

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Chairperson
Elaine N.
(617) 354-0737

Vice-Chair
Rey A.
(202) 544-1611

Secretary
William R.
(416) 862-0343

Treasurer
Bob D.
(416) 485-6163

Advisor
Fred J.
(608) 356-9429

International
Directory
Nancy T.
(703) 931-6877

Mailing List
Richard W.
(202) 293-4022

Newsletter
Charles D.
(703) 960-6712

Outreach
Ed B.
(305) 728-8629

Recovery Network
202-833-1889

Roundup Liaison
Rick Y.
(609) 259-3841

Special Projects
Dewey C.
(303) 439-7442

Past Chair
Alan H.
(717) 587-1258

We hope you like the new IAC "look" that has been given to your newsletter under Charles D. And special thanks to IAC Vice-chair Rey A. who has given us new energy and direction.

We are busily focusing on the here-and-now as well as 1990 in Seattle. There will be lots of opportunities in the months ahead for each of you to share in this exciting service work. The next IAC council meeting will be at the Florida Roundup and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. We thank Ed B. for his assistance in making the Florida meeting a reality, and for undertaking to serve as our Outreach Liaison. Ed will be networking IAC with other gay and lesbian A.A. groups and will be visiting many of them during his travels.

Although 1990, and Seattle, seem a long way off, we need to begin the planning necessary for our participation in the World Congress. We will need lots of help. Remember that at the 1985 Congress, the IAC hospitality suite served 10,000 gallons of coffee, alone! We will need volunteers to staff the suite and to organize a "drop-dead" dance - one open to ALL members of A.A.

Inside this issue of the newsletter you will find information on creation of a U.K. and Ireland Coordinator position, notice of the sixteenth anniversary celebration of The Princeton Group, a comprehensive listing of Roundups and Conferences, and a capsule history of the development of gay and lesbian A.A. groups within the fellowship. All of this well-demonstrates the diversity and commitment of lesbians and gay men to the fellowship.

Let's all work together towards a successful and closer relationship between IAC and the local gay and lesbian groups of A.A. We need each other!



1988 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Forms to assist in the 1988 update of the International Directory of Gay and Lesbian Groups in A.A. have been sent to all meetings along with the last newsletter. This form is designed to eliminate publication of inaccurate or misleading information about gay groups, worldwide. If your group has not received or returned the IAC form, please do so or contact Rick W. at the post office box, or by phoning (202) 293-4022.

IAC AT THE MIAMI ROUNDUP

The IAC Council will meet at the Miami Roundup in the Cavalier III, mezzanine level on Sunday afternoon at 1:30. The meeting is open to everyone interested in attending. The roundup committee is inserting an IAC announcement sheet into the registration packets. This will contain the time and location for the council meeting, and "An introduction to IAC" which has been rewritten as a result of the October Council meeting in Washington. There will also be an IAC information table close to the registration desk which will be manned a couple of hours each during the morning and the afternoon.

LIVING SOBER ROUNDUP LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS

Living Sober '88 is looking for speakers for their Roundup, 1-4 July, 1988, and for people to serve as liaisons in cities outside the

San Francisco Bay Area. The minimum requirement for speakers is five years clean and sober in A.A. The committee is looking for speakers who represent the diversity of our community. Interested persons are asked to submit tapes which will be returned if requested. Living Sober will assist with travel and accommodations expenses for conference speakers as needed. Potential speakers should submit their tapes to:

Speaker Committee
c/o Western Roundup
P.O. Box 974
San Francisco, CA 94101

If you would be willing to serve as a roundup liaison in a city outside the Bay Area, contact the Information Committee, at the same address.

COORDINATOR FOR U.K., IRELAND

The IAC Council is pleased to announce the appointment of a coordinator for the United Kingdom and Ireland. Henry R., co-founder of the London gay group of Alcoholics Anonymous, has agreed to assist us in this important work. Information on new meetings, changes to existing meetings, and items concerning the history of A.A. in the gay and lesbian communities should be forwarded to him at:

266 Gloucester Terrace
London W2 6HU
U.K.

Phone: 01-229-8731

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Rey A.

BRIEF GUIDE TO HISTORICAL EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
TO GAY MEN AND LESBIANS IN A.A.

- 1937 Third tradition established when a self-described "sex deviate" came to Dr. Bob asking if he could become a member of A.A. "Any man or woman who has a drinking problem is a member of A.A. if he says so, not whether we say so."
Bill W., 1968
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- 1949 Edwin W. had moved to the East from Wisconsin. He was elected to ask Bill W. if a "special group" could be started in Boston. "I don't care what meeting you have as long as you bear in mind you are alcoholics and that is what you are going to the meetings for."
Bill W., 1949
The group started meeting at the Stag Hotel on Myrtle Street behind the State House. The group later disbanded.
- 1968 The Fell St. Group was founded in San Francisco - the oldest gay group still in existence. It was an outgrowth of the Telegraph Hill Group and the Over 30 Group which met at St. Francis of Assisi Church.
- 1969 Eight men started the first meeting in Los Angeles during October. It was a stag meeting held Tuesday nights at the MCC Church parsonage on Virgil Avenue near 30th St. The first three groups continue to meet.
- 1971 The Gay Group of Washington, D.C., first met on December 8th at a private home. During that summer the group moved to St. James Episcopal Church, on Capitol Hill, where it continues to meet on Sunday and Wednesday.
- 1972 The New Group started meeting during May in New York.

This is the first part in a series devoted to the history of the development of gay and lesbian groups in A.A. Do you know of an historical event related to lesbians and gay men in A.A.? The IAC Council looks forward to receiving your information, group history, or other notes.

**PRINCETON TO HOLD SWEET 16
ANNIVERSARY**

The Princeton Group Friday night gay meeting will celebrate its sixteenth anniversary, Friday, April 8, 1988. The celebration will be held at the Trinity Episcopal Church, Mercer Street, in downtown Princeton. The meeting will begin with a coffee hour at 7:00 P.M., followed by two speakers from 8:00 to 9:00. The speakers' meeting will be followed by snacks and dancing.

The Princeton Group is one of the oldest meetings on the eastern seaboard. It has met on Friday nights at the Quaker Friends Meeting Hall in the Princeton countryside almost since its inception. The group has flourished with the years and now supports a speaker/discussion meeting, beginners' meeting, non-smoking discussion meeting, and a step meeting. In addition, there is an Al-anon discussion meeting simultaneously with the A.A. meeting.

The Princeton Group has helped many find and maintain their sobriety, drawing members from the New York suburbs to Philadelphia. It was the Princeton Group which prepared the initial draft of the pamphlet "Alcoholic and Gay?" - believed to be the earliest literature introducing A.A. to the gay and lesbian alcoholic.

For information and directions to the anniversary meeting, please call Peter W., at (609) 588-0612.

IActivity, is published quarterly by the International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in Alcoholics Anonymous. Information for inclusion should be sent to the editor, Post Office Box 90, Washington, D.C. 20044.

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