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ELECTIONS UPCOMING

IAC's Board of Directors meets in March during the Miami Roundup at the Deauville Hotel. (Check out page six for more info on the Miami Roundup.) A Secretary and Treasurer are needed. Experience preferred; three years continuous sobriety required. If interested, mail in your A.A. Service Resume (ASAP!).

(IAC provides officers with airfare twice yearly to attend Business Meetings, traditionally done at Roundups. This lets us carry the IAC message to the maximum number of groups and individuals.)

Everyone at the roundup is invited to the Election Meeting, which will also include amendments to the IAC Charter (now 10 years old).

REPS NEEDED

Regional & City Representatives are needed across the U.S. If IAC's going to "carry the message", we need messengers! If you want to get involved in Service, now's the time. You'll serve a vital link, helping us communicate between the local level and the IAC Executive Council. Write for full details.

ROUNDUP ROUNDUP

In addition to the 11 Roundups listed on page six, IAC needs a "Roundup Liaison". Rick Y. has set a great example the past few years for whoever takes this Service Post (opens 3/15). If interested, send your A.A. Service Resume. Attention Groups: IAC wants to list your Roundup. Please send all data (who, what, when, where, fees, phone number, etc.) as far in advance as possible for inclusion in your next Newsletter.

1990 WORLD DIRECTORY

IAC's new "World Directory of Gay & Lesbian Meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous" is "hot off the press"! Use the "Action Coupon" on page six. Producing the new edition has taken a lot of work, but the results are worth the effort! It shows how many of "us" there are, in all states and corners of the world! Keep IAC posted on any new Groups forming for listing in the next edition.



NEW FEATURE STORY

[Editor's Note] With this edition of IACTivity, we're introducing a new Feature, "My Story". Susan G.'s moving tale (see page 3) of how a "slip" led to her acceptance of her sexuality and her deeper understanding of "HP", is a powerful statement for anyone "willing to go to any lengths". Thank you, Susan, for sharing your hope, strength and experiences with us. Any reader wishing to share their story is encouraged to write.

PASS IT ON

1991 promises to be a very active one for IAC. The theme of "Pass It On" will be on our minds as a result of the 55th A.A. Conference in Seattle. We became aware many Gays and Lesbians in A.A. weren't aware of IAC or what we do. As hard as we've tried, we haven't succeeded in getting our message out to the very people we're supposed to represent.

We're also aware this is a two-way street. Beside your moral and financial assistance, is support "in all your daily affairs" and in this newsletter. What do you like? What don't you like? Tell us. Tell others. Write a little story for other IAC members to share in this space. Send letters or stories to the the A.A. "Grapevine" (they DO print gay/lesbian stories!).

"...think of what you can put into life instead of how much you can take out.." [Big Book, pg. 120] ...

If you'll "pass it on" (about IAC and this newsletter) with your friends and at Gay/Lesbian supportive groups, it will be a way of giving (back what we have been given). Put simply, far too many Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics don't know about IAC. Please do your share to help us reach out ... "Pass It On"! (What better day than today?)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The World Service Conference met in Munich, Germany from October 14-18. Nineteen countries participated, with the theme "12 Concepts of World Service". A tremendous demand for A.A. literature in foreign languages was reported. Currently, translations of the "Big Book" in Lithuanian, Romanian and Persian are underway. Future editions in Chinese, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, Vietnamese and Latvian are planned ... Anyone know how to say "willing to go to any lengths" in Serbo-Croatian?

ONE DAY AT A TIME

The new "Daily Reflections" book has met with astounding results. At the turn of each page you will find a quote from an A.A. approved book. There is also a member's sharing on "how it works" for them. Check out this new publication at your office or order from GSO (NY). Be patient as the demand has exceeded supplies

MILE HIGH FUNDRAISER

65 people attended the first ever IAC fundraiser held in Denver, Colorado. The New Year's Eve Party & Dance was held at the Capitol Hill Community Center and involved all A.A. Groups in the Denver/Boulder metroplex. All net proceeds will go to IAC. Way To Go, Denver! Hopefully other IACers will get your message!

IACartoon

ATTENTION DOODLERS

This is where your original IACartoon would have been - IF we'd received it!

" MY STORY "

by Susan G.

When I was a little over 3 years sober, I found myself feeling totally hopeless and empty inside. I was still looking for something outside myself to fix me. I'd worked the steps, gotten a sponsor and done all the things we're supposed to do in this program except learn to love myself. I was no longer willing to live, so I took a drink and followed it with a Cyanide chaser. I learned the true meaning of powerless when I awoke in Intensive Care (in restraints), on a respirator and a dialysis machine.

When I got out I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I went to a meeting where I'd recently received my three year chip and, for the first time, admitted I was still in pain. A man with 29 years handed me his card with a note to "call me". I did and he later became my sponsor.

He asked me to tell him about myself, so I did. He looked at me gently and said, "What about you? Who are you?". I had no idea, but through his guidance, my growing awareness of my HP, and the steps; I found out. I told him I was Bi-sexual. He suggested I might want to get off the fence. I finally admitted to myself and him that I was Gay. It was one of the first concrete steps I took toward accepting all of me. He suggested I look in the mirror every morning and evening and say: "I love and accept myself".

He had me define each word of the steps with a dictionary. Then I rewrote each step in my own words. We went over the meaning of each step until they were mine. They became personal, not just something I'd read. When it came to the 4th step, he had me redefine my principles. Then he had me look back over my life and see where and why I'd abandoned them. For me, it was usually fear. He suggested I ask HP to remove my fear and ask for help. I do ... constantly.

We talked a lot about defining a HP. He told me it was not an "abstract"; HP was a presence that could be felt, if I was willing. He said it was a necessity and suggested I find a place I could feel that connection. For me, it was the beach. I went there everyday and prayed. He'd told me my HP was not a "job broker or a pimp", but instead a source of courage, wisdom and acceptance ... to learn how to love myself. My prayers became very simple: "Love me and show me how to love myself". I began to heal. My first 3 years of sobriety had been a constant struggle. Now it became a pleasure! I began to experience peace of mind.

I was also blessed with the opportunity of spending time with the woman who had helped my sponsor earlier. She had 39 years and was very gentle and loving. One day she asked me: "If you had a whole loaf of bread and I were hungry, would you share it with me? ... Do you think God would do any less?". My concept of a punishing God dissolved.

My connection with HP has become the most important thing in my life. All the "things" I struggled to get in the first 3 years have just come true for me. I've been blessed with so much. I try to live my life from my heart; my spiritual center. I seldom listen to my head. When I do, my discomfort very rapidly reminds me to surrender one more time. I now go to both gay and straight meetings and feel at home in both. **Alcoholism is my disease; not being gay. I'm free today. I've seen the promises and so much more come true in my life. This program is a wonderful journey; not a destination.**

HONOLULU, HAWAII



International Advisory Council

The International Advisory Council (IAC) serves the gay and lesbian members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our sole purpose for existing is to provide our experience, strength and hope to any arm of A.A. when called upon to do so, and to work in the spirit of UNITY and SERVICE with A.A. for the betterment of the gay and lesbian members, and A.A. as a whole. Our function is not that of a policy or decision making board in matters affecting the gay and lesbian members of Alcoholics Anonymous, nor is our function to isolate or separate ourselves from the mainstream of A.A.

Charter of the International Advisory Council

The International Advisory Council for gay and lesbian members of A.A. is recognized by the General Service Office. IAC is listed in all A.A. directories under "Special International Contacts." It was established in 1981 to serve and have the involvement of the lesbians, gay men and gay people in A.A. (regardless of how they choose to identify themselves).

The council exists to serve lesbians and gay men in A.A. It does not speak for all gay and lesbian A.A. members but strives to serve as a communication link not only between and among gay and lesbian groups, but also with A.A. as a whole. This communication occurs within the context provided by A.A.'s Traditions and the Fellowship's customs and procedures.

IAC does not receive any financial support from GSO. We exist solely on contributions from A.A. groups and individuals.

Among the Council's current activities are the following:

DIRECTORY - Compiling, publishing and distributing a world directory of gay and lesbian A.A. meetings. Suggested donation is \$3.00 per copy. Available from IAC, address provided below.

GROUP NEEDS - Providing experience, strength and hope in assisting and supporting gay and lesbian A.A. groups around the world in such matters as starting meetings, relationships with local intergroup offices and their place within the service structure.

LONERS - Correspondence program for gay and lesbian loners, who are A.A. members not having local access to a gay or lesbian A.A. meeting but who nevertheless wish to be in contact with other gay or lesbian A.A. members. The matter of gay contacts among alcoholics in the Armed Services and the incarcerated is also a concern of the Council.

NEWSLETTER - Publishes *IACtivity*, a quarterly newsletter which features current news and information on Advisory Council activities relating to the General Service Office. Provides a forum for sharing by gays and lesbians in A.A. and includes a calendar of upcoming Roundups and events.

OUTREACH - A liaison within the international community of gay-oriented members of A.A. to promote more effective communications. Specifically of interest are the people of color and third-world gay communities.

ROUNDUP LIAISON - Provides support to Roundups and other conferences. Prepares and distributes IAC information to Roundups and makes available an information packet. Maintains an up-to-date calendar of Roundups throughout Canada and North America.

We encourage all A.A. members who wish to share with the International Advisory Council or who wish to make suggestions or comments to write to us at the following address:

IAC
P.O. Box 90
Washington, DC 20044

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

We want to thank all Groups, Roundups & individuals who continue to make direct contributions to IAC and help in our endeavors to "reach out" to recovering (and still suffering) Gay/Lesbian alcoholics on an international scale.

If you're not a contributor, IAC needs your help. Over thirty Gay/Lesbian Groups across the country make regular, direct contributions to IAC from their 7th Tradition. A.A. G.S.O. (NY) has indicated this decision is entirely proper and the decision rests with each group.

At your next Group Conscience, you may want to "pass this information on" and ask your Group to make a regular IAC donation. As an option, individuals send donations (for whatever reason). One person sent in \$24 to celebrate her 24th A.A. Birthday. (A not-to-subtle hint!)

Nobody enjoys asking for funds, but it's the only way we have to let you know where we stand. IAC is listed in ALL A.A. Directories. (G.S.O. (NY) does not publish anyone in the International Directory except A.A. Groups and contacts.) IAC strictly adheres to all A.A. Traditions, especially the 7th. We're 100% self-supporting through contributions from Groups, Roundups, individuals and special events, such as the International A.A. Conferences that IAC is asked to attend by G.S.O. in New York. This Newsletter alone costs \$3600 a year to print and mail (all other services are donated by A.A./IAC members).

Printing the "Gay/Lesbian Meeting Directory" costs even more. We'd like to offer the Directory free in 1992. (See other IAC Programs on page four.) We can't offer these services without your assistance and support.

Thanks for taking the time to consider how YOU can help IAC now and in the future. IAC is for and by Gay/Lesbian people in A.A. Everything we are or will be depends on your donations. We're willing to put forth our labor and effort if we have the finances to complete the program.

WHERE ARE YOU?

"IACtivity Newsletters" are mailed quarterly to over 800 Gay/Lesbian Groups and almost 2000 individuals. Too often, mail is returned to us or not delivered to the right person/Group. Sometimes, it's just plain dumped (by people receiving mail at a Group's Meeting place).

Please check to see if your Group is now receiving IAC mailings. If not, use the "Action Coupon" on page six to inform us. (Use the coupon for ANY type of mailing update.) You might also check with the "landlord" of your meeting place to see if they're receiving the mail (and unsure who gets it).

Ask for a volunteer at your next meeting to be "Group IAC Coordinator" (maybe you?!). If we're going to "PASS IT ON" ... and we love to do that! ... we gotta know where to send it.

Each IAC mailing that's returned not only wastes money; it means someone, somewhere didn't get a message that might of helped them.

Your IACtivity Newsletter presents the timely news, experiences and opinions of A.A.'s and others. The opinions expressed are not to be attributed to, or implied as an endorsement by, A.A. or IAC. Contributions are invited, though no payment can be made nor materials acknowledged or returned. Articles from A.A., AAWS, GSO, etc. appearing herein are reprinted by permission.

I.A.C. ROUNDUP LIST - 1991

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|---|---|
| <p>1. NINTH EAST BAY CONFERENCE
 <u>January 25-26</u>
 P.O. Box 30062
 Oakland, CA 94604
 (415) 547-0471</p> | <p>2. S.E. MASSACHUSETTS ROUNDUP
 <u>February 15-18</u>
 P.O. Box E-736
 New Bedford, MA 02742
 (508) 998-8159 * (\$30.)</p> |
| <p>3. FLORIDA ROUNDUP
 <u>March 14-17</u>
 P.O. Box 030237
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 33303-0237
 * (before 2/28 = \$35.)
 * (after 2/28 = \$45.)</p> | <p>4. CELEBRATE SOBRIETY-VANCOUVER
 <u>April 5-7</u>
 P.O. Box 1031, Station A
 757 W. Hastings Street
 Vancouver, B.C.
 CANADA V6C 2P1
 * (advance \$20.CDN/\$18.US)
 * (at door \$25.CDN/\$23.US)</p> |
| <p>5. MIRACLES HAPPEN '91
 <u>May 3-5</u>
 P.O. Box 4204
 Laguna Beach, CA 92652
 (714) 733-3343 *(\$30.)</p> | <p>6. LOS ANGELES 1991 ROUNDUP
 <u>May 24-27</u>
 Treasurer, AALA Roundup
 14755 Ventura Blvd., #1-756
 Sherman Oaks, CA 91403</p> |
| <p>7. 1991 BOSTON ROUNDUP
 <u>May 24-27</u>
 P.O. Box 1009-GMF
 Boston, MA 02205
 (before 5/1 = \$40.)
 (after 5/1 = \$50.)</p> | <p>8. CHICAGO 91 ROUNDUP
 <u>July 19-21</u>
 606 W. Barry St., #196
 Chicago, IL 60657
 (312) 472-9618</p> |
| <p>9. 1991 OHIO ROUNDUP
 <u>August 23-35</u>
 P.O. Box 20048
 Toledo, OH 43620
 (419) 242-6464</p> | <p>10. SANTA BARBARA SOBER UNITY
 <u>October 11-13</u>
 P.O. Box 238
 Santa Barbara, CA 93102
 (advance = \$15/door = \$20.)</p> |
| <p>11. PHOENIX SPRING BREAK '91
 <u>April 12-14</u>
 P.O. Box 36366
 Phoenix, AZ. 85067
 Andy W. (602)491-8773
 Barry B. (602)943-0035
 * (before 2/14 = \$20.)
 * (after 2/14 = \$25.)</p> | |

* Amount shown is for basic registration. Meals, lodging, and roundup activities maybe available at additional cost. (The Nashville Grand Ole Roundup (P.O. Box 121171, Nashville, TN 37212) is tentatively scheduled for February 21, 1992.) 1st ever, "Soberfest Roundup" las Vegas, NV., Union Plaza Hotel, Oct. 25-27, "91". More to follow.

IAC ACTION COUPON **

[] PLEASE CHANGE ADDRESS. [] ADD NEW LISTING.
(Include old address label)

Mail To:

[] A CONTRIBUTION TO I.A.C. IS ENCLOSED: \$_____.

[] ENCLOSED IS \$4.00 for "1990 World Directory of Gay & Lesbian Meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous".

IAC

** Indicate if GROUP or INDIVIDUAL below. If Group, also (a) add date/time/place of meetings, (b) Contact person and phone number, if possible and, (c) if place of meeting is different from mailing address, please list both. () INDIVIDUAL () GROUP

P.O. Box 90

FULL NAME: _____ DATE: _____ 1991 (PLEASE PRINT)

Washington, DC

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

20044

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE (if desired): (_____) _____ (Attach Additional Data)