

# I A C T I V I T Y



Newsletter of the International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.



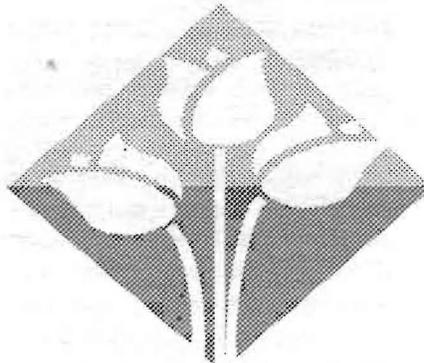
## Watch What You Pray For!

*A message from IAC's Secretary*

**M**y name is Hilda C. And I am IAC's Secretary and Tape Librarian. Little did I know God would take me seriously when I bargained with him to relieve me of the pain I was in and I would do anything for A.A.

My twelve year journey of service work has taken me places where I have had to leave an inflated ego behind and give of myself. My sobriety route and my sponsors taught me how to be God's servant. Humbling myself and becoming willing to learn how to stay sober one day at a time, got me involved in the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous. Service work for me began as a GSR for my Lambda group in San Antonio, Texas. Ten years later I relocated to northern Michigan and became the GSR for Lambda in Traverse City. I needed to get involved in the A.A. sober community. I was given the position of Treasurer for my district. Because of the remote area and small gay A.A. fellowship I yearned for gay and lesbian connections. My prayers were answered when I became the IAC Tape Librarian. I listened to gay and lesbian alcoholics Speaker's meeting tapes, and recorded and edited those tapes.

Last November I was asked to assume the IAC Secretary position. I was warned that this job would require a lot of hard work



and many hours of service. My introduction to my first duties was when three boxes full of letters arrived at my doorstep. It was challenging and exciting.

IAC receives letters from gay and lesbian alcoholics from all over the world. Most letters are for requests for the gay and lesbian meeting directory, change of meeting information, and many letters are from people who just need to make contact with another gay or lesbian alcoholic.

During the IAC Council meeting in Vancouver I was confirmed as Secretary by IAC's council and board of Directors. The IAC sessions at Vancouver continued from Friday through Saturday

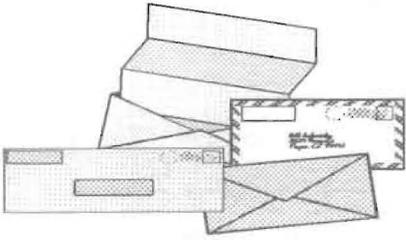
night. Tired, excited and honored to be a servant my confirmation gave me the motivation to let all my brothers and sisters know we count and we are visible in A.A. Becoming involved with A.A. has been the most rewarding gift God has given me.

## San Diego 1995

**D**iscussions are underway to begin IAC's participation in the 1995 A.A. International Conference being held in San Diego. IAC will need your support for this event. Preparation for this event has just begun. We know, at this point, that volunteers will be needed to assist with our hospitality suite and the dance. To volunteer please write to our P.O. Box. Indicate on the envelope "San Diego, 1995." Please watch for future newsletter articles.

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## We Get Letters

### Tom's Story

I was adopted at 14 by a man named Chuck who had been released from prison 2 weeks before I met him. I was an orphan. I lived on the streets and had no home or chance for a future. Not having parents or any guidance you can imagine how grateful I was to have someone who really loved me and helped me through education and gave me a wonderful life. I had been a very lonely and naive young man and was very scared. I was very afraid of people, and being from a very small town in Utah, the streets of Los Angeles overwhelmed me.

I had no place to turn. I was afraid of being put in a juvenile center although I had done nothing wrong except for a sincere desire to make it on my own. Being too young to find gainful employment or a home I had to survive any way I could. The only person who had ever loved me, my Mother, had committed suicide. I felt worthless and alone and just gave up.

Drugs and alcohol provided an escape from the realities of the world. When I met Chuck that changed. He was *always* there for me and *never* expected anything in return. He requested that I never thank him for anything. He made me feel that I was a worthwhile person and gave me the opportunity to experience my dreams and hopes.

Not once did I ask him why he was in prison and it never mattered. He was one of the very first people who had contracted a strange cancer in 1981. In 1982 they named it AIDS. I was with him to the end

and asked him why he did all he did for me. He smiled and said, "Because you would never have had a chance."

After Chuck's death I began drinking and using again. I missed him so much. In 1987 I walked into a gay recovery meeting in Las Vegas. I had just come out of a drug induced coma after attempting suicide. I was in denial about being an alcoholic and hated that word. My father had been one, and I resolved never to be like him. I did admit to being a bit of an addict, however. I wasn't sure if I was in the right place. An elderly lady smiled and said that I was.

It's funny, but I am very grateful for being an alcoholic today. I went back to a second meeting and just kept going. A.A. saved my life. Now I have friends and real substance in my life in stead of substance abuse. I still think about Chuck often and although I cannot personally tell him how grateful I was to have him and his guidance in my life, I can, in perhaps small repayment, lend support to others who are and have been in Chuck's position, or have been in a position similar to my own. I would like to write any recovering person who is a loner or in prison and is sincere about his recovery.

### IAC - Officers - Trusted Servants

Chair: Reilly K., Tiller, OR (503) 825-3271 \* Deputy Chair: David B., Melbourne, FL (407) 952-4150  
 Treasurer: Tom C., Plano, TX (214) 578-0465 \* Secretary: Hilda C., Midland, MI (517) 832-5228  
 Newsletter Editor: Richard K., Palm Bay, FL (407) 725-2935 or AOL: PinkOne & CIS: 75270,240

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IAC A non-profit Corporation P.O. Box 90, Washington, DC 20044

**Naomi B.** Writes from Alaska, "...one reason for this correspondence is to let you know here's our donation to IAC from our Holiday Social sponsored by the Gay, Joyous and Free Group and attended by 30 AA's from our three groups and one Alatot. We held an hour gratitude meeting and shared laughs, fruit punch, cookies, and a good time.

## Tradition Two

by *Reilly K.*

*Tradition two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority ... a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants: they do not govern.*

'll never forget the day when, after two people in my group went toe-to-toe on an issue confronting the group, the loser kicked a hole in the wall on his way out! He told us that if God could express himself by electing "that so-and-so", then he could express himself through the toe in his boot. By the next day the hole had been patched and the "loser" was volunteering to be of assistance on the new committee. I don't recommend that particular way of sharing your feelings, but that incident underscores the trust most AA members feel in the power of the group conscience. Once all the information is given, all sides are discussed (and discussed... and discussed...) and the vote is called, the resulting decision reflects the spiritual unity of the group, as all sides put away their differences and begin to work together.

We don't have any rules that can be enforced. We elect officers and trust that they will perform the job we asked them to do. But if they don't, we can't vote them out of office or punish them in some way. If they act very foolish sometimes we just ignore them and

do something else instead. We don't fight things for very long. In the heat of an argument some cool head is likely to say, "How can we do this so that more people can stay sober?" All of a sudden we remember what we're here for: to stay sober. That's all. We meet together as groups in order to draw strength and hope from each other. There is an incredible power that comes from banding together for one purpose; a power that far exceeds that of the individual.

Do I do my best to gather information and inform, or do I act on innuendo and gossip? Do I support the group conscience even when I don't agree with it? Is it important that I get recognition for what I do in AA? Do I give facts, or opinions? Do I really want to give up my right to gripe by not showing up to vote?

## IAC and its Regional Reps

**Mark S.** (NE Regional Representative) is seeking a representative from each state in the Northeast as well as a city representative from the larger areas. He is also working on this through letters and at roundups. If interested please contact Mark via: *PO Box 90, att: NE Regional Rep.*

**Larry F.** writes from Tucson, "Yes I will be happy to be your contact in Southern Arizona for Gay and Lesbian meetings. Southern Arizona, for all prac-

tical purposes, is Tucson. There are some other smaller towns south of here, but none at this time has any GAY/LESBIAN meetings. I will be sure to advise you if any meetings or groups are formed in the future. Larry F. Can be reached at (602) 299-8312.

**Jeff Y.**, (East Central Regional Rep) reports that things are going smoothly and quietly in the East Central Region. New groups are starting here and there. More Gay and Lesbian alcoholics are receiving the message. The newsletters seem to get a good response.

Jeff will be contacting East Central Area Reps. Shortly to submit nominations for his position of Regional Rep. He is hoping to rotate out of the position this summer since he has held the post for two years and he feels it is time for new blood. Jeff advises that there is still much work to do in his region and lots of people with fresh ideas are waiting for a chance to get involved.

If you live in the East - Central Area and would like to apply, please send a letter to the P.O. Box, Attention: Jeff Y., East Central Rep.

**Thomas W.** (Berlin, Germany) has transitioned to become our representative in Germany. He replaces Seigfried R. Who has done a wonderful job representing IAC in that area. We wish Seigfried all the best and look forward to working with Thomas.

## Thanks Vancouver!

*The IAC Council meeting was held in Vancouver, BC during the first weekend in April. The Council wishes to thank the Celebrate Sobriety '94 Roundup for their hospitality and support.*

## Flight Pattern

**N**ext fall when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in a V formation, you might like to consider what science has discovered about why geese fly this way.

It has been learned as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds at least seventy-one percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the uplift of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it immediately feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the uplifting power of the bird immediately in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in forma-

The A.A. message is being carried to your local gay and lesbian alcoholics by you and your group. Have you ever thought beyond your local group boundaries to the thousands of gay A.A. members supporting each other in this business of being sober? Would you like to be a part of something bigger? We would like you to become a part of our sober A.A. network.

The International Advisory Council exists as a service community within Alcoholics Anonymous. Its purpose is to help gay and lesbian A.A. members help each other to achieve and maintain sobriety, and to enhance the quality of our sober lives. IAC is supported entirely by group and individual A.A. contributions.

IAC publishes a world directory of gay and lesbian A.A. meetings. The order price (by mail) is a nominal \$5.00, just to cover costs of printing and mailing.

IAC provides experience, strength and hope to gay and lesbian A.A. groups around the world. IAC provides correspondence with gay and lesbian loners who have no other regular contact with the gay fellowship. IAC publishes a newsletter as a channel of information to strengthen unity between gay and lesbian groups. Printing, distribution and telephone costs are substantial.

IAC works on a continuing basis with the General Service Office in New York. IAC helps coordinate the gay and lesbian workshops and hospitality room at each International A.A. Conference for several thousand gay and lesbian attendees. Presenting these events for A.A. members takes a huge initial outlay of cash.

Would you like to be a part of these vital A.A. activities? We need your help and your contributions in order to continue making these concepts a reality.

tion and another goose flies point.

It pays to take turns doing hard jobs. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

We too do something when we "honk from behind."

Finally (now I want you to get this), when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshots and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow it down to

help and protect it. They stay with their ailing goose until it is either able to fly or until it dies; they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the simple sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.



### IAC-ACTION COUPON

Please change address (include your old address label.)  Add new listing (if group, see below).

Group contribution is enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (no cash).  Individual Contribution enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_  Enclosed is \$5 for 1993-94

World Directory of Gay and Lesbian meetings of Alcoholic Anonymous (includes S/H) NOTE: Bulk rate for directories 10 or more @ \$3 each. Below please indicate group or individual. If group, attach additional data (meeting schedules, formats, other contact persons, etc., mailing address:

Indiv.  Group

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (optional) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach Any additional data and mail to: IAC, P.O. Box 90, Washington, D.C. 20044

# LAMBDA IN HISTORY

## **An account of the growth of Gay AA in Seattle** by Steve R.

The first gay A.A. group in Seattle, *Live and Let Live*, was formed in 1976. The second meeting formed for gays was the Saturday night Acceptance meeting that was a candlelight meeting. The third meeting to come in to existence was the Sunday KISS group. Both were formed several months after the Live and Let Live group because demand grew for more meetings on more days, especially the weekends.

I became a member of the Acceptance group in February of 1982. It has been my home group ever since. It was the one place I could come to in early recovery where it was dark and people could not clearly see me. I felt safe and less intimidated from the staring eyes of strangers. The candles provided reflection and blurred the fine edges of reality until I was ready for what lay ahead. During that time, 1982, we were still meeting at the old church, Capitol Hill Methodist Church, until August 1982 when we moved to the yellow house on

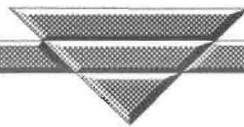
15th Street. All the meetings grew so tremendously during this time that it was necessary to find a larger space.

The Acceptance group was comprised of gays and lesbians united together for recovery from alcohol and drugs. I remember it the most because of the intensity of sharing and the many wise and spiritual dialogs shared amongst us during those winter Saturday nights as we discovered our realities, laughing and crying. The wintertime was particularly cold in the windowless basement with its cement floor because there was no heat. We had a couple of long, fold out tables pushed together, a few wooden pews provided by the church, fold out chairs, and some old, worn sofas where we huddled together. I kind of laugh when I think how "sobering" the cold was. I used to sit on my hands during most of the meetings. Of course, we had a big silver coffee urn, and my first experience in Service work was making the coffee, setting out the candles and emptying the ash trays. I was so foggy in those days, I went to the basement around 5 PM to set up the candles and coffee urn. It took me three hours to get it right. It was the happiest time of my early sobriety to be in that basement alone. For those few hours guilt, fear and despair left me and my imagination came alive. Did I want two red candles together or should I separate them with

other colors? So many decisions to make! I remember during one of those early meetings, it was 8 PM and I was sitting at the table and there was a whispering and discussion after the Twelve Traditions had been read. I leaned to the person next to me (I was hard of hearing) and asked what everyone was whispering about. He said there was something wrong with the coffee. Since I had made the coffee I went over to the urn to see what could be the matter. I poured a cup and it tasted very strong and bitter. I showed everyone how I had made it. It said 6 to 8 cups of coffee per pot; I read the directions and did exactly as it said, but I had used all the bottles of instant coffee we had on hand. I had used about 5 large jars of instant. I was not aware of the difference between ground and instant coffee. We went without coffee that meeting and everyone just murmured, "he's new and toxic."



I feel blessed that I was able to experience the church basement and the beginning point from which gay and lesbian AA took its foothold in Seattle. I was right where I needed to be at the right time. We have moved a couple of times since. Our current address is listed as 123 Boyleston East. We invite and welcome all our brothers and sisters in recovery to come to our clubhouse.



Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by IAC. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided and contact the Roundup directly. \* IACTivity strives for accuracy, but does not guarantee Roundup information.

1994 April

- 1 Celebrate Sobriety 757 West Hastings St P O Box 1031, Stat A Vancouver BC Can V6C 2P1 Wilson D (604) 421-0018 Paulina C (604) 251-1339 \$20 Cdn/\$25 Cdn Coast Plaza Hotel
- 1 Sober in the Sun P O Box 1935 Rancho Mirage CA 92270 Elliott W (619) 325-8661 Deloris (619) 325-1640 \$15 to Mar 1/\$20 Palm Springs Tennis Club
- 2 Unity in Sobriety Box 30062 Oakland CA 94604 Brendalynn G (510) 832-7217 Susan B (510) 533-6952 \$20 St John's
- 15 Vision of Hope PO Box 10311 Rochester NY 14610-0311 Donna J (716) 271-1766 John D (716) 647-9760 \$15 to 2/1;\$20 Marriott Rochester Thruway
- 29 Miracles Happen, Orange County P O Box 5028 Laguna Beach CA 92652 Steven C (714) 497-6141 Denny H (714-497-6454) \$15 to 2/15;\$25

1994 May

- 20 Bluegrass Roundup P O Box 55317 Lexington KY 40555-5317 Penryn C (606) 269-4285 Randy M (606) 233-2188 \$35 to 4/8;\$45 Radisson Plaza Hotel

1994 June

- 3 Happy, Joyous and Free Box 180, 3023 N Clark Street Chicago IL 60657 Mike M (312) 248-3434 Merri M (800)545-2322 x1396 \$30 til Apr 30;\$40 Congress Hotel
- 17 Long Island Roundup P O Box 100 Old Westbury NY 11568-0100 Pat S (516) 266-3835 Michael C (516) 997-1246 \$25 before 3/1;\$30 CW Post College Campus

1994 July

- 1 Living Sober Civic Center P O Box 420974 San Francisco CA 94142 Patrick H (415) 474-7129 Paul T (415) 864-0662 \$30 to 6/1; \$35
- 2 Land of Enchantment Roundup P O Box 30742 Albuquerque NM 87190 Albert C (505) 881-8346 Caren M (505) 255-4205 \$35 to 5/31;\$40 Quality Hotel Four Seasons

1994 August

- 5 Soberfest P O Box 20345 Las Vegas NV 89112 Mickey (702) 369-8926 Glenna (702-369-8926) \$25 until 8/15, \$30 Debbie Reynolds Hotel
- 11 Capitol Roundup P O Box 76786 Washington DC 20013-6786 Lucy O (703) 820-0008 Ricci G (703) 538-5032 \$45 to 7/31;\$50 Washington Vista Hotel
- 26 Ohio Roundup Cincinatti P O Box 701 Covington KY 41012-0701 Lou G (606) 781-0497 Donna R (513) 661-6847 \$20 to 8/1:\$30 Omni Netherland Hotel

1994 September

- 2 Feeling Good P O Box 3999 San Diego CA 92163 Mark K (619) 291-0313 Nelya W (619) 278-8856 \$25 to 6/4, \$30 Doubletree/Horton Plaza
- 30 Biggest Little Fellowship P O Box 5266 Reno NV 89513 Sean S (702) 747-5587 Keith L (702) 786-6887 \$15.50 to 8/15;\$22
- 30 Hotlanta Roundup P O Box 13481 Atlanta GA 30324 Roger S (404) 717-5220 Keith M (404) 636-5059 \$25 to 8/31/\$35 Lanier Plaza Hotel

1994 October

- 7 Gratitude Roundup P O Box 31 552 Church Street Toronto ONT Can M4Y 2E3 James H (416) 925-9780 Michael K (416) 925-9780 \$25Cdn to 9/30;\$35Cdn Plaza II Hotel

We Need Your Roundup Information

Please send to :

Roundup Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Roundup Liaison

P.O. Box 90,

Washington, D.C. 20044



Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

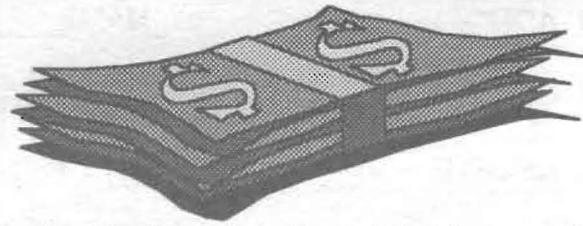
State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contributions

December of 1993 through March of 1994

**Groups**

Gay, Joyous, and Free	Anchorage, AK	20.00
Mon. Nite Lesbian	Berkeley, CA	7.30
Lavender Hill	Oakland, CA	7.90
It's In The Book	Redondo Beach, CA	10.03
Intimacy & Men	San Diego, CA	25.62
Sat. Morn. Gay	San Francisco, CA	11.03
Men's Stag		
Sun. Morn. Gay	San Francisco, CA	5.48
Men's		
Men's Stag Group	San Francisco, CA	40.50
Gay Round Robin	Santa Monica, CA	20.00
Discussion		
Sat. Topic/Part. Group	Santa Monica, CA	20.00
Tues. 8pm Speaker Mtg.	Santa Monica, CA	20.00
Sun. Morning Spiritual	Sky Valley, CA	13.00
Wed. Gay AA	Springville, CA	10.00
Gay Wed. Nite Stag	Upland, CA	25.00
Courage to Change	Denver, CO	175.00
One Step at a Time	North Haven, CT	60.00
Attitude of Gratitude	West Hartford, CT	80.00
Gay Group	Washington, DC	22.50
Raphael Group	Wilmington, DE	90.50
Rehoboth Beach Gay Group	Wilmington, DE	10.00
GALA	Naples, FL	50.00
Ohua Street Group	Honolulu, HI	50.00
Club 449 Group	Kebei, HI	15.60
Club 449 Group	Maui, HI	20.31
Maui Wed. Nite	Maui, HI	10.00
Living Sober		
Gay & Lesbian AA Group	Des Moines, IA	75.00
Kenberry AA Group	Chicago, IL	106.00
Faith Group	Lexington, KY	10.00
Lambda Group	Shreveport, LA	6.00
V.G.A.L.	Northampton, MA	20.00
Live & Let Live	Annapolis, MD	5.00
Live & Let Live	Baltimore, MD	50.00
Lambda Group	Midland, MI	10.00



Sat. Morning Breakfast Club	Minneapolis, MN	50.00
The Light Group	Raleigh, NC	10.00
Lambda Group	Omaha NE	14.74
Hudson Co. Gay Men and Women	Kearney, NJ	25.00
Alcoholics Together	Las Vegas, NV	46.48
Total Freedom	Elmhurst, NY	7.60
Alive Again	Syosett, NY	5.00
Rainbow Group	Toronto, ON Canada	50.00
You Are Needed Any Lengths Group	Cleveland, OH	100.00
Caring and Sharing	Portland, OR	47.00
Rainbow Group	Medford, OP	35.00
Doylestown Fri. Nite Men	Allentown, PA	25.00
Bell, Book, & Candle	Doylestown, PA	25.00
Lambda	Scranton, PA	10.00
Hearts Alive Gay Group	Nashville, TN	75.00
Back to Basics	Alexandria, VA	20.00
Outer Limits Group	Arlington, VA	78.00
Home Group	Vienna, VA	25.00
Free At Last	Everett, WA	13.00
Group D-48-01837	Olympia, WA	42.20
	Seattle, WA	30.00

**Roundup Contributions**

Capital Roundup	Washington, DC	200.00
Long Island Roundup	Long Island, NY	187.50
East Bay Conference	Oakland, CA	7.65

**Birthday Contribution**

Robert Mc.	San Francisco, CA	12.00
Edwin B.		18.00
David N.	Oklahoma City, OK	7.00
Gene G.	Seminole, FL	16.00

