

■ Come Celebrate A.A.'s 85th Birthday in Detroit, Michigan

It's the perfect match — a resurgent and revitalized city of historic importance to Alcoholics Anonymous and an estimated 50,000 celebrating A.A.s from around the world.

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020, in Detroit, Michigan, with the theme “Love and Tolerance Is Our Code.” A.A. members and guests will commemorate A.A.'s birthday and share their experience, strength and hope with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the domed Ford Field Stadium. Many other meetings, panels and workshops will take place throughout the weekend in the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit, in walking distance from Ford Field.

“I'm very excited about having the 2020 Convention in Detroit,” says Michele Grinberg, Class A (nonalcoholic) chair of the General Service Board, who's been attending International Conventions since Minneapolis in 2000. “I love that it's located centrally, so a lot of people can get there. And the theme of love and tolerance is something we've been talking about a lot — that the doors of A.A. are wide open.”

Every five years since 1950, International Conventions have been held in U.S. and Canadian cities with cultures and personalities as varied as the alcoholics who travel to them for the celebration. Detroit is no exception. Mystery writer Elmore Leonard once said of his adopted city, “There are cities that get by on their good looks. Detroit has to work for a living.”

And Detroit has now worked its way through several



lives. It was once the automotive center of the universe, a working person's dream, home to Ford, GM, Chrysler and related industries. Then it became Motown, the spectacular center of soul music, a powerful force of social and cultural diversity in America. Economic changes caused the city's decline after these high points and, in yet another life, Detroit evolved into the town other towns were warned about in cautionary civic bedtime tales.

But Detroit has come fighting back: its classic monument, after all, is a huge fist commemorating heavyweight champ Joe Louis, whose family migrated to Detroit in the 1920s during the Great Migration of African-Americans from the South, which so shaped the city's history. Downtown Detroit is filled with new office space and apartment buildings, restaurants and other amenities, and is planning on welcoming A.A. with open arms — the 50,000 attendees will make this convention the largest the city has ever hosted, according to the Detroit Convention Bureau.

During the Convention, the Cobo Center will be packed with panels, regional meetings, marathon meetings and topic meetings on subjects ranging from “Came to Believe” to “Healing Through Laughter” to “Tolerance and Trust.” “We are looking for something in the neighborhood of 700 speakers,” Julio E., G.S.O. staff member on the International Conventions assignment, says. He will send a letter out to General Service Conference members in September, asking for their help in finding speakers who can focus on recovery in A.A. as they weave a selected topic into their talks. All convention meetings are “open” meetings, so it is important that speakers pass along the message of A.A. to any visitors or guests.

Those not busy attending meetings or workshops will find themselves with plenty of places to enjoy fellowship with like-minded friends. They can visit the Detroit Institute of Arts, ranked one of the top museums in the



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Note on anonymity: From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of G.S.O. employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

United States and featuring famous murals by Diego Rivera. Or they might prefer the Henry Ford Museum complex, a short distance away in Dearborn. At this sprawling space dedicated to American life and culture, visitors can see the bus where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and the limo in which JFK took his last ride. The Motown Museum — located in “Hitsville U.S.A.,” Motown founder Berry Gordy’s first headquarters — is filled with Motown memorabilia (guided tours only, so schedule ahead). Don’t forget the Eastern Market, with vendors selling every type of food, from farm-fresh breakfasts to Coney Island hot dogs. (Smothered in chili and onions, these hot dogs are a passion of Detroiters: *Smithsonian* magazine once dubbed Detroit “Coney dog ground zero.”) Stay around to watch the Tigers play at beautiful Comerica Park. Enjoy the river breeze and watch the freighters pass by on their way up to the Great Lakes as you walk, bike or jog along Detroit’s RiverWalk. You can also visit Canada, of course, just across the water — but remember to bring your passport.

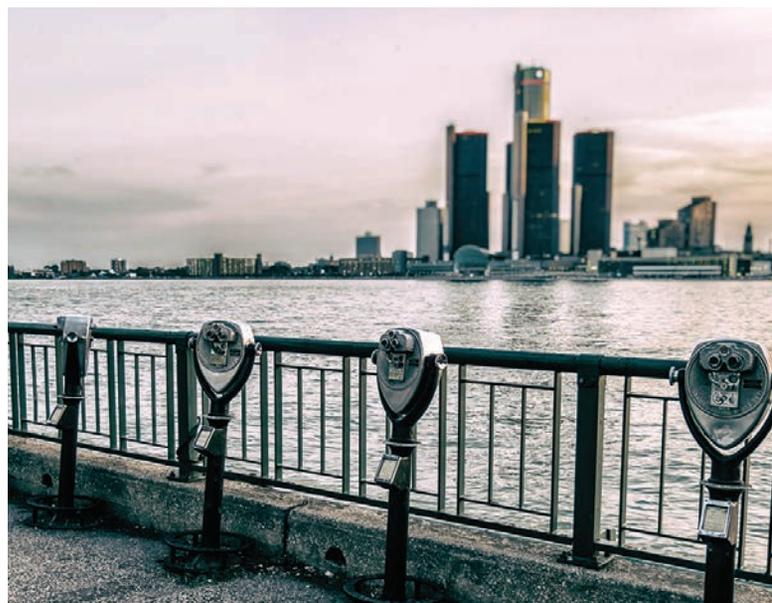
Gregg Talley (nonalcoholic), president and CEO of Talley Management Group, the company that has handled the logistical and planning needs of A.A.’s International Conventions since Seattle in 1990, shares that the company has reserved a block of 10,000 hotel rooms and 1,500 dorm beds throughout the Detroit metropolitan area and in Windsor, Ontario. The company has also chartered a fleet of 270 shuttle buses, which will run on regular schedules back and forth between the hotels and the Convention. “We are actually building what is the fourth or fifth largest transportation system in the country,” he says. Gregg and Julio agree that the city is thrilled that A.A. is coming. “They are extending a warm welcome,” Gregg says. “Like most cities, they’re happy to host Alcoholics Anonymous.” Beyond the not-inconsiderable economic impact on city businesses,

Julio adds that locals will benefit in other ways: “At past Conventions, the police have ‘complained’ that they’ve never been hugged by so many people in their lives.”

Carlyle W., Panel 67 delegate from Area 33, which comprises five populous counties in southeastern Michigan, is chair of the volunteer welcome committee. This means he is responsible for the selection of chairs and co-chairs for each of the 14 subcommittees helping with everything from hotel lobby greeters to those helping with registration at Cobo and the flag ceremony at Ford Field — the signal event of every International Convention. He estimates that around 4,000 volunteers will be needed; the sign-up for these will begin at the end of January 2020, via volunteer websites that will allow volunteers to sign up for subcommittees and shifts.

Carlyle, a native Detroitier who returned to the city from New York to get sober in the mid 2000s, feels the town is convention-ready. “The city has hosted any number of conventions — lots of trade and professional organizations — and they really know their stuff. This has become a 21st-century town: it’s up and coming, more intellectual, more innovative.” And from an A.A. point of view, there is no better place than Detroit. “The first group here started in 1939,” Carlyle says. “The A.A. community here is huge — with about 1,000 A.A. groups that are listed, and some that aren’t. Detroit A.A. is thrilled about being involved.” (For more on Detroit’s seminal place in A.A. history, click on the “Archives” tab at Area 33’s excellent website, <https://aa-semi.org/district/>).

As a celebration of sobriety with thousands of friends and a chance to let the world know that A.A. is alive, flourishing and available as a resource to all, the International Convention is an unparalleled experience. Throw in a welcoming city and a Coney dog drenched in chili, well... there will be few better ways to spend your 2020 summer vacation.



■ If you're going...

Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, central offices, intergroups and international G.S.O.s. Online registration will be available September 9, 2019, on aa.org. Advanced registration for the Convention (between September 9, 2019, and April 14, 2020) will be \$115 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020, will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee. Check aa.org for further information and updates.

Once registered, individual members will be able to book up to four (4) rooms. If you are traveling in a group and need more than four rooms, an additional member in your group will need to register and book the necessary additional hotel rooms.

For large groups requiring ten (10) rooms or more, there is a separate procedure. For information on this procedure, please contact the International Convention Coordinator at G.S.O. at 2020ic@aa.org.

While we are trying to meet everyone's needs, we attempt to ensure fairness for the entire Fellowship so that both single attendees and attendees traveling in a group have equal access to hotel arrangements for the Convention.



and...

In the Year 2030, It's St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis, Missouri, has been selected by the General Service Board as the site for the International Convention celebrating A.A.'s 95th Anniversary, July 2030. Because of continued growth in attendance, it is necessary to reserve major meeting facilities and hotels this far in advance. The board made its decision following site inspection trips to Indianapolis, St. Louis and two other cities chosen for equal consideration by the 2018 General Service Conference.

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■ Regional Forums: Something Magical

"I love Regional Forums," says Sandra W., the current G.S.O. staff member on the Regional Forums assignment. "I think as a group member you really get to see where you play a part in the whole service structure. And for staffers and board members, you get to find out what resonates with people, what people are interested in."

Regional Forums are weekend-long informational gatherings that bring together A.A. members with representatives from the General Service Board and the A.A. World Services and AA Grapevine Corporate Boards, as well as with Grapevine/La Viña and General Service Office staff. Eight regions make up the U.S./Canada service structure and four Regional Forums are held each year on a rotational basis, which means that a particular region will host a Regional Forum every two years.

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris (nonalcoholic), then chair of A.A.'s General Service Board, who believed that the burgeoning growth of A.A. might result in a loss of communication between A.A. service entities and members themselves, despite the existence since 1951 of the yearly General Service Conference. As Sandra points out, "no policy is made" at Regional Forums: they are not a decision-making body, but rather provide a unique opportunity for exchanging information and asking questions.

There is often a misconception that Regional Forums are only for those A.A. members directly involved in service work. Nothing could be further from the truth, Sandra says. "Every A.A. member is welcome and lots of newcomers make it. And sometimes just being there gets them bitten by the service bug."

There is no registration fee for a Regional Forum, as they are supported by Seventh Tradition contributions to G.S.O. The General Service Board hosts Regional Forums at the invitation of each region and finances the costs of hotel meeting rooms. Members need only cover their own travel, lodging and food costs.

Forums begin Friday evenings and run until Sunday noon. Traditionally, events include an orientation session for first-timers at a Forum; sharing sessions, an "Ask-It Basket" and presentations covering topics such as "A.A. Around the World," "Self-Support" and "Carrying the Message." Attendees get a chance to hear talks by Class A and Class B trustees, delegates from the region, and the staffs of Grapevine and La Viña. There might be special presentations from members of G.S.O.'s various departments, including Publishing and Archives. The workshops are especially fulfilling, with topics chosen from recommendations made by forum attendees from the last time a forum was held in the region.



“Additionally,” Sandra says, “one workshop topic found in every recent forum is on diversity and inclusion — including discussing who is *not* in the room — and how A.A. can be more inclusive.” Some Regional Forums, she says, have an ice cream social on Saturday night hosted by a local welcome committee, and informal roundtables

where members, trustees

and staff can share their experience, strength and hope.

Following a recent forum, one participant emailed G.S.O. to express gratitude for the experience. “I had no idea that the Big Book was available in so many languages. Seeing all of the A.A. literature displays, especially the Big Books, brought tears of gratitude to my eyes. I also got a copy of *La Viña*, which I gave to a friend who is new to A.A. and speaks only Spanish.”

For Ivy Rivera (nonalcoholic), a past Regional Forums staff assistant and currently in charge of making forum arrangements for the office, Regional Forums represent a lifetime of fulfilling work. A G.S.O. employee since 1984, she was given the opportunity to go to Alaska to a Regional Forum to fill in for the then assistant, who was pregnant with twins. She’s been handling the logistics of Regional Forums, and attending them, ever since. She makes sure enough rooms are reserved at the hotel, that enough coffee urns are available and that the audiovisual setup is working. “We’ve come a long way from the days when we had to throw a sheet on the wall to use as a screen for overhead transparencies,” she says.

And beyond the arrangements made by G.S.O., the local welcome committees play a big role in the success of Regional Forums. Whether it is greeting at the doors, staffing the registration tables, setting up G.S.O. and Grapevine literature displays, putting up workshop signs, distributing hand-outs, and much more, local A.A.s always rise to the occasion to help out.

“There is something magical about forums,” Ivy says. “Some members always show up a little suspicious of ‘New York’ — there’s a bit of this ‘us vs. them’ feeling. But by the end of the weekend, most people generally understand that the New York office and the General

Service Board are there to help, not to tell them what to do. And that’s incredibly gratifying to me.”

For all interested A.A.s, information on Regional Forums is just a click away on G.S.O.’s website (aa.org). There you will find a schedule, Regional Forum flyers, a forum calendar poster, online registration and, when available, links to online hotel reservations. For planning purposes, preregistration is encouraged and onsite registration is always available.

■ The remaining Regional Forums for 2019:

Northeast, May 31-June 2, Westchester Marriot Hotel, Tarrytown, NY; East Central, July 12-14, Sheraton Detroit Metro Airport, Detroit, MI; West Central, August 16-18, Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND; Southwest, October 11-13, Sheraton North Houston at George Bush Intercontinental, Houston, TX.

In addition, regions may request a Special Forum, which is a scaled-down version of a Regional Forum normally held in remote and sparsely populated areas, and in some urban areas as well.

For more information, contact the Regional Forums desk at G.S.O., regionalforums@aa.org, 212-870-3120.

■ Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2019¹

	Groups	Members
United States	66,345	1,361,838
Canada	5,091	84,891
Sub-Total	71,436	1,446,729
Correctional facilities	1,607	40,218
Loners, Internationalist, Homers	1	168
Total	73,044	1,487,115
Outside U.S. & Canada ²	52,308	643,304
Grand Total	125,352	2,130,419

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O. and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2. We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 64 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually, we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking, we use an earlier year’s figures.

■ Sponsorship: “That Which We Give Away, We Keep”

“Every sponsor is necessarily a leader,” wrote Bill W. in *The Language of the Heart* (p. 292). “The stakes are huge,” he continued. “A human life, and usually the happiness of a whole family, hangs in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example — well, these attributes of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death.”

The General Service Conference has focused on the timeless topic of sponsorship over the years, and the following excerpts from past Conference presentations provide a window into this enduring aspect of carrying the message from one alcoholic to another. Vera M. from southwest Ohio shared this about sponsorship: “When I came to A.A., nobody asked me to meet any specifications: they just accepted me as I was, with love. My first sponsor treated me with compassion, which, I believe, means with gratitude. She understood that sponsor and sponsee meet as equal people.”

“Sponsorship is important to ensure that A.A. will continue,” said Dorothy M. of southern Indiana. “My sponsor was there to suggest the things I needed to do to stay sober. She was there to answer the questions I had about the program. She was there to explain the Steps and to help me work through them. She was there when I had no mind to think with. She was there to think for me. She was there with the kind of quality sobriety that I wanted. She was there to show me how to achieve quality sobriety. She was responsible.”

Herb M., who served as A.A.W.S. board member in the 1960s, put it this way: “That which we give away we keep. That which we keep we lose. Such is the basis of our responsibility — to pass on to another alcoholic the message of love and understanding that made our own sobriety possible.... There has been unanimous agreement among us that the very substance of our sobriety lies in our willingness and our readiness to share this recovery experience with another.”

Describing the privilege and responsibility that goes along with sponsorship in A.A., Peter W., a past Eastern Canada regional trustee, highlighted the fundamental role sponsorship plays in the Fellowship:

“A.A. had its origin in the principle of sponsorship — the need we have for one another. This principle is equally as valid today as when Bill carried the message to Dr. Bob. The world of alcoholism has changed, will continue to change. But our need for one another remains as vital today as it was in Akron in 1935. The

privilege of being a sponsor insures our sobriety. It also helps us function effectively in recovery by recognizing the needs of others. It enables us to find within ourselves a response to those needs.... Sponsorship is woven intricately through our Legacies. To deny it could weaken our Fellowship.... Bill calls it ‘the language of the heart.’ It transcends the appearance and the personality of the individual and goes directly to the soul. Sponsorship is the silent legacy of our Fellowship, given to us by those who went before us. It can spell the difference between survival and stagnation.”

In closing, Peter noted, “To love the lovable requires very little effort, but you and I are called upon to love the unlovable, to help that person become lovable. Can you think of any greater responsibility? Can you think of any better way to do it than sponsorship?”

■ Carrying the Message Behind the Walls: The Pioneer Group



Anonymity is the cornerstone of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Pioneer Group at Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) once embodied that concept to the extreme. When the group first formed in the 1940s, they held their meetings in the basement of the control room of the prison, in a space that could only be accessed through a trap-

door. And while the original meeting space is no longer accessible, having been sealed off completely from the rest of the facility, today’s A.A. members still pass over the original trapdoor on their way to meetings held in the East Complex, 30 feet away.

Buried deep in the hill on which the prison is built, the walls of the decades-old meeting room are graced with hand-lettered renderings of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Serenity Prayer. Jim D., a lifer and longtime-sober member of A.A. — and the group’s G.S.R. for a while — received permission in the mid 1980s to access the original meeting site with a camera to document the historical setting. His photos reveal that although the paint is worn and faded, some of the type is broken, and certain sections are obscured by water damage, the message is still clear. Following the Twelfth Step, a handwritten scrawl in red ink — “Rarely have we seen a person fail who has followed these principles” —

seems to perfectly encapsulate WSP's significant contribution to A.A.'s corrections efforts. Jim D. observed that the now inaccessible room bears "mute testimony [that] the strength of the outstretched hand of A.A. will always remain."

Formed a mere seven months after the first-ever A.A. prison group was started at San Quentin in California by then warden Clinton Duffy, the meeting was originally called "The Hilltoppers" because of the prison's elevated location amid the wheat fields of Walla Walla, Washington. Though locals refer to it as "The Hill," its denizens call it "The Walls," and it was behind those walls that the first impromptu meeting was held in 1942 in the Big Yard, with original members Earl C., Roy A., George L., Earl H. and Barney B. in attendance. A short while later, Oliver L., Bruce C. and Earl L. joined the group, and it was these eight men who later met regularly in the catacomb-like basement room beneath the trapdoor.

On September 2, 1943, unaware of the fledgling group that already existed, the prison's director of education, F.C. Ott, wrote a letter to the Alcoholic Foundation requesting that a meeting be founded within the confines of WSP. Margaret B. (fondly known as "Bobbie") responded to Mr. Ott's request and referred him to Warden Duffy and a sober inmate, Richard M., at San Quentin. They, in turn, contacted Mr. Ott, sending along a complimentary copy of A.A.'s Big Book as a gift for the men at WSP. Bobbie also informed Mr. Ott that Bill W. would be traveling in the Seattle and Portland area around that time and helped arrange for the two men to meet in 1943.

Mr. L. C. Faus of Los Angeles is credited with getting the Pioneer Group formally inaugurated at WSP. He contacted Colonel Robert M. Watkins, a close friend of Arthur B. Langley (then governor of Washington), who advised WSP's Warden Webb that Mr. Faus would be visiting the prison to start the A.A. group. Mr. Faus, his wife, and the new head of education at WSP, J. E. Powers, spent five days setting up the meeting room and getting the materials in order. Their work was followed up by Dale A. of Seattle and by Dr. Clarence H. and Les F. of Portland. Along with the original Hilltopper members (including Earl C., who had a hand in renaming the group), these men established the firm roots of the Pioneer Group. (Earl felt that "Pioneer" was an appropriate name, as their group was "the first A.A. fellowship formed in the Washington State penal system.")

Howard J. of the Tri-Cities group and Ralph and Lou M. of Seattle were among the outside A.A. members who

worked with the Pioneer Group in its early days. It was often difficult for these men to keep their commitments due to time constraints and long distances; nevertheless, they and other sober alcoholics visited the prison regularly. Roger S. of the Ballard Group went to truly great lengths, often making the four-and-a-half-hour journey from Seattle alone so that there would be at least one outside A.A. member present at the meetings. With support from both inside and out, the Pioneer Group continued to grow and thrive.



J. E. Powers wrote to Les F. in 1944 about the need for more literature to meet the needs of its new members. Some of the group members went above and beyond their regular service commitments to demonstrate their gratitude for what had been so freely given to them during the darkest time of their lives. In 1945, the secretary of the Pioneer Group, known only as "W.," composed a document entitled "Outline of Organized Sobriety in A.A." It was so impressive that an outside A.A. fellow, Bobby B., wrote to W. on behalf of Bill W., letting him know just how much Bill liked his ideas.

The group expanded from its original eight members to 20 and then to 35 before moving to the auditorium of the school building in 1947. In the early years, it was difficult to find sponsors for the men since there was no regularly established A.A. meeting in Walla Walla. However, despite the four-to-five-hour distance, sponsors came from Seattle and Portland to work the Steps with the men and guide them along the way — a testament to A.A.'s principle of going to any lengths to carry the message.

In 1950, the Pioneer Group held its first annual "open house" to celebrate their group anniversary. It was held in the Big Yard, the site of the very first informal meeting eight years before that had been attended by barely a handful of men. In contrast, present at the 1950 open house were 250 inmates and 200 guests. Jim D. writes, "At the close of the meeting, as the sun was slowly setting behind the west wall of the prison, all participants joined hands in prayer in the customary unbroken circle symbolizing unity in the Fellowship of A.A."

During the 1960s and '70s, when inmates were still permitted to attend outside A.A. functions, a number of local members escorted the inmates to downtown and out-of-town meetings, potluck suppers, picnics and other A.A. events. And in 1979, a member named Jack B. was instrumental in collecting and supplying Grapevines to the inside A.A. members during a lockdown of WSP that year so that the men could continue

to receive and share the message until meetings were allowed to resume.

By 1985 the Pioneer Group held three meetings weekly. Tuesday was a literature study and Thursday was a regular closed meeting, with the third Thursday designated as a business meeting. Saturday meetings were usually for outside guest speakers. Group conscience dictated that upcoming speakers, often sponsors, were selected by the member who had chaired the previous meeting. Like many A.A. groups, the Pioneer Group has a planning and steering committee to organize workshops and reunions and to discuss group business bound by bylaws that can only be changed by group conscience. The Pioneer Group's officers rotate service positions every six months, and a true highlight for the group is hearing the delegate's annual report onsite at the prison every year.

In the early 1990s there were two meetings on Saturday supported by three different outside contingents of volunteers from Spokane, Tri-Cities and Yakima. Mark Mc., a former inmate and resident of Walla Walla, volunteered weekly at WSP for years following his release. The two Saturday meetings still meet in the East Complex and are attended by 25-30 inmates. The South Complex hosts another A.A. group, the Clean Slate Group, which has a dozen or so regular attendees. Currently, Bryan B. is working on getting a meeting started in the West Complex, which has been without twelve-step meetings for several years.

Open house banquets are no longer permitted at the facility, but the group holds semiannual workshops and celebrates its anniversary every September. The anniversary meeting is attended by numerous "grads" (of the prison) who got sober behind The Walls and maintained their sobriety on the outside. Jim D. credits the success of the formerly incarcerated staying sober to "rigorous honesty, finding a good sponsor on the outside before or immediately after leaving here, and by carrying the message to people like us." Jack B. drove this point home constantly while working at WSP: "Continued attendance by the recovering ex-offender is a tremendous inspiration to the incarcerated recovering alcoholic." He knew firsthand just how many inmates A.A. had helped in achieving and sustaining their sobriety.

Taking into consideration the original impromptu meetings of The Hilltoppers in 1942 and their merging with the Pioneer Group in 1945, 2019 marks 77 years for this stalwart group. It is humbling to think of the myriad lives that have been saved by people carrying the message of hope into what would seem a hopeless place.

During the recent relocation of Area 72's repository, area archivist Al S. discovered — among 20 years of buried items — a photo of a gold-plated cup made by members of the Pioneer Group. A small tag on the bottom of the vessel indicates that it was a token of appreciation to

an outside volunteer, Sig N., of Tacoma. The outer engraving reads, "A.A. Guest Speaker — Pioneer Group — 5th Anniversary — 8/20/50 — WSP." One can only muse that, after these many years, their cup indeed runneth over.

■ Résumés for Trustees Election due January 1, 2020

Two new Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees from the West Central and Western Canada regions will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2020. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2020, and must be submitted by U.S./Canada area delegates only. In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of qualified applicants that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. Please submit your candidates' résumés to the secretary, trustees' Committee on Nominating, G.S.O.

The new West Central regional trustee will fill the position currently held by Tom A., of Waite Park, Minnesota. The next trustee from the Western Canada region will follow Cate W., of Winnipeg, Manitoba. 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.

Since much is asked of the trustees with respect to their time, it is important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings running from Saturday morning through Monday noon; a quarterly meeting combined with the General Service Conference (seven days) in April; and any special meetings of the board. Regional trustees also serve in rotation for attendance at Regional Forums other than in their own regions. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine corporate boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board. Trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may also serve on trustees' subcommittees or corporate board subcommittees, whose work often involves conference calls. They are often invited to participate in regional or area activities, such as service conferences, area assemblies, etc.

Trusteeship is for four years. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

■ The 69th General Service Conference Convenes

“Our Big Book — 80 Years, 71 Languages” was the theme of the recently concluded 69th General Service Conference, held in New York City May 19–25. As the Fellowship’s original “oldtimer in print” — also available digitally and as an audio disc — *Alcoholics Anonymous*, our basic text, has sold over 40 million copies, is available in 71 languages, and has helped carry the A.A. message in more than 180 countries around the world.

Working closely with Dr. Bob and the Fellowship’s earliest members, Bill W. recognized that in order to keep the program from getting “garbled” or misinterpreted, it would be necessary to put the process down on paper — to make clear what the first 100 members did to achieve and maintain their sobriety. The process was not without difficulty, of course, with many disagreements over what should be in the book. Nevertheless, together, those early A.A.s constructed a pathway to sobriety that was broad, enduring and inclusive.

With our basic text as the backdrop, the 69th General Service Conference was made up of 93 delegates, 27 trustees and corporate directors from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine, along with 15 General Service Office, Grapevine and La Viña staff members.

Following a warm welcome Sunday morning from Michele Grinberg, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairperson of the General Service Board, and the official roll call by G.S.O.’s general manager Greg T., Anthony F. of South Dakota, delegate chair of the Conference, referenced the Conference theme: “Seventy-one languages — I have to admit, I wonder how translators do it. ‘Whoopee party’? Really, Bill? I’d sure like to know how that got translated into Navajo. Or how it just got translated to our French-speaking friends.” Additionally, Anthony contemplated one of the many issues slated to come before the Conference, noting, “In 1939, when the book was first published, I’m guessing none of them imagined we would be here deciding on a possible fifth edition.”

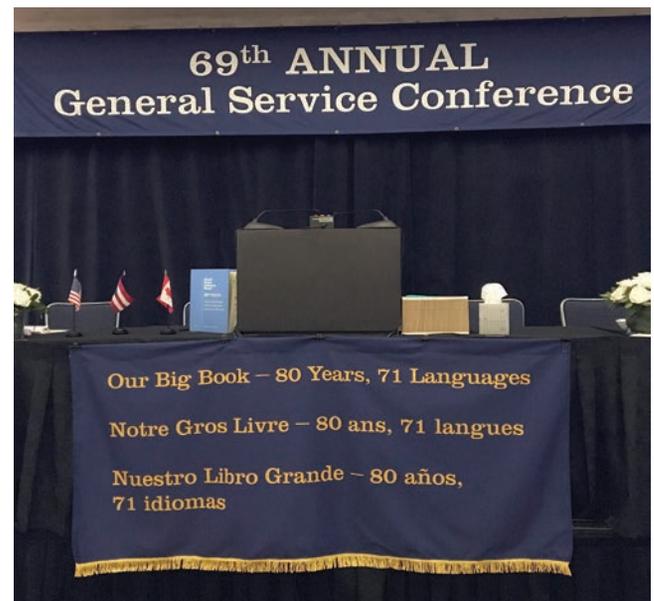
Delayed temporarily by bad weather that disrupted her travel plans, the Conference keynote address was delivered on Monday by Yoli F., Southwest regional trustee. In her talk, Yoli shared an anecdote about the Big Book from her early sobriety: “My first awakening of the value of the Big Book and translations came from a story by Fran P. in the July 1990 Grapevine titled ‘Grupa Una,’ about a woman in Romania named Juliet who was in search of recovery from alcoholism during the oppressive years of 1984–85. Fran writes, ‘Their faith in A.A. regularly moved me to tears. The first weekend Juliet had the literature, for example, she stayed at home. On Monday, I noticed she seemed quite tired. When asked why, she said she had been sitting up copying the Big Book by hand. Shocked, I told her that I was giving her my copy to keep forever, that she didn’t need to copy a single word.’”

Beginning on Sunday afternoon and running through to Saturday, Conference week is long and often arduous,

punctuated by board and committee reports, presentations and discussions, area service highlights, workshops, sharing sessions and a visit to G.S.O. Additionally, the trustee elections, which took place on Wednesday, allowed Tom A. and Lucien J., the trustees’ and Conference committee chairs respectively, to sharpen their comic deliveries as they filled some of the silence between votes with a selection of jokes from the new Grapevine book *Take Me to Your Sponsor*. Also providing a little comic relief to the week-long proceedings was a performance by the 475 Riverside Players, a rag-tag thespian ensemble (comprised of G.S.O. and La Viña staff), who provided a homegrown production of “Dorothy Goes to the International Convention,” based on the all-time classic, “The Wizard of Oz.”

The main focus of each Conference, however, is on the deliberations of each of the 13 Conference committees, and it is during committee meetings that the major work of the Conference is done. With comprehensive background provided for each agenda item (made available for advance distribution to the Fellowship in English, French and Spanish), Conference committees discuss numerous issues of interest to the Fellowship as a whole and come up with recommendations, some of which result in Conference Advisory Actions.

Addressing some difficult issues — issues of trust, growth and unity as a Fellowship in the digital age — the 69th Conference worked its way through agenda items, slowly and carefully formulating a path forward for the Fellowship. Not all Conference discussions resulted in Advisory Actions, though; many of the important matters addressed at the Conference were articulated in the “additional considerations” of each committee — more informal suggestions and guidance on how best to carry the message.



By Friday evening, with discussion and voting on committee agendas and floor actions finally complete, as has become the custom at each Conference, rotating Panel 68 delegates lined up around the room for emotional two-minute farewells, often recounting their gratitude and expressing confidence in the remaining delegates to carry on the meaningful work of the Conference and the Fellowship.

On that poignant note, the 2019 General Service Conference officially concluded with the Serenity Prayer in three languages, led by Marge M. (English), Eric P. (French) and Jesus O. (Spanish). Reconvening briefly on Saturday morning for a final brunch featuring emotional talks by rotating trustees, Conference members bid each other a fond farewell and began to turn their attention toward next year's Conference with its theme, "2020: A Clear Vision for You."

2019 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations put forward by the standing committees of the General Service Conference that have been discussed, voted on and approved by the Conference body as a whole during general sessions. A number of Advisory Actions from the 2019 General Service Conference appear below in condensed form. A complete list of Advisory Actions will be published in the Conference *Final Report* (available from G.S.O. in late summer).

Floor Actions — The proposed floor action that "A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 General Service Conference" be committed to the trustees' Literature Committee; the proposed floor action that "The pamphlet 'A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic' be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference" be committed to the trustees' Literature Committee; the "A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials" be recommitted to the trustees' Literature Committee with an updated policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.

Agenda — The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference be: "2020: A Clear Vision for You"; the following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference: Recovery — Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?, Unity — Practicing Our Principles, Service — Keeping A.A. Relevant; and that the workshop topic be: Attraction Through Action.

Archives — The 1940s home movie of the co-founders and their wives be added to the Archives video "Markings on the Journey" at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

Finance — The level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be raised to \$10,000.

International Conventions/ Regional Forums — An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2020 International Convention; an anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved; anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2020 International Convention.

Literature — The pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be revised to add text regarding anonymity emphasizing the relevance and spiritual value of anonymity, both on a person-to-person basis, as well as at the public level including social media; the pamphlets "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" and "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" be updated.

Public Information — The trustees' Committee on Public Information develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets that provide information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information; the video PSA "My World" be discontinued; the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be reaffirmed; two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA, and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an "actor portrayal" disclaimer on screen; text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity;" a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information; all current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes; A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants; A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google AdWords/ Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public; A.A. World Services, Inc. implement Google AdWords/ Grants for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Treatment and Accessibilities — Ashley's story (an A.A. member who is Deaf) be added to the pamphlet "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" and that the video version of the pamphlet be updated to reflect this change; the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late" be updated; the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online.

■ Early Review Propels A.A.'s Big Book



Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick

When it was first published in 1939, the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, was called a lot of things — including “strange” by the *New York Times* and “curious” by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* — in book reviews appearing in October of that year. Yet, a number of people, many of whom worked directly with alcoholics in their

respective professions, also recognized the sea change inherent in A.A.'s approach to alcoholism and offered their support to the group just beginning to find its way.

One such professional was Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, the well-known minister of Riverside Church in New York City, who wrote a glowing review of the book and heartily endorsed its methods. His early support was a boon to the Fellowship and lent credibility to the groundbreaking approach outlined in A.A.'s basic text. A nonalcoholic friend of A.A., Dr. Fosdick had profound faith in the process and procedures of A.A., and realized what a help it could be to members of the clergy and to others who struggled to help and understand the many alcoholics they came into contact with on a day-to-day basis. In his review, published just months after the book's release in 1939, he wrote, “This extraordinary book deserves the careful attention of anyone interested in the problem of alcoholism. Whether as victims, friends of victims, physicians, clergymen, psychiatrists or social workers ... this book will give them, as no other treatise known to this reviewer will, an inside view of the problem which the alcoholic faces.” (*A.A. Comes of Age*, p. 322.)

In his review, Dr. Fosdick made the case for the fledgling group and its roadmap to recovery. “This book represents the pooled experience of one hundred men and women who have been victims of alcoholism — many of them declared hopeless by the experts — and who have won their freedom and recovered their sanity and self-control. Their stories are detailed and circumstantial, packed with human interest. In America today the disease of alcoholism is increasing. Liquor has been an easy escape

from depression. As an English officer in India, reproved for his excessive drinking, lifted his glass and said, ‘This is the swiftest road out of India,’ so many Americans have been using hard liquor as a means of flight from their troubles until to their dismay they discover that, free to begin, they are not free to stop....

“The book is not in the least sensational. It is notable for its sanity, restraint, and freedom from over-emphasis and fanaticism. It is a sober, careful, tolerant, sympathetic treatment of the alcoholic's problem and of the successful techniques by which its co-authors have won their freedom.”

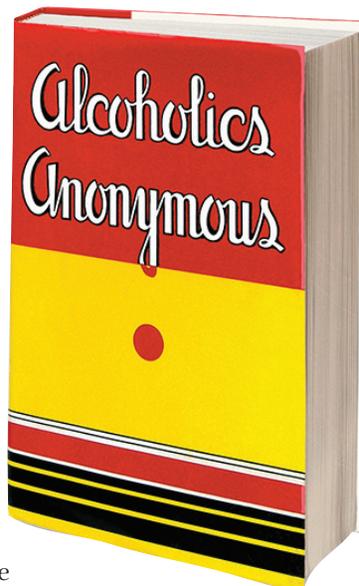
Having expressed his strong support for the Big Book, Dr. Fosdick also acknowledged that working with alcoholics could be a daunting challenge for members of the clergy and others who see the effects of alcoholism close up. “Every minister who is also a personal counselor has to deal with cases of alcoholism,” he wrote later. “For years I have dreaded that. Almost any kind of abnormality I would welcome rather than face a case of alcoholism.”

But, “Alcoholics Anonymous ... is a godsend to us ministers,” he wrote in his autobiography, *The Living of These Days*.

“How can we understand an alcoholic — his compulsive desire for liquor, the hopeless captivity against which he futilely contends, one determined decision after another to stop drinking ending in collapse? When we talk to an alcoholic, he knows that never having been in his place we cannot understand his plight. But when an ex-alcoholic, who has been in the depths himself and has taken the Twelve Steps to freedom, talks to an alcoholic, amazing results can follow....”

Bill W. often acknowledged the role played by A.A.'s many early supporters and by the clergy, in particular, in helping to shape the spiritual tenets of Alcoholics

Anonymous and increasing its exposure to those in need. He wrote in a September 1957 Grapevine article, “It is with the deepest feeling that I cast up A.A.'s debt to the clergy. Without their works for us, A.A. could never have been born; nearly every principle that we use came from them. Their example, their faith, and their beliefs in some part, we have appropriated and made our own. Almost literally, we A.A.s owe them our lives, our fortunes, and such salvation as each of us has found.”



Alcoholics Anonymous Facsimile First Printing of the First Edition (Item ID: B-0), is available through the A.A.W.S. Online Store at aa.org.

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.**

June 2019

- 7-9—*Mobile, Alabama.* Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36691; www.mobileaa.org
- 7-9—*Victorville, California.* High Desert Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1894, Apple Valley, CA 92307; www.sunshineofthespirit-high-desertconvention.com
- 7-9—*Tallahassee, Florida.* Founder's Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., Box 38034, Tallahassee, FL 32315; www.foundersdayflorida.org
- 7-9—*Metairie, Louisiana.* Big Deep South Conv. Info: www.bigdeepsouth.org
- 7-9—*Santa Fe, New Mexico.* Area 46 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 28957, Santa Fe, NM 87592; www.nm-aa.org
- 7-9—*Akron, Ohio.* 84th Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309; www.foundersday.org
- 7-9—*Kenton, Oklahoma.* 43rd Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 944, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
- 7-9—*Houston, Texas.* 73rd TX State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 10784, Houston, TX 77206; www.txaaconvention.org
- 7-9—*Evanston, Wyoming.* WY Spring Conv. Write: Ch., Dist. 7 Fund, Box 468, Evanston, WY 82931; www.area76aawyoming.org
- 8-9—*Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.* Area 85 Roundup. Write: Ch., NW ON Gen. Service, Box 10073, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T6; www.aa-nwo-area85.org
- 14-15—*Joliette, Québec, Canada.* 43ième Congrès de Joliette et de Lanaudière Nord. Écrire: congres0326@aa90.org
- 21-23—*Portland, Oregon.* Pacific NW Conf. Write: Ch., Box 903, Canby, OR 97013; www.pnc1948.org
- 21-30—*Sventoji, Klaipeda, Lithuania.* Nine Days and Nine Nights. Info: info@aalietuvoje.org
- 28-30—*Frederick, Maryland.* 49th Area 29 State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 8043, Elkridge, MD 21075; www.marylandaa.org

28-30—*Duparquet, Québec, Canada.* Congrès de Rouyn-Noranda. Écrire: 388 Chemin Mercier, Duparquet, QC J0Z 1W0

29-1—*Livingston, Montana.* Beartooth Mtn Conf. Write: Box 23406, Billings, MT 59104; www.beartoothmountainconference.com

July

- 5-7—*Eugene, Oregon.* Summerfest. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97401; www.aa-summerfest.org
- 11-14—*Raleigh, North Carolina.* NC State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 41451, Raleigh, NC 27629; www.aanconvention.com
- 12-14—*Auburn, Alabama.* Area 1 Assembly. Info: www.aaarea1.org
- 12-14—*Detroit, Michigan.* East Central Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; regionalforums@aa.org
- 12-14—*Wheeling, West Virginia.* 67th WV State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6535, Wheeling, WV 26003; www.aawv.org
- 13-14—*Pasadena, California.* Unity Forum. Write: Ch., Box 481193, Los Angeles, CA 90048; www.area05aa.org
- 19-21—*Concord, California.* Unity and Service Conf. Info: www.unityandserviceconference.org
- 19-21—*Tehachapi, California.* Tehachapi Mtn Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 800, Tehachapi, CA 93581; www.tehachapiroundup.org
- 19-21—*Rimouski, Québec, Canada.* 40e Congrès du Bas-St-Laurent. Écrire: Prés., 136 rue Saint-Germain Ouest, Rimouski, QC G4W 4B0; <https://aa-quebec.org/region88/WP/>
- 26-28—*Hot Springs, Arkansas.* 79th Old Granddad Conv. Write: Ch., Box 241303, Little Rock, AR 72223; convention@arkansasaa.org
- 26-28—*Jefferson City, Missouri.* MO State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 193, Peculiar, MO 64078; www.mostateconvention.org
- 26-28—*Nahcotta, Washington.* Happy Destiny Campout. Write: Ch., Box 363, Ethel, WA 98542; happydestinycampout@yahoo.com
- 26-28—*Baie-Comeau, Québec, Canada.* 49ième Congrès de Baie-Comeau. Écrire: Prés., Dist. 8909, C.P. 6052 Mingan, Baie-Comeau, QC G5C 0B7; web.district8909@gmail.com
- 2-4—*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.* PA State Conv. Write: Ch., 315 E. Main St., Hummelstown, PA 17036; www.aapastateconvention.com

August

- 2-4—*Charlottesville, Virginia.* 68th VA Conv. Write: Ch., Box 5044, Charlottesville, VA 22905; 2019vacconvention@gmail.com
- 9-11—*Boise, Idaho.* Gem State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 45505, Boise, ID 83704
- 9-11—*Lisle, Illinois.* IL State Conv. Info: conference@aa-nia-dist43.org
- 9-11—*Joplin, Missouri.* 32nd Summer Hummer Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2364, Joplin, MO 64803; summerhummer12@gmail.com
- 9-11—*Austin, Texas.* 6th Capital of TX Conf. Write: Ch., 2809 Northland Dr., Austin, TX 78757; www.capitaloftexasconference.org
- 9-11—*Barcelona, Spain.* European Conv. of YPAA. Info: www.eurypaa.org
- 10-12—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.* 47th Lakeshore Distr. Conf. Info: www.aaldc.org
- 16-18—*Soldotna, Alaska.* 45th Wilderness Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 1625, Kenai, AK 99611; www.aakenaipeninsula.org
- 16-18—*Cartersville, Georgia.* Allatoona Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 200856, Cartersville, GA 30120; www.allatoonaroundup.org
- 16-18—*Windsor, New York.* STCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 55, Binghamton, NY 13903; stcypaaevents2019@yahoo.com
- 16-18—*Cincinnati, Ohio.* 63rd OH State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 684, Dayton, OH 45401; www.aaarea56.org
- 16-18—*Rogers, Ohio.* Beaver Creek Getaway Wknd. Write: Ch., Box 5174, East Liverpool, OH 43920; beavercreekgetawayweekend@gmail.com
- 16-18—*Beaumont, Texas.* 38th Dist. 90 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1591, Groves, TX 77619; www.aadistrict90.org
- 16-18—*Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada.* Windsor & Area Mini Roundup. Info: brooklynaagroup@gmail.com
- 16-18—*Mont-Laurier, Québec, Canada.* Congrès Dist. 90-20. Écrire: Prés., 700 Rue Parent, Mont-Laurier, QC J9L 2K1; www.aa-quebec.org
- 22-25—*Boston, Massachusetts.* 61st ICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 8242, Boston, MA 02114; www.icypaa.org
- 22-25—*Monroe City, Missouri.* Camp-O-Rama. Write: Ch., Box 1259, Hannibal, MO 63401; <https://eamo13.wixsite.com/district13>
- 23-25—*Orlando, Florida.* SE Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1134, Winter Park, FL 32790; www.sewomantowoman.org

23-25—*Detroit, Michigan*. 67th MI State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 721382, Berkley, MI 48072; www.aa-semi.org

23-25—*Reunion Flat, Wyoming*. 18th Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2905, La Grande, OR 97850; tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com

30-1—*Prescott, Arizona*. Prescott Shoestring Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 3813, Prescott, AZ 86302; www.prescottshoestringroundup.org

30-1—*Monterey, California*. Monterey Bay Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 51777, Pacific Grove, CA 93950; www.montereybayarearoundup.org

30-1—*Val-d'Or, Québec, Canada*. 40ième Congrès du Dist. 90-11. Écrire: 1578 Chemin Sullivan, Val-d'Or, QC J9P 1M3

30-1—*São Paulo, Brasil*. Colcha de Retalhos Brasil. Write: Ch., Rua Dr. Osvaldo Anheret, 537, Campinas, SP, BR, 13034-195; www.colchaderetalhosbrasil.org

30-2—*Torrance, California*. 35th South Bay Roundup. Write: Box 7786, Torrance, CA 90504; www.southbayroundup.org

31-1—*Rivière-au-Renard, Quebec, Canada*. 35ième Congrès. Write: Ch., 5 Rue du Phare, Gaspé, QC G4X 5L1

September

5-8—*Detroit, MI*. 23rd National Archives Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 66125, Detroit, MI 48066; www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com

6-7—*Lévis, Québec, Canada*. Congrès de Lévis. Write: Ch. CP 46059, Lévis, QC G6V 8S3; www.aa89.org

6-8—*Sacramento, California*. Bridging the Gap Workshop Wknd. Write: Ch. 782 River Rd. #153, St. George, UT 84790; www.btgwww.org

6-8—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada*. 53rd Dunnville Conv. & Campout. Write: Ch., Box 76, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0; dunnvilleconvention@outlook.com

13-14—*Sainte-Ursule, Quebec, Canada*. 39e Congrès District 89-17. Write: Ch., 215 rue Lessard, Ste-Ursule, QC J0K 3M0

13-15—*Laughlin, Nevada*. AZ State Conv. Info: www.area03.org

13-15—*Gatineau, Quebec, Canada*. 21e Congrès de Gatineau. Info: congres22@aa.90.org

20-22—*Bowling Green, Kentucky*. Nat'l Tech Workshop. Write: Ch. Box 356, Munfordville, KY 42765; www.naatw.org

20-22—*Taos, New Mexico*. 36th Taos Mtn Fiesta. Write: Ch., Box 417, El Prado, NM 87529; www.taosmountainfiesta.org

20-22—*Memphis, Tennessee*. Soberpalooza. Info: soberpaloozamemphis@gmail.com

27-29—*Crescent City, California*. Sobriety by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531; www.sobrietybythesea.com

27-29—*Wakefield, Rhode Island*. Rhody Recovery. Write: Ch., 10 High Street, Wakefield, RI 02880; www.rhodyrecovery.com

27-29—*Richland, Washington*. Three Rivers Big Book Weekend. Write: Ch., 3019 Duportail St. #108, Richland, WA 99352; www.threeriversbigbookweekend.org

October

4-6—*Parsippany, New Jersey*. 31st Woman to Woman NE Conf. Write: Ch., Box 548, E. Orange, NJ 07019; www.newomantowoman.org

4-6—*Independence, Ohio*. 36st Midwest Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 181393, Cleveland, OH 44118

10-13—*Biarritz, France*. Biarritz Internat'l EN Speaking Conv. Info: www.aaconventionbiarritz.com

11-12—*Louisville, Kentucky*. 28th Falls City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37137, Louisville, KY 40233; www.louisvillehostcommittee.com

11-13—*Houston, Texas*. Southwest Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; regionalforums@aa.org

16-20—*Tossa de Mar, Catalonia, Spain*. Costa Brava Internat'l English Speaking Conv. Info: www.costabravaconvention.com

18-19—*London, Ontario, Canada*. 66th Western ON Conf. Info: www.wocaa.ca

18-20—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. Area 75 Conf. Write: Ch., Box 70438, Milwaukee, WI 53207; www.eventbrite.com

18-20—*Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico*. Rocky Point Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 10756, Glendale, AZ 85318; www.rockypointroundup.org

25-26—*St. Cloud, Minnesota*. St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302; www.stcloudroundup.org

25-27—*Branson, Missouri*. Colors of Fall. Write: Ch., 5229 Fuller Drive, Kansas City, MO 64113; www.wamo-aa.org

25-27—*Buffalo, New York*. Buffalo Fall Conv. Write: Ch., 17 Gierlach St., Sloan, NY 14212; www.buffalooaany.org

31-3—*Honolulu, Hawaii*. Hawaii Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96834; www.annualhawaiiconvention.com

November

1-3—*Houston, Texas*. 3rd Nat'l Corrections Conf. Write: Ch., Box 16393, Houston, TX 77088; www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org

8-9—*Houma, Louisiana*. 39th Bayouland Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2251, Houma, LA 70361; www.thebayoulandjamboree.org

8-10—*Alexandria, Louisiana*. Cenla Sober Mania. Write: Ch., 3416 Mac Lee Dr., Alexandria, LA 71303; www.sobermania.org

8-10—*Framingham, Massachusetts*. MA State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1085, Mansfield, MA 02048; www.aamass.org

8-10—*Lake Junaluska, North Carolina*. Southern States Svc Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 1368, Knightdale, NC 27545; www.area62.org

8-10—*Medford, Oregon*. OSYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 5296, Central Point, OR 97502; www.aa-oregon.org

15-17—*Asunción, Paraguay*. Primera Convención Sudamericana. Info: convencionsudamericanaaa@gmail.com

22-24—*Principado de Asturias, Spain*. Área 2ª Covadonga. Write: Ch., Joaquina Bobela N° 24. Apd.705, Oviedo, Asturias, Spain 33001

Take Me to Your Sponsor



Sobriety can be tough sometimes, which is why recovering alcoholics can always use a good laugh. In AA, members learn to not take themselves too seriously, to be happy, joyous and free. Luckily, sobriety can be pretty darn amusing. This book contains some of the best laughs of the last few years, dealing with

meetings, sponsorship, dating and marriage, friends and coworkers, character defects and more. We hope this book brightens your day and gives you some hearty, well-earned laughs.

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