

G.S.R. Corner

NEW D.C.M. CHAPTER IN MANUAL

A brand-new chapter on functions of the district committee member (D.C.M.) is a feature of the newest (1975) edition of "The A.A. Service Manual," just published.

The 116 pages of this paperback booklet (\$1.50) are a treasure chest of information for any A.A. interested in how A.A. manages to operate so well without a rigid organizational structure, minus laws, and without human executives.

The latest Manual has an index, too, and reflects a few procedural changes authorized by recent Conference actions.

It also tells absorbing stories on how A.A. got where it is today, some funny, some sad, and offers a wealth of Third Legacy experiences to enrich any A.A. life.

ABOUT SELLING NON-A.A. MATERIALS

Occasionally, an upset member writes us that a local central (intergroup) office—or an A.A. group—is selling literature or mementos that are not Conference-approved.

Let it be made plain right away: *No A.A. service entity—the General Service Board, G.S.O., or the Conference—has any power whatsoever to make any central office (or any member) do anything, or stop doing anything.*

G.S.O. can only share experience with the Fellowship. About non-A.A. literature, for example, we can only repeat what our Conferences—the voice of A.A.—have been saying for years: A.A. neither approves nor disapproves any literature not published by A.A. World Services, Inc. Groups and central offices are strongly urged, however, to display all Conference-approved literature quite separately from other materials. This is to make it clear that A.A. is not allied with any organization.

Repeatedly, the Conference and the board have declined to adopt any "official A.A." jewelry, lighters, ashtrays, pens, bumper stickers, or the like. Therefore, we do not sell or distribute any such items, although we can tell folks where such materials are available. Our primary purpose is to further the carrying of the message, as it is expressed in A.A. Conference-approved literature.

Central Office Corner

Delegate Corner

DO YOU NEED A SERVICE SPONSOR?

It seems to me many members enter some areas of service with little knowledge of service structure. We say, "Read your 'A.A. Service Manual.'" That, of course, is mandatory.

I think we fail to provide a type of sponsorship that is vital to A.A. I had great sponsors in becoming sober and becoming familiar with the living of the Twelve Steps. But when I was ready to enter a world of A.A. outside my group, I was without guidance. My sponsors had not involved themselves in this aspect of A.A. I was bewildered and confused.

By accident, or rather by divine providence, I sought the aid of three A.A. members who were knowledgeable and wise. I never called them my service sponsors, but that's what they were. I am deeply grateful to them. Without their care and concern for my growth, perhaps I might not have continued. In turn, I have sponsored a woman in service. It has been rewarding to share what knowledge I have, that she may pass it on.

A qualified service sponsor might be a past delegate, or any member who has been active at length in all areas of service. Choose your service sponsor as carefully as your original sponsor.

—Natalie S. (Washington)

HOW A NEW TRUSTEE FEELS

Preparing to start service as A.A. trustees, five men recently spent a day at G.S.O. for orientation before their first weekend of G.S. Board business. Here is one new trustee's story of what it felt like.

I was greeted by different people on October 31, 1975. When I was a delegate in April 1962, the location was different, too, but the spirit is still the same at G.S.O. I wondered how it could take a whole day to orient a new trustee. But the day flew by, and we spent only a few minutes on each area of service. The day had been planned down to the minute in order to cover some 16 separate and distinct parts of our total service operation.

How can so few people accomplish so much and serve our Fellowship so well? That feeling dominates one's thoughts. One can only feel inadequate, and thankful that he is a part of the service structure of our great Fellowship. —Mac C. (Western Canada)

Trustee Corner