of diverse disciplines. Not unlike committee work in A.A.”

An active person, Cate is involved in golf, curling, karate and yoga. Looking ahead at her service on the board, Cate sees both challenges and rewards. “The General Service Board is a group of people with different backgrounds who come together with a common goal. They are very passionate about what they do, and whenever you have a group of passionate people working together there are challenges in coming to common understanding and agreements. And there are rewards when understanding and agreements are reached. I hope that while on the board I will respect the passion of others and learn from it.

“Throughout my whole time in general service I have been provided with such incredible examples to follow. I think the inspiration and encouragement I receive from past servants has encouraged me to do more than I otherwise might have, and the more I do the more prepared I am to take on the next challenge, whatever it is.

“I am absolutely blown away by the support I have

received from so many people in my area and my region since my election. It is very comforting to know that I am not doing this alone.”

Tom A., of Waite Park, Minnesota, is also a past delegate, serving the Fellowship from 2000-2001 (Panel 50), where he was alternate chairperson of the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee. Selected to replace outgoing West Central regional trustee Andrew W., Tom is excited about the opportunity to serve the Fellowship and feels prepared to take on this new challenge.

Sober since 1985, Tom has an MBA in information technology and has been in the technology field throughout his business career, founding and developing tech firms. He has also served on a number of nonprofit advisory boards in his home state, utilizing his background in technology to provide solutions. “My service on other nonprofit boards should serve as an asset as a regional trustee and member of the General Service Board. I’ve started four businesses — from startup phases (surely knowing what ‘corporate poverty’ is all about!) to mature businesses — and have used the philosophy of very targeted business models (you could say ‘singleness of purpose’), as well as having applied many A.A. principles in human resources and financial management over the past 30 years of entrepreneurship. Many of our A.A. principles are universal in our daily professional lives as well as in A.A. service.”

Still deeply involved with his home group, Tom says “We stick to the basics and principles of A.A., reading a wide array of Grapevine and Conference-approved literature, studying and discussing as a group how to apply the principles in our lives. While the group is a very wide cross-section of individuals, I sincerely believe that a consistent focus on the Traditions has been the reason the group has survived and thrived for over 35 years.”

As for his upcoming service on the board, Tom hopes to learn how to be the best possible custodian of our A.A. principles, along with the other members of the board, and to experience the Traditions in action. “While my 30 years of sobriety are a mosaic of influences that brought me to this point, my service work in archives has surely helped to develop a deep appreciation of what the true legacy of A.A. is and how it has been created,” says Tom. “But nothing prepares an A.A. member to be a servant more than a new person coming in the door of your A.A. meeting. It’s where we learn that being a servant and not a senator is most important.”

Carole B., (past delegate Panel 59) of Billings, Montana, will serve as a general service trustee on the Grapevine board. As delegate, Carole was chair of the Conference Committee on Public Information and has served as a nontrustee director on the A.A.W.S. board for three years, serving on the A.A.W.S. Publishing, Finance, Technology-Communication-Services Committees. Sober since 1989 — and, by her own admission, the “best coffee pot washer” in her early sobriety — Carole believes her experience as an A.A.W.S. director will be a benefit in her new position.

"I believe I can be of service to both the Grapevine and the General Service Board. Going from A.A.W.S. to the Grapevine will provide a different perspective for me."

With a background in civil engineering and organizational development, Carole is currently working as a consultant. "I conduct workshops for improving team and organizational effectiveness, and provide individual coaching," she says. "Today, I'm an organization development consultant. Before that, I managed teams of engineers and worked with many government entities." Through this experience she has developed the ability, for the most part, to empathize. "I can often — not always," she says, "see things from another's perspective," a valuable commodity when working together in service to the A.A. Fellowship. "I am constantly looking for ways to make serving the Fellowship more efficient and effective," she says.

A photographer in her spare time, Carole often finds herself "in awe of nature," and living near Yellowstone National Park allows her many opportunities to apply her sharp eye and participate with the natural world.

A.A.'s three new Class B trustees, along with the other eleven already on the board, each serve one four-year term; the seven Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees serve for six years.

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## ■ Two New 'Friends of A.A.' Join the General Service Board

A.A. has always relied on its many nonalcoholic friends to provide professional expertise, sound business judgment



*Christine Carpenter*

and balance to the dedicated group of trustees who donate their time and interest in service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Of the 21 members on A.A.'s General Service Board, seven are specifically designated as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees. Historically, the Fellowship owes a tremendous debt to these nonalcoholic friends, men and women from a variety of disciplines whose vision and faith not only

helped the struggling movement through its difficult early years but were instrumental in shaping the principles that continue to guide its present course.

Today's Class A trustees remain a rich resource of wisdom and perspective, and, importantly, can do certain things the Class B (alcoholic) trustees cannot, such as facing the camera head-on or using their last names without violating A.A.'s principle of anonymity.

Elected to six-year terms, the two most recent Class A trustees, Christine Carpenter, of Columbia, Missouri, and Nancy McCarthy, of St. Louis, Missouri, began their service to the Fellowship following the 66th General Service Conference in April 2016.

Both have long been associated with A.A. and its program of recovery on a professional basis and are excited to learn more about the Fellowship and how it operates.

For Christine, an attorney who served as a judge on the Boone County Adult Drug Court for over 15 years, joining the board is an opportunity to expand her knowledge base about recovery and to find new ways of helping those in need.

"At this point, my hopes for my service are to learn as much as possible about my role as quickly as I can so I can begin to make meaningful contributions. I believe my experience in the criminal justice system, and particularly in Drug Court, will help me to assist both A.A. and the Courts in a better understanding of how we can help those in need in a therapeutic rather than strictly punitive environment."

Christine first became involved with A.A. nearly 20 years ago, when she started work as a Drug Court judge. "Although I had some idea of the mission of A.A., I learned more about the Fellowship as I worked with addiction, alcoholism and treatment professionals. My interest in A.A. grew as I got more educated about the difference between treatment and support groups, including the concept of anonymity."

Invited to attend the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio as a speaker, Christine's connection with A.A. has continued to deepen.

"A.A. has affected my life by bringing me into contact with people I would probably never have known but for my interest in the role of A.A., first with drug court and then on a larger scale. Without knowing much about how and why it worked, it was very apparent to me that A.A. has been a crucial factor in the recovery process for a large part of our population. It also caused me to reflect on the role of religion, the concept of a higher power, and the loss of spirituality in our society at large."

A longtime baseball fan, Christine attends major and minor league games as often as she can, is married to another lawyer, and together they have four adult sons. Impressed with how deliberate and thoughtful the process of change is within A.A., Christine looks forward to her new service as a Class A trustee. "I recently read an article about how to maintain health as one grows older," she notes. "The advice was to continue to enrich your life by expanding your activities, interests and knowledge. With that in mind, I look forward to the next six years of activity and growth with the belief it will be beneficial both to the board and to me personally."

Nancy McCarthy, of St. Louis, Missouri, also a non-alcoholic presenter at both the 2010 and 2015 A.A. International Conventions, has served in various positions with the Missouri Department of Corrections, Division of



Nancy McCarthy

Probation and Parole, assisting with numerous drug and alcohol programs.

“I have worked within the Corrections field for 32 years and fully understand Corrections cannot do this work alone. We need the help and assistance of others. I have a personal and professional understanding of alcoholism and can help bring this understanding to others within the field of corrections.”

First exposed to A.A. in the early 1980s, “I did as most probation and parole officers did,” says Nancy — told my clients to attend an A.A. meeting, gave them a verification slip to have signed, and sent them on their way.”

The struggles and eventual sobriety of a family member, however, prompted Nancy to look at Alcoholics Anonymous a little more deeply — both personally and professionally.

“As I watched this family member grow within his sobriety, I was also able to watch the change in how he lived his life. I was able to learn the value of service, the value of helping others.” Professionally, this experience also helped her to recognize how as a probation and parole officer she could help her clients. “Working with clients and helping them achieve sobriety was much more than giving them a slip. To help my clients, I had to learn how to talk to them in a manner which would support their attendance and connection to A.A.”

Currently serving as the Missouri Regional Administrator, responsible for the supervision of 18,500 offenders, Nancy continues teaching what she has learned about the value of A.A. and the role it can play in the recovery of the many alcoholics in the correctional system.

“I hope to help corrections professionals understand how A.A. can help their clients achieve and sustain sobriety. I also hope to help the Fellowship as they work within the corrections world. In my current position with Missouri, I have assisted the Fellowship with establishing service work in probation offices. We have incorporated A.A. into the training for new probation and parole officers. Members of the Fellowship outline for staff the tenets of A.A., including what the Steps are, what types of meetings there are, as well as telling their stories. This has allowed staff to understand sobriety from those who have walked in the shoes.”

As the board and the Fellowship welcome these two new nonalcoholic friends into service, both Christine and Nancy look forward to becoming the latest links in the long and notable chain of friends who have helped A.A. become what it is today: a worldwide source of help and hope for countless alcoholics.

## ■ Résumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 2017

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees — from the East Central and Southeast regions and the trustee-at-large/U.S. — will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2017. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2017, and must be submitted by delegates only.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the General Service Conference, which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Please submit your candidate’s résumé to the Secretary, trustees’ Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

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## ■ Stories Wanted for “Young People and A.A.”

In response to the 2016 General Service Conference recommendation that the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be revised to “better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today,” the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking current sharing from young A.A. members for possible inclusion in this revised pamphlet.

Stories should reflect in a general way “what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now.” Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double-spaced, and the words “Young People and A.A.” should appear on the top of the first page of the manuscript. The author’s full name, address and email/telephone information should be included with the submission.

Submissions can be emailed to: Literature@aa.org with “Young People and A.A.” inserted in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for all submissions is December 30, 2016.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not the writer’s story is selected for publication.

## ■ A.A. in A.A.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has a new A.A. group — the first Amharic-speaking group in the African nation. Like most A.A. groups, it was founded out of desperation — and nurtured on hope.

Evolving out of a hospital program — a specialized mental hospital, and the only hospital in the country addressing alcoholism, a number of patients clung together trying to stay sober. In correspondence with G.S.O., Mekonnen Y. tells their story:

“Ever since we were discharged from the hospital, we have been sober for periods ranging from one month to fifteen months. During all this time we have been meeting frequently — some of us daily and others two to three days a week — and we have been trying to form a group, meeting informally at different places including the hospital compound and at different members’ homes for more than a year.

“In January 2016 we were able to get a meeting place outside the compound with the help of a doctor and a psychologist we know at the addiction department of the hospital.

“Now, with a permanent meeting place, we are on a good start with not less than fifteen regularly attending members. We continue to get together outside meeting hours and above all we are ready to provide Twelfth Step help for the still-suffering alcoholic.

“Among the challenges we have faced are the lack of a meeting place (which is now solved), and the fact that most of the alcoholics we could reach till now were those admitted to the hospital, most of whom had little resources to rent a place with members’ contributions. The other challenge we faced was lack of available A.A. literature in Amharic (our local language). Most of our members do not fully understand English. We conduct meetings in Amharic and needed to provide literature for newcomers.

“This is now solved after our coordinator who took the initiative to form the group (and is now sober fifteen months), was able to translate to Amharic the pamphlet ‘Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.’, which we downloaded from the website. We now use it as starting material for group discussion and give it out to newcomers.

“This letter, then, is to announce our presence as the

## ■ G.S.O./Grapevine Renovations Finalized

Begun in August 2015, construction and renovation of the G.S.O. and Grapevine offices has been completed. Known as the Relocation Project, the renovation addressed existing needs for reconfiguration on the 11th floor and allowed enough office space for the Grapevine to move to the 11th floor from its previous space on the 12th floor. During the period of construction, tours of G.S.O. — and the Friday morning A.A. meeting — were suspended on a temporary basis, though they have now started up again, offering visiting A.A.s an opportunity to walk the hallways and learn more about their service office.



*Common spaces were redesigned to accommodate the many business functions performed by G.S.O. The Grapevine gained needed office space to provide for many of the editorial and business functions related to Grapevine and La Viña.*

first A.A. group open to the community in the African nation called Ethiopia, having more than 90 million people with hundreds of thousands of problem drinkers (according to estimates from hospital sources) — a country in which no one seems to have heard of A.A.!

“At last, we are very much hopeful in you, our friends at G.S.O., in providing us much-needed support in areas such as providing A.A. literature in Amharic in order to help us fulfill our primary purpose — to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

“It is our pleasure to tell you that we have named our group ‘A.A. Addis,’ after the short form of our city Addis Ababa. Please be informed that you can contact us with the following address of our General Service Representative.”

Following shortly came a response from G.S.O.:

“Dear Mekonnen, We celebrate the arrival of the wonderful news that the A.A. Addis Group has found a home and is carrying A.A.’s message of recovery in Addis Ababa.

“For your information, we are attaching a list of A.A. groups in Ethiopia that we have in our files. Can you please let us know if these groups are still meeting?”

“We also ask that you send us the attached New Group Information form so that your group becomes part of our files.

“We are sending two packages of literature to the address of your General Service Representative. Each package will contain five Big Books in Amharic and five A.A. pamphlets in Amharic. Would you let us know when this literature arrives safely?”

“We thank you for sharing your experience, strength and hope with us ...from the hospital to the new group meeting place. The miracle of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous continues in Addis Ababa.”

And in response, Mekonnen wrote:

“We have received your letter and the New Group Information form. We really appreciate and thank you for your quick response.

“Regarding the A.A. groups in Ethiopia that you have in your files, I have tried to contact every address on the list. Unfortunately, none of these groups are currently conducting a meeting. Two of them have told me that they could not meet due to several reasons and the rest weren’t available at the addresses listed. I am trying to discuss the situation with one of the group contacts you provided in Addis Ababa in order to work together with us.”

G.S.O. responded:

“We are delighted to receive your new group form and will list the A.A. Addis Group in our records!”

And, finally, from Mekonnen:

“This is to let you know that the two packages of literature in Amharic arrived safely. We really appreciate and thank you for your support of our new group. We are also delighted to know that our A.A. Addis Group is listed in your records and has its status set to active.”

## ■ International Convention App—An Apology

In a recent email to all registrants of the 2015 International A.A. Convention, the A.A.W.S., Inc. Board of Directors issued an apology regarding difficulties that were experienced by some registrants who used the International Convention App in the weeks just preceding the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta. Vendor error in the app, designed to provide detailed online information about the Convention, was not tested sufficiently prior to its release to the Fellowship, allowing a digital connection to remain open through which user’s information — and anonymity — could possibly have been breached.

The problem was discovered and corrected within a matter of weeks. In the interim, however, some members who used the app experienced this breach of connectivity on social media, for which the A.A.W.S. Board expressed its deepest regrets. As a service corporation dedicated to the needs of the A.A. Fellowship, the board does not take its service responsibilities lightly and, while the problem was rectified quickly the board wanted to reach out to all registrants to express its dismay that any personal information may have been made vulnerable.

In addition, the board has taken definitive steps to improve the process of contracting for, monitoring, and testing any future app that may be proposed for the International Convention.

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## ■ A Twelfth-Step Call on Fiji

What do you do when you want to start a national A.A. convention, but no one offers to be the host? Well, if you’re the Australian General Service Conference, you select a tiny island in the South Pacific Ocean and hold the convention there. Makes sense? In a typically A.A., twelfth-step way it certainly does.

In 2013, with no bids submitted to host the inaugural National Australia Convention, the Australian General Service Conference decided to take the opportunity to hold the 2016 Convention in a country within the Asia/Oceania zone where there is little or no A.A. It was seen as a way of fulfilling Australia’s responsibility to carry the message to developing countries and to encourage the development of service structures in nearby countries. So, a venue selection committee was formed, several countries were considered — and the country chosen was Fiji!

Beside its natural beauty, perched in an archipelago 1,700 miles east of Australia, there were a number of compelling reasons for the committee’s choice. While Alcoholics Anonymous had been in Fiji in some form or another since the early 1950s — usually members from Australia and New Zealand who had been posted to Fiji



who held meetings. However, when their postings finished, so usually did the meetings. Now, with a small but committed A.A. presence on the island who had been placing notices of A.A. meetings in local newspapers and providing a helpline for alcoholics, there was an expressed need for A.A. assistance to help extend the Fellowship's reach more broadly to the Fijian community. Recognizing that the Convention, with Al-Anon participation, would bring vital A.A. energy and resources together for the small country and would be welcomed and supported by local professionals and organizations, the decision was made.

To make the proposed twelfth-step call complete, however, registration fees for all regular sessions and meetings of the four-day event were waived for all Fijians. Many of the locals who attended were able to do so as the result of the "Sponsor a Fijian" drive held in the months leading up to the convention and generously supported by A.A. members and groups in Australia who paid the travel costs for Fijians from outlying villages and islands to attend. Scheduled in March, a Public Information Day was also organized, which attracted over 170 visitors, many of whom were members of the Fijian professional community, including the Minister of Health, a representative from the Fiji Society of Medical Practitioners, the Director of the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council, and a doctor from the World Health Organization, along with representatives from the correctional services and other local government agencies. The day's program offered formal presentations about A.A. and allowed plenty of time for A.A. members to interact with professionals and members of the general public.

The success of the Public Information Day was evidenced in the fact that many of those who attended returned for subsequent sessions of the Convention, and a lot of Twelfth Step work was done in corridors and hotel rooms over coffee. The Al-Anon message was also well received, and a group of Fijian family members committed to starting that program locally.

For most attendees, much of the weekend was spent in meetings and fellowship, made all the more enjoyable by the knowledge that the Responsibility Declaration was being fulfilled by the Convention's very presence: "When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help..."

On a personal note, Steve N., an A.A. member from the Bronx, New York, who had spent time in Fiji, both as an active drunk and later as a sober A.A. and a member

of the Peace Corps, came across an announcement about the Convention in Fiji at the International Convention in Atlanta last July. "I took the flyer and told my wife we were going to Fiji in 2016," said Steve, who had done considerable outreach in the Fijian community during his two years there. And, in typical A.A. fashion, "When I contacted Australia's G.S.O.," said Steve, "and told them my connection to Fiji and offered to do any service I could, they asked me to be one of the two opening speakers."

Carrying the message in a small community with limited A.A. resources can be challenging, notes Steve, and "my two years living in Fiji taught me what A.A. is at its core. I had joined the *Loners/Internationalists Meeting* before going to Fiji and I had been in contact with a Loner in Suva. At the time there was a small group of ex-pats, two or three who came and went.

"There was a rehab run by a Fijian priest, who also happened to be a member of A.A. He would suggest that folks go to the meeting, but they didn't like coming into the meeting room. So, I had some of my greatest A.A. moments speaking with these prospective A.A.s in a cassava patch outside the meeting. Unfortunately, most of them didn't stay, but over the next two years I met with a hospital administrator, the head of the counseling center at the University, World Health Organization executives, etc., trying to carry the message of A.A. No one else showed up, but the good news is I stayed sober."

The decision to hold the Convention in Fiji was "brilliant," according to Steve. "Watching twelfth-step work at this level was impressive to see," and an effort such as this on a national level required plenty of coordination and commitment.

In his closing talk to the Convention, the chairperson of Australia's General Service Board summed up the experience in Fiji saying, "We came to give, and give we did!" For those involved in this effort, there is no greater privilege.

Said Phyllis G., an A.A. who has been living in Fiji for over twenty years, "I watched small groups sharing, individual members pairing off to talk, with the result that the whole Convention took on the feeling of recovery, hope and gratitude for what we sober members have.

"I was touched, moved and felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude that my A.A. family from Australia had indeed carried the message of recovery to my island home of Fiji."

## ■ Languages of the Heart

It is not uncommon for letters like the one below to arrive with increasing regularity at G.S.O.'s Cooperation With the Professional Community desk.

"Hello! I am an addictions therapist and I recently started working with a client getting sober whose first language is Hindi. While his English is strong enough for our individual sessions, I feel like he would be lost in an English-speaking A.A. meeting around here. Do you have any resources for non-English speaking alcoholics in the U.S.? I don't think there is a Hindi A.A. meeting around me, at least none that I could find. Any resources or feedback would be appreciated. Thank you!!"

Such requests from concerned professionals for A.A. help for alcoholics who don't speak English, Spanish or French, can sometimes be easily addressed and there is literature available in the language in question and perhaps a list of meetings or contacts for translation in that language. Unfortunately, for others, such resources don't exist.

That's when members of the A.A. community often step in.

One creative committee in Area 10 (Colorado) did a lot of work on the Karen language, a tonal language spoken by some seven million people originating in Burma. Erica C., the alternate delegate writes, "There are currently prospective members who speak only Karen in Lancaster, PA, Jacksonville, FL, and Denver, CO, where professionals have made specific requests of A.A. on behalf of Karen-speaking clients with a drinking problem. A central office volunteer in Lancaster attempted to get a small meeting

started with Karen-speaking individuals but was not able to keep it going, and all such prospects have fallen off the scene since then. A C.P.C. coordinator in Jacksonville has been working on a Karen translation of the 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Illustrated.'"

She goes on to say that it is fairly common for these individuals to be illiterate in their own language, so groups have had to find other solutions, such as asking an interpreter to read a translation of one or more of the pamphlets or the Big Book into an audio file that can then be distributed; bringing Karen-speakers to meetings and using "What Happened to Joe" or other illustrated pamphlets to help people understand what is happening in meetings; inviting Karen-speakers and their children to open meetings — the children may have picked up some English and can help parents understand what is happening.

Other local efforts have been helpful in rounding up A.A. resources for a Tamil-speaking community in Montreal that had requested help for their members with a drinking problem and a number of Russian A.A. members have started several Russian-language meetings in New Jersey. G.S.O. maintains a list of meetings across the U.S./Canada that are conducted in more than a dozen languages. This list is regularly updated via a survey of areas and central/intergroup offices, and any information A.A. members or local C.P.C. committees can provide is most welcome

Developing resources for the many who need it, both in the U.S./Canada structure and abroad — in languages that suffering alcoholics can understand and absorb — is one of the greatest challenges the Fellowship and its A.A. service centers can undertake.

box  
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## Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided. **Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site.**

### September

- 2-4—Phoenix, Arizona. AZ State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 21612, Mesa, AZ 85277; [www.area03.org](http://www.area03.org)
- 2-4—Concord, California. First Unity and Service Conf. Write: Ch., 827 Sean Place, Concord, CA 94518; [www.unityandserviceconference.org](http://www.unityandserviceconference.org)
- 2-4—Westminster, Colorado. CO State Conv. Info: [www.convention.coloradoaa.org](http://www.convention.coloradoaa.org)
- 2-4—Saint Louis, Missouri. 33rd Annual Fall Classic Conf. Write: Ch., Box 16872, St. Louis, MO 63105; [info@fall-classic.com](mailto:info@fall-classic.com)
- 2-4—Abilene, Texas. 36th Annual Big Country A.A. Conf. Write: Ch., 1600 W. Valley St., Eastland, TX 76448; [2016bigcountryconference@gmail.com](mailto:2016bigcountryconference@gmail.com)
- 2-4—Addison, Texas. 44 Conv. Nacional de E.U. y Canadá. Para Info: [www.44convencionhispanadeaasaycanada.org](http://www.44convencionhispanadeaasaycanada.org)
- 2-4—Powell River, British Columbia, Canada. 69th Powell River Rally. Write: Ch., 9408 Stittle Rd., Powell River, BC V8A 0J3
- 2-4—Jonquière, Québec, Canada. Congrès du Saguenay «Nouvelle liberté avec AA». Write: Ch., 3921, Des Passereaux, Jonquière, G7X-8A7, Québec, CA; [www.aa89.org](http://www.aa89.org)
- 2-5—Tampa, Florida. 30th Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262546, Tampa, FL 33685; [tbfr1987@verizon.net](mailto:tbfr1987@verizon.net)
- 8-11—Concord, CA. 20th National Archives Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 4943, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; [www.naaaw2016.org](http://www.naaaw2016.org)
- 9-11—Tucson, Arizona. BTG Workshop Wknd. Info: [coordinator@btgww.org](mailto:coordinator@btgww.org)
- 9-11—Meriden, Connecticut. 58th Area 11 Conv. Write: Ch., 112 E. Main St., Meriden, CT 06450; [www.ct-aa.org](http://www.ct-aa.org)
- 9-11—Sandusky, Ohio. OYPAA 35. Write: Ch., 3328 Glanzman Rd., Toledo, OH 43614; [oyppaa2016.org](http://oyppaa2016.org)
- 9-11—Houston, Texas. Area 67 Correctional Facilities Conf. Write: Ch., Box 925241, Houston, TX 77292-5241; [cfc@aa-seta.org](mailto:cfc@aa-seta.org)
- 9-11—Dunnville, Ontario, Canada. 50th Annual Dunnville A.A. Conv. & Campout.

Write: Ch., Box 76, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0; [dunnvilleconvention2016@outlook.com](mailto:dunnvilleconvention2016@outlook.com)

9-11—Kenora, Ontario, Canada. 45th Sunset Country Roundup. Write: Ch., 522 9th St. N., #2, Kenora, ON P9N 2S8; [kenoraroundup@gmail.com](mailto:kenoraroundup@gmail.com)

16-17—Duluth, Minnesota. 71st Duluth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55805-0771; [www.duluthroundup.org](http://www.duluthroundup.org)

16-18—Mountain Home, Arkansas. Autumn In The Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 1166, Mountain Home, AR 72653; [www.arkansascentraloffice.org](http://www.arkansascentraloffice.org)

16-18—Wichita, Kansas. Area 25 State Conf. Write: Ch., 3062 W. 8th St., Lawrence, KS 66049; [www.kansas-aa.org](http://www.kansas-aa.org)

16-18—Medora, North Dakota. ND State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 521, Dickinson, ND 58602

16-18—Newbury, Ohio. 98th Punderson Pk Conf. Write: Ch., Box 844, Chardon, OH 44024; [www.pundersonparkconference.com](http://www.pundersonparkconference.com)

16-18—Turtle Lake, Wisconsin. Area 74 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 363, Spooner, WI 54801; [www.area74.org](http://www.area74.org)

16-18—Gatineau, Québec, Canada. 18e Congrès du Dist. 90-22. Écrire: 1194 Boul. St-René oust, Gatineau, QC J8T 6H3; [congre22@aa90.org](mailto:congre22@aa90.org)

23-24—Olean, New York. Day of Learning. Write: Ch., Box 421, Olean, NY 14760

23-24—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Life Beyond Imagination. Write: Ch., 21176, Mrima and Jamhuri Rd., Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; [creaxis5@gmail.com](mailto:creaxis5@gmail.com)

23-25—Crescent City, California. Sobriety by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531; [www.sobrietybythesea.com](http://www.sobrietybythesea.com)

23-25—San Diego, California. 65th So. CA Conv. Write: Ch., PMB399 12223 Highland

Ave., Ste 106, PMB399, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739; [www.aasocal.com](http://www.aasocal.com)

23-25—Sioux City, Iowa. Sioux City Tri-State Roundup. [www.siouxcitytristateroundup.com](http://www.siouxcitytristateroundup.com)

23-25—Vernal, Utah. Pre-Conf. Area 69 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 790241, Vernal, UT 84078

23-25—Harrisburg, Virginia. Shenandoah Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., 618 N. Beverly Ave., Covington, VA 24426; [shenandoahvalleyroundup@comcast.net](mailto:shenandoahvalleyroundup@comcast.net)

23-25—Wenatchee, Washington. Wenatchee Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., 1320 Terr. Ct. NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802; [www.wenatcheevalleyroundup.org](http://www.wenatcheevalleyroundup.org)

23-25—Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. The National Conv. Write: Ch., Office No.116 (A, B & C) Bharat Shatrughna Com. Complex, Above Hotel Bhagat Tarachand, Sector-18 Sanpada, Navi Mumbai 400 703; [www.aagsoindia.org](http://www.aagsoindia.org)

30-2—San Diego, California. Woman to Woman SD Conf. Write: Ch., 24262 Punta Alta, Laguna Hills, CA 92637; [www.womantowomansandiego.com](http://www.womantowomansandiego.com)

30-2—Jacksonville, Florida. Florida Unity Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 24267, Jacksonville, FL 32241; [www.floridaunityroundup.com](http://www.floridaunityroundup.com)

30-2—Waikoloa, Hawaii. Pacific Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

30-2—Spearfish, South Dakota. Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 644, Spearfish, SD 57783; [www.area63aa.org](http://www.area63aa.org)

30-2—Colville, Washington. Roundup of Recovery. Write: Ch., Box 355, Loon Lake, WA 99148; [www.area92aa.org](http://www.area92aa.org)

## Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the Bar 4-5-9 Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. four months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to Editor: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org)

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE OR PROVINCE

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Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME PHONE # AND E-MAIL

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

## October

- 6-9—*Morrilton, Arkansas*. ARKYPAA XXXIV. Info: [www.arkypaa.org](http://www.arkypaa.org)
- 7-9—*Aspen, Colorado*. Joy of Living Conf. Info: [www.aspenaa.com](http://www.aspenaa.com)
- 7-9—*Fort Hall, Idaho*. Area 18 Fall Assembly and Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4903, Pocatello, ID 83205; [www.idahoarea18aa.org](http://www.idahoarea18aa.org)
- 7-9—*Lewiston, Michigan*. Michigan Women's Conf. Write: Ch., Box 612, Charlotte, MI 48813; [www.miwcaa.com](http://www.miwcaa.com)
- 7-9—*Troy, Michigan*. Tri-County Conf. Write: Ch., 11200 E. 11 Mile Road, Warren, MI 48089; [tri.countyconference@ymail.com](mailto:tri.countyconference@ymail.com)
- 7-9—*Gallup, New Mexico*. District 9 Sobriety Gathering. Write: Ch., Box 284, New Laguna, NM 87038-0284; [web9@nm-aa.org](mailto:web9@nm-aa.org)
- 7-9—*Corpus Christi, Texas*. Area 68 Fall Conf. & Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 61135, Corpus Christi, TX 78466; [aa-swta.org](mailto:aa-swta.org)
- 7-9—*Weston, West Virginia*. Jackson's Mill Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 825, Clarksburg, WV 26302; [www.jacksonsmillroundup.com](http://www.jacksonsmillroundup.com)
- 14-16—*Waterloo, Iowa*. Area 24 Fall Conf. Box 1031, Cedar Falls, IA 50613; [altdcm.a24.d4@gmail.com](mailto:altdcm.a24.d4@gmail.com)
- 14-16—*Buffalo, New York*. Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., 681 Seneca St., Buffalo, NY 14210; [www.buffaloany.org](http://www.buffaloany.org)
- 14-16—*Angeles City, Pampanga, Philippines*. 21st Internat'l Angeles City Philippines Roundup. Write: Ch., 9-26 Bertha St., Mountain View, Angeles City, Pampanga, Philippines 2009; <http://roundupangelescity.blogspot.com>
- 21-22—*St. Cloud, Minnesota*. St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302; [www.stclouroundup.org](http://www.stclouroundup.org)
- 21-22—*Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada*. Moose Jaw Roundup. Write: Ch., 1037 Oxford St. E, Moose Jaw, SK S6H 714
- 21-23—*Rogers, Arkansas*. SW Reg. Svc. Assembly. Info: [www.swraasa2016.org](http://www.swraasa2016.org)
- 21-23—*Cockeysville, Maryland*. 32nd Area 29 Fall Conv. Write: Ch., Box 338, New Windsor, MD 21776; [www.marylandaa.org/fall-convention](http://www.marylandaa.org/fall-convention)
- 21-23—*Queensbury, New York*. Hudson Mohawk Berkshire Area 48 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 58, Saratoga Springs, NY 12865
- 21-23—*Greensburg, Pennsylvania*. 76th Laurel Highlands Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6, Bovard, PA 15619
- 21-23—*Manitowoc, Wisconsin*. Area 75 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 264, Manitowoc, WI 54220
- 21-23—*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. 65th Eastern ON Fall Conf. Write: Ch., 211 Bronson Ave., Rm 108, Ottawa, ON, K1R 6H5; [fall.ottawaaa.org](http://fall.ottawaaa.org)
- 21-23—*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*. 4th Malaysian A.A. Roundup. Write: Ch., M-15, Ground Floor, Marist Educare Centre, No.1B Jalan 10/3, off Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia 46000; [www.aamalaysia.org](http://www.aamalaysia.org)

- 27-30—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. 55th Annual Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823; [www.annualhawaii-convention.com](http://www.annualhawaii-convention.com)
- 27-30—*St. Thomas, Virgin Islands*. Promises in Paradise. Write: Ch., Box 307556, St. Thomas, VI 00802; [www.promisesinparadise.com](http://www.promisesinparadise.com)
- 28-30—*Linthicum Heights, Maryland*. NE Woman to Woman 28th Annual Conf. Write: Ch., Box 341., Columbia, MD 21045; [new2w2016@yahoo.com](mailto:new2w2016@yahoo.com)
- 28-30—*Jackson, Mississippi*. 30th Mississippi Old-Timers' Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2122, Jackson, MS 39225; [msoldtimers@gmail.com](mailto:msoldtimers@gmail.com)
- 28-30—*Branson, Missouri*. Colors of Fall in the Ozarks Conv. Write: Ch., 1415 NE 80th, Kansas City, MO 64118; [www.wamo-aa.org](http://www.wamo-aa.org)
- 28-30—*Galveston, Texas*. District 81 Presents Another Weekend on the Beach. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 567, League City, TX 77574; [pi.cpc.committee@gmail.com](mailto:pi.cpc.committee@gmail.com)
- 28-30—*San Antonio, Texas*. TXSCYPAA. Info: [www.txscypaahost.org](http://www.txscypaahost.org)
- 28-30—*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*. Keystone Conf. Write: Ch., 1856 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3J 0G9; [aambco@mts.net](mailto:aambco@mts.net)

## November

- 3-5—*Long Branch, New Jersey*. 6th Annual Jersey Shore Roundup. Write: Ch., 3 Ashfort Ct., Spring Lake Hts, NJ 07762; [www.jerseyshorroundup.com](http://www.jerseyshorroundup.com)
- 3-6—*San Diego, California*. 10th Annual Seniors in Sobriety. Write: Ch., 1880 Grove Rd., El Cajon, CA 92020; [senioris2016@gmail.com](mailto:senioris2016@gmail.com)
- 4-6—*Lake Havasu City, Arizona*. Miracle on the River Roundup. Write: Ch., 1477 Queens Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403; [www.havasuaaroundup.org](http://www.havasuaaroundup.org)
- 4-6—*London, Ontario, Canada*. Area 86 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., 100 Alexander St., Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1A9; [secretary.registrara86p66@hotmail.com](mailto:secretary.registrara86p66@hotmail.com)
- 11-13—*Fort Smith, Arkansas*. Border City Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5800, Ft. Smith, AR 72913-5800; [www.bordercityroundup.org](http://www.bordercityroundup.org)
- 11-13—*Austin, Texas*. We Agnostics, Atheists, and Freethinkers Internat'l Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4071, Lancaster, CA 93539-4071; [weagconvention@gmail.com](mailto:weagconvention@gmail.com)
- 18-20—*Winston-Salem, North Carolina*. Nat'l Tech Workshop. Info: [www.naatw.org](http://www.naatw.org)
- 25-26—*Orlando, Florida*. XX Convención Estatal de la Florida. Write: Ch., 770731, Orlando, FL 32837; [xxconvencionestataldelafloida@gmail.com](mailto:xxconvencionestataldelafloida@gmail.com)
- 25-27—*Bloomington, Minnesota*. Founder's Day Wknd. Write: Ch., Box 8327, Minneapolis, MN 55408; [www.foundersdaymn.org](http://www.foundersdaymn.org)

## December

- 2-4—*Orlando, Florida*. Southwest Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)
- 9-11—*Birmingham, Alabama*. Magic City Roundup III. Write: Ch., Box 550058, Birmingham, AL 35255; [www.magiccityroundup.com](http://www.magiccityroundup.com)

## January 2017

- 20-22—*Mankato, Minnesota*. Recovery Unity Service Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2812, Minneapolis, MN 55402; [altchair@area36.org](mailto:altchair@area36.org)
- 27-29—*Hilton Head Island, SC*. 37th Annual Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conf. Write: Ch., Box 6256, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938; [www.hiltonheadmidwinterconference.com](http://www.hiltonheadmidwinterconference.com)
- 27-29—*Amarillo, Texas*. 33 aniversario de la zona norte de Texas. Para Info: 3511 E. 12th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79104