

# IAC IACTIVITY



## Special 10th Anniversary Edition — September 1991

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

## Chairperson's Report

### 10+10 = 1 (Day at a Time)

Our new masthead says it all: this is IAC's 10th year as an A.A. service entity for Gay/Lesbian recovering alcoholics! We're proud to add the A.A. logo along with IAC's revised Gay Pride logo (see "IAC & A.A. — Side-by-Side" in this issue). That this year also marks your Chairperson's 10th A.A. "birthday" is simply offered with gratitude. That I helped "celebrate this gift," with a gift to IAC's dwindling cash reserves, is offered as a not-so-subtle hint to others with upcoming A.A. birthdays....

### IAC's 10th Anniversary Gift to You

The insert piece inside, written so well by Nancy T., will give you some insight of "what it was like" and "what happened" to get IAC started. "What is's like now" would not have been possible without the dedicated work of the many people who've served as IAC trusted servants over the decade — "principles before personalities" — (and the sheer numbers of people involved) make it impossible to list everyone who played an unselfish role in IAC's first decade. A simple "thanks" to all, including those whose anonymity was a requirement (for reasons not related to A.A.) ten years ago. Your "reward" exists today in IAC's continued growth and acceptance worldwide.

### IAC Board Heads North

As you're reading this, IAC's board is meeting in the wonderful city of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, at the invitation of the Roundup Committee. This is another Board meeting outside the U.S. — it's about time! A great way to initiate our second decade (the next board meeting will be in the Spring of 1992. If your area is hosting a Gay/Lesbian A.A. Roundup then, and you'd like us to attend, please write with details).

### IAC and A.A. Side-by-Side

Both the IAC and A.A. logos now proudly adorn our masthead. A.A. World Services (AAWS) in New York suggested the addition. This reinforces IAC's identity as an A.A. entity to all who see them. AAWS also asked us to remove the circle from around IAC's emblem (the Gay Pride triangle), in keeping with A.A. logo standards. We're pleased to do so and ask all IACers to do the same at the local level. IAC always works for unity at all levels of A.A. We're all here for the same purpose — recovery!

### New Literature Out(ed)

The New (1991-92) International Meeting Directory of Gay/Lesbian A.A. Groups is hot off the presses. The 1990 edition sold out quickly. Order your copies soon. Make sure your Group is listed and the information is current (use the IACtion Coupon on page seven in this newsletter for either purpose). One highlight of IAC's decade was AAWS's publication of AA and the

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic (P-32). Now the conference approved version is available, be sure its "outed" in your Group's literature rack. This pamphlet isn't for us, already here and sober, but for still-suffering gay/lesbian alcoholics: to let them know there's a place in A.A. for anyone who wants to stop drinking.

### San Diego, 1995

IAC hopefully will be been invited by GSO/NY to participate in the San Diego Conference (just as we were in Seattle in 1990 and Montreal in '85). We're assigned a Hospitality Suite and host a gay/lesbian dance. In addition, GSO asks IAC to help run specific workshops and A.A. meetings for gays/lesbians attending the Conference. IAC's Seattle Conference dance attracted over 1,300 people but cost us \$7,000. We're starting a special fund for the San Diego Conference expenses. Please keep this in mind when sending in your individual and group contributions.

### IAC's GNP — Growth 'N Progress

We plan to keep growing (Life is change, growth is optional, choose wisely - Karen C.) Homophobia is not unknown in A.A. Part of IAC's Hope, Strength and Experience is to break down the stereotypes and injustices still around us. Two examples come quickly to mind: 1) The A.A. 1986 Trustee's Committee on Literature decided a gay alcoholic's story should not be included in the Big Book; 2) For 3 years, a gay group **CONT. PG 2**

in Berlin, Germany has been sending a 7th Tradition contribution to their intergroup office, but each time it is returned to the group. Intergroup will not recognize them as a gay group or list them. Your contributions help IAC grow and spread the message around the world. We humbly ask for your help.

— Mike Z., Chair

## Vice Chair's Report

### Share Your Tapes?

It's exciting to see the international growth of our community. Groups in the United Kingdom are participating in and contributing to IAC. Other countries are corresponding and becoming more active. Groups in Denmark have requested speaker tapes from other places in the world — 20 to 30 minutes to fit into their hour meetings. What a great idea to carry the message to other people in other places! Can your group put some tapes together in the international spirit of unity? (see "Tapes", page 7)

### Stick Around a While

The other day I was chatting with a friend about the Fellowship. He's been sober 32 years, has never been a proponent of special purpose groups, and that subject is kind of touchy between us at times. But we both honor and respect A.A. and that is our common bond. We both go to a lot of roundups and conventions and agreed on what an awesome feeling it is to be the oldest A.A. member left standing in a sobriety countdown. He mentioned the large numbers of people who represent younger years and how sad it

is that such large gaps appear between years of sobriety after 5 or 10 years. That isn't true for the roundups I've been attending. In this last year I've noticed how many people are standing to represent sobriety between 10 and 19 years — sometimes there are no gaps at all. That's impressive! My friend was amazed at this news. I explained that I go to special purpose roundups — *gay roundups*. A lot of solid sobriety is reflected in the number of people staying sober consistently for the last 19 years. Is it coincidence that gay groups began to be seen and heard around 1972? Oh, I felt wonderful when I saw his face comprehend how groups with a special purpose can be effective in their PRIMARY purpose. I'm real grateful to these old rednecks who loved me into sobriety 25 years ago today! I am extremely grateful to my brothers and sisters who braved society in order to make the path a little easier for those who followed. Thank you for being an active part of A.A.... now, and then.

— Reilly K., Vice Chair

## Treasurer's Report

### Dollars & Cents

There is some very exciting news — *more groups than every are sending contributions to I.A.C.* Total group contributions for the first 7 months of 1991 are \$2,610.83, up from \$2,078.00 for all of 1990 (listing of group contributions since the last newsletter printing follows). Roundup contributions year-to-date total \$427.54 including \$374 from Miami, \$5.00 from Provincetown and \$48.54

from San Diego. Individual contributions have almost doubled over last year: \$967.00 year-to-date vs. only \$532.00 for all of 1990.

Recently sending \$1 for every year of their sobriety include: Shery L., San Antonio, \$7; David N., Oklahoma City \$5; Mike Z., Honolulu \$10; Reilly K. Lompoc, CA \$25, Charles S., Dallas \$14; Hank T., Ansterlitz, NY \$5; Lowell M., Chicago, \$11.

Directory sales through August 9, 1991 totalled \$1,618.36. Total of all income year-to-date 1991: \$5,574.61.

### Dollars & Common Sense

We've cut *World Directory* printing expenses from \$3,888 in 1990 to \$1,950 in 1991. That's the *real* good news. However, newsletter expenses have increased, totalling \$2,119.90 (not including this edition) in 1991. Why? First, postage went up and secondly we've doubled distribution. 1991 will be the first year we've ever published 3 newsletters. We hope by next year to fulfill our quarterly publication directive. Your contributions help. Below is a listing of groups who have contributed this year (year-to-date): Rainbow, Toronto, Ont. \$30; Queen Ann, Seattle \$25; Greenwood, Trenton, NJ \$40; Hartford Monday Night, Hartford, CT \$10; Gay & Sober District, Cleveland \$50; Paramount Promises, L.A. \$25.42; Lambda Women, San Antonio, TX \$20; Lambda, Melbourne/Rockledge, FL \$50; **continued page 6**

### IAC - 1991-92 OFFICERS/TRUSTED SERVANTS

Chair: Mike Z., Honolulu, HI (808) 947-9082 \* Deputy Chair & Intl. Directory: Reilly K., Lompoc, CA (805) 735-4267 \* Treasurer: David B., Arlington, VA (703) 824-0132 \* Secretary: Tom C., Plano, TX (214) 578-0465 \* Newsletter Editor: Erick H., Honolulu, HI (808) 922-5491 \* Newsletter Managing Editor: Jan W., Denver, CO (303) 698-2070 [Note: When calling, please keep time zones in mind. We're literally half-away around the world in some cases.]

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. herein are reprinted by permission. IACtivity Newsletter is NOT copyrighted. All material is free to all, though appropriate credit is requested if reprinted or quoted. It is edited in Hawaii, composed in Denver, Colorado and printed and mailed in Texas. Please allow extra time for submissions to reach us.

## How IAC Happened

*From One Point of View*

*We're often asked, "how did IAC start out?" To celebrate IAC's 10th Anniversary, we asked Nancy T. to jot down her thoughts about our humble beginnings. Just as Nancy subtitled her article "from one point of view," we realize there are other people, places and things that influenced IAC's origins. So, as any good AA-er ought to, we'll start our story with amends to anyone who feels left out, or any inaccuracies that may exist. We seek progress, not perfection. But, for those who wonder how IAC came to be, we hope this will answer some questions. [Ed.]*

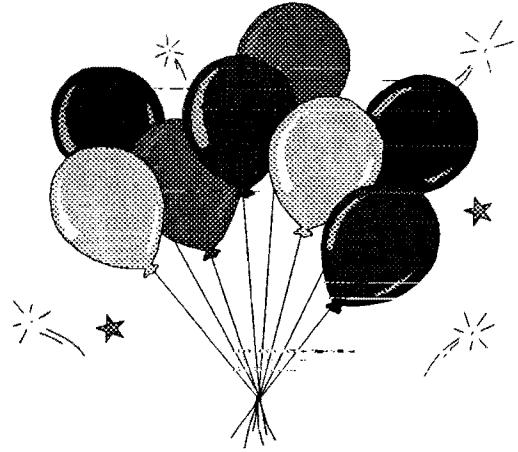
I came to A.A. and got sober in November, 1972. My home group (**The Gay Group**, of Washington, D.C.) was then working with members of **The Friday Night Group** of Princeton, N.J., writing an A.A. oriented pamphlet called *The Homosexual Alcoholic — A.A.'s Message of Hope to Gay Men and Women*. I mention it at this juncture because the beginnings of IAC can be traced back to that pamphlet, although the full story has several different threads. I'll try to unravel a few of them here....

Members of my home group learned I work in the publishing business, so they got me involved in some 12th Step work. I became responsible for printing and distributing this pamphlet. One of my character defects (that I now also appreciate as a character asset) is an overdeveloped sense of responsibility. I wanted to make the pamphlet available to other lesbian and gay alcoholics. So, besides distributing the pamphlets to the groups in Washington and Princeton, I decided to get enough printed to offer them to other groups.

Before I went on a business trip in the West, I called the intergroup offices in the cities I was to visit — Dallas, Los Angeles and Denver were among them. To my surprise, there were gay/lesbian A.A. groups in each city. I got in touch with them, adding their names, addresses and phone numbers to a list I'd already begun to keep in connection with the distribution of the pamphlet.

I also located two other people who also kept track of gay/lesbian groups. One was a lesbian Metropolitan Community Church minister in Los Angeles, the other was a gay man who worked in a halfway house for gay alcoholics in San Francisco. We began to correspond, talk and share our files. I am by nature a collector, so this project was right up my alley (perfect for a compulsive)... "OK, Nance, let's see if you can get information on every gay and lesbian meeting of A.A. in the world!"

This "collection" grew as I phoned intergroups around the



country to get contacts. I routinely pumped out-of-towners for information about their home groups. I kept my ears peeled for rumors about new groups, new cities, new states, and (eventually) new countries where people like us were getting sober the A.A. way. I also read a lot of other gay and lesbian publications; many groups were listed in those publications which I couldn't locate through A.A. channels. When I was at my most compulsive, I literally went through every page of each version of the A.A. World Directory, circling the Lambda groups. I'd phone the Live and Let Live groups, too. Sometimes a group's name would indicate its gay/lesbian orientation.... I especially remember **The Group That Dared Not Speak Its Name**.

It made sense to publish the meeting information I was collecting, and distribute it along with copies of *The Homosexual Alcoholic* to groups I located. I charged a token price. The pamphlet was a dime a copy. The directory cost a dollar. That paid for more printing and distribution, so it became a self-sustaining project.

Every time I published a list, new information would surface. For example, a February, 1979 version of *Meetings for Gay Recovering Alcoholics* was published. It had to be updated four months later, with many more groups added.

(I need to explain the rather awkward title used for these early directories, because it says something about IAC. Some of the meetings I located during the 1970's specifically *excluded* straight people. Some of these exclusionary groups considered themselves to be part of A.A.; others did not. The latter often called themselves **Alcoholics Together** groups. They used the A.A. program, but their meetings were for lesbians and gay men only. To make known *all* available help, I decided early on to list *all* gay groups, exclusionary or not. But this

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meant I couldn't use the A.A. name in the meeting directory titles.)

I made contact with the General Services Office, and sent them copies of the pamphlet and directories. The GSO folks were very kind. Although neither the pamphlet nor the directory were Conference approved, those caring people in New York distributed these pieces of "literature" in response to requests for information from gay/lesbian alcoholics and their friends and sponsors. They also referred people directly to me. This began a cooperative relationship between the community of gay and lesbian recovering alcoholics and the General Services Office that endures to this day through IAC.

The year 1980 was the big one in the history of the **International Advisory Council**. By this point, I was getting tired. I'd been doing this "project" pretty much alone for seven years. I had been asked by the GSO staff in New York to help plan two gay/lesbian workshops for the 1980 International A.A. Convention. By 1980, I'd developed many contacts around the country and was able to furnish GSO with the names of speakers and presenters. (The gay/lesbian workshops at that year's convention and hospitality suites are another story altogether....) But the A.A. Traditions nagged at me. I thought that GSO should be working with a group of gay and lesbian alcoholics that was more representative of our total community.

At the convention, I made contact with a publishing official from Hazelden. Wanting to shed some of these responsibilities, I needed to pass along the task of publishing and distributing *The Homosexual Alcoholic* pamphlet. My talks with GSO staffers convinced me that it would take a *minimum* of two years for the General Services Conference to approve it as an official A.A. text. Wanting to have the widest and fastest possible audience, I approached Hazelden Publishing. They were skeptical at first, but when I told them I'd distributed 10,000 copies, they suddenly became interested. I subsequently "sold" Hazelden the pamphlet for one dollar. They offered me royalties, but I didn't want to get involved with that. My concept of the pamphlet had always been that I was merely its "caretaker," because I hadn't had anything to do with writing it. So, when I received Hazelden's check, I cashed it into a crisp new one dollar bill, took it to a meeting of **The Gay Group** in Washington (whose members had co-written the pamphlet) and put the bill in the basket. I wish that there had been an IAC in existence at the time these negotiations were going on, but IAC wasn't even in its infancy then. The first meeting of what would become IAC still hadn't been convened. And the organization's name and charter were

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still nine months away, though we didn't know it at the time.

The first meeting of what eventually became Iac was held the month after the International A.A. convention, during the August 1980 gay/lesbian A.A. roundup in Washington, D.C. I stood up during a general session, described what I had been doing, and asked anybody who was interested to meet with me. Frankly, I didn't think anyone would. To my surprise, at least 20 men and women showed up. Also, folks from the New York City gay and lesbian groups were especially interested in this project, and they took up the gauntlet.

By the next month, September of 1980, the New York area folks were in contact with the International Conference of Young People in A.A., which is another special-purpose group in the A.A. service structure. ICYPAA agreed to give us some information about how they functioned within the A.A. service structure. It was our sense that we would like to have a similar organization for gay men and lesbians in A.A.

We modeled our organization after ICYPAA. In January, 1981, ICYPAA's bylaws were sent to "Members of [the] Acting Advisory Council," myself among them. We began to have a name for ourselves. A March 1981, list shows three "temporary officers" for the "International Advisory Council for Gay Men and Lesbian Women in Alcoholics Anonymous." There's also a whole laundry list of other people who worked on regional contacts, guidelines committee, general correspondence, advisors, GSO contacts, meeting list, list distribution, loners, calendar, professional liaison, group needs, round-ups, newsletter, and lesbian outreach. Clearly we were headed in the direction the IAC finally took form. Much of IAC's early (pre-charter) work was done by the New York area people. Also, folks in the Seattle area should be credited with drafting what eventually became the IAC Charter. But I was not closely involved with this. I saw my responsibility at this stage to pass along what I'd been doing, more than becoming involved in the next (group-oriented) phase of work.

One of my last transition steps with IAC came in May of 1981. We met during the Boston Memorial Day roundup to thrash out the Charter, and to decide on a name for the organization. Permanent officers were also elected.

Frankly, I remember that weekend with some distaste. My principal memories are of a lot of arguments and nitpicking,  
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and of a real struggle to come up with a name for the organization. We fought over whether the organization's name should be the "Gay and Lesbian Whatever," the "Lesbian and Gay Whatever," the "Lesbian, Gay and Transpersons Whatever" (to account for the transsexuals in our midst), whether bisexuals should be included in the name, etc. We eventually settled on IAC's full name: *The International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in Alcoholics Anonymous*. Although we all disliked the word "homosexual," we did agree that it described us. Maybe we picked it because we disliked it equally, and could agree at least on that much! At any rate, that's how IAC got its name.

Someone else will have to tell IAC's story from this point on, as I continued my process of disengagement after the charter was adopted. I've maintained periodic contact with IAC for the past 10 years and helped compile and publish IAC's early gay/lesbian A.A. world directories. During 1982 and 1983, I also worked with other lesbians and gay men, and with GSO and Grapevine staffers, to draft a proposed Conference-approved pamphlet aimed at the gay and lesbian alcoholic. It was many years later that a pamphlet finally won Conference approval (though it wasn't the text we drafted during this early 80's phase).\*

I've continued to stay in the background with IAC, but I like being in touch. It's been nice to see how this thing is turning out and to know that the organization is continuing to make important contributions within A.A.

I'm glad I could provide this very early background on the Council's history. The story could undoubtedly be told at greater length, but we don't have the room for that here....

— Nancy T., Arlington, Virginia

\* *AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic*, a 23 page pamphlet (publication # P-32) was (finally!) published by AA World Services in 1989 and is now Conference Approved A.A. Literature. (ed.)

## Gays & Lesbians in A.A. Before IAC

*Gays and Lesbian Groups didn't start with IAC (Yes, Virginia, there were homosexual drunks before IAC came along!) Since we're telling of IAC's founding with Nancy T.'s story, we thought it appropriate to also tell a little of the history of Gay/Lesbian meetings in A.A. The following was written by Rey A. (IAC 1990 Chair) in response to a letter from Kim B. in California [Ed.]*

In 1949 Edwin asked Bill Wilson for his suggestions on starting a "special interest" group in Boston. Bill responded with "it doesn't matter what special interest group it is as long as you keep in mind that you are there to stay sober." That group started meeting at the Stag Hotel in Boston in 1949. I don't need to tell you that the political tide changed with the approach of Macarthyism. The group disbanded. As you might know, everyone jumped back in the closet and also a lot of careers and lives were ended during that period.

The emergence of the next gay A.A. group was the Fell Street Group in San Francisco. They started meeting in 1968. Then, AT was formed in Los Angeles almost two years later. From there we go to Washington, D.C. where in December 1971 the "Gay Group" was formed. That group still meets at the original location which is St. James Episcopal Church. The following May, the New Group started meeting in New York.

Gay groups being listed in the world directory of A.A. meetings is also a factor in uniting gays in A.A. Listing the gay groups in the world directory came about during the General Service Assembly in 1974.

Before the 12 steps were developed, A.A. followed the four absolutes. Honesty was one of them. It seems that gay concerns centered around being completely honest when sharing at meetings. They wanted to talk about their lovers in the correct gender and found straight groups a bit restrictive.

Another reason for the gay groups developing seems to have centered around the idea of being totally accepted by a group. Gay groups brought about the feeling of finally "belonging" or being a part of a group.

### Hi-Tech Drunks!

In 1935 when A.A. first got started, only a drunk would have believed a tale about sending documents thousands of miles in seconds. Not so today. Even IAC, forced by time constraints and deadlines, sends items from D.C. to California, Denver to Honolulu. Portions of this newsletter, for example, have travelled roughly 141,000 miles before going to press — *all via satellites and fax machines*. Now IAC doesn't want its own Satellite, that would *really* be self will run riot! But, we could use another fax machine. If you've recently upgraded to a new machine and would like to donate your old one, we have spot on a desk just waiting for it.

## An Introduction to the 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 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 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 and periodic fund raising events.

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 \$5.00 per copy, available from address provided below a quantity discounted price of \$3.00 per copy for orders of 10 copies or more.

**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 and groups, 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 AA. 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** — Published 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.

**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 gay/lesbian Roundups internationally.

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.

(the preceding article is available in pamphlet form. Write: IAC, P.O. Box 90, Washington, D.C. USA 20044)

## Treasurer's Report (contd)

Raphael, Claymont, DE \$125; Options, Jennings, LA \$30; Alternatives, Nashville, TN \$17; High Noon, Toronto, Ont. \$150; GALA, Naples, FL \$18; Mandate Sober, Edmonton, Alb. \$100; 5th Ave. Smokeless, San Diego \$3.82; Courage to Change, Denver \$50; VGAL, Northampton, MA \$42.95; Front Runners, Calgary, Alb. \$25; Women for Women, Philadelphia \$1.50; Getting it Together, Pinellas Park, FL \$38.55; Live & Let Live, Kansas City, MO \$77.83; Ithaca Friday Night Gay Men, Ithaca, NY \$30; Light at the End of the Tunnel, Albuquerque, NM \$41.97; Thursday Night Lesbian, Oakland, CA \$41.55; Primary Purpose, Columbia, SC \$69.41; 12th Tradition, Toronto, Ont. \$210; Joy Road Gay & Lesbian AA, Dearborn, MI \$30; GVAL, Noho, MA \$13.60; Free to Be, Orlando, FL \$20; Bering Men's Group, Houston \$20; New Freedom New Happiness, Rochester, NY \$10; Live & Let Live, Lahaina, HI \$23.98; Alive Again AA, Syosset, NY \$90; Front Runners, Vancouver, BC \$21; We Are Not Saints, Boca Raton, FL \$10; Lambda, Forest Hills, NY \$10; Living Free, Calumet City, IL \$15; Friends, Sarasota, FL \$30; Road to Recovery, Sherman Oaks, CA \$13; Sun. Nite Lesbian & Gay, Oakland, CA \$5; Monday at Eight, Edmonton, Alb. \$45; Lambda, MO \$15; Quakerbridge Princeton, Princeton, NJ \$59; Freedom, Topeka, KS \$60; Thur. Night Lincroft, Lincroft, NJ \$25; AT, Las Vegas, NV \$75; Go After Your Sobriety, St. Petersburg, FL \$25; Sunday Evening Rap, San Luis Obispo, CA \$33.20; Rainbow, Toronto, Ont. \$20; Enghave, Copenhagen, Denmark \$100; Gay & Lesbian, Berlin, German \$10; Nitty Gritty, Toronto, Ont. \$50; Lambda South, FL \$110; Tell it Like it Is, Alberta, Can. \$250; Sobriety and Leather, S.F., CA \$16; Thursday Night, Madison, WI \$5; One Step Beyond, Oakton, VA \$25; Mon. Nite Big Book, L.A. \$7.05; Dist. 13 Alcoholics Together, Boston \$50.

*A complete financial report will be presented at the Edmonton, Alberta Roundup Council Meeting, September, 1991.*

## We Get Letters!

In sharing "W.B.'s Story" in IAC's June issue, we asked for your experiences (solutions) in dealing with homophobia in A.A. "Your timing was perfect," wrote Merri M. from Illinois. "I just returned home from 'Joe & Charlie's' Big Book seminar in Chicago, feeling somewhat strange. Charlie spoke of accepted vs. hidden sexual behavior. His example of acceptable sexuality was with his wife in their home. Hidden sexuality was "a man with his girlfriend ... or (purposeful pause, beginning with audience titters) ... well, you listen to enough fifth steps and nothing will surprise you!" (full audience guffaws by all except the few gay/lesbians and others sensitive to what he was doing) Charlie also made numerous jokes along the way at the expense of women."

Merri then wrote, "How do I plan to handle this? I'm going to talk to Charlie tomorrow (standing in line with Big Book autograph seekers) and tell him his comments were hurtful, especially in the middle of a conference when I was so open psychologically. I'll write again to let you know his response."

Right on, Merri! As our brother, Walt Whitman, wrote "If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred." Humor at the expense of our sexuality is all too common. Encouraging the response with "titters and guffaws" only continues the abuse. If enough of us join Merri, perhaps even some old-timers can see they still have room for growth and understanding. [Ed.]

## Share Stories

### — on Tape

IAC receives many requests worldwide for "Speaker" tapes (30-40 minute audio cassettes) with Gay/Lesbian A.A. members sharing. Many recovering homosexual alcoholics have NEVER heard a gay speaker. They have to stay closeted to recover, or in some parts of the world, risk imprisonment, such as the case with our friend Dan from Nigeria.

IAC has established a *Speakers Tape Library* BUT: 1) We need tapes and; 2) We need a *Tape Librarian/International Coordinator* to copy, file and keep tabs on tapes. If you qualify, send your A.A. service resume today! Those who wish to send tapes, go ahead, we're saving them. Also, you may send tapes directly in response to a request for them from Denmark: Leif Haugvik, Finsensvei #7-C, DK-2000, Frederiksberg, Denmark. All tapes for our library to IAC, P.O. Box 90, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Gay and Lesbian A.A.'s who got sober in "early A.A." won't be around forever. Get 'em on tape now! Contribute those tapes to our library.

## "Mail" Sponsor Solves Dilemma

Our story in June's newsletter about Dan A., *A Brother in Nigeria*, ended happily with a group agreeing to sponsor him via mail through IAC's USA postal address to avoid South African Government censors. Dan has no access to openly Gay meetings where he lives.

## NEW UK GROUP!

A new Gay/Lesbian A.A. group has been started in Bournemouth, England. Britain's A.A./IAC conference meets in London in September with Paul F. hosting the IAC table.

## Regional/Country Reps Listing

The following IAC contacts will help you or your group in any way they can:

	Southeastern U.S.
Allan F.	Birmingham, Alabama
	Northeastern U.S.
Charlie H.	Easton, Pennsylvania
	Southwestern U.S.
Jan W.	Denver, Colorado
	Pacific Region U.S.
Anne K.	Lompoc, California
	North Central U.S.
Jeff Y.	Cleveland, Ohio
	Europe
	England
Paul F.	Denmark
Leif H.	

To help in IAC's outreach, local representatives have been established as follows: Michael B., New Jersey State; Ed. B., greater Miami, FL; Johnna H., San Diego, CA; Fred J., Los Angeles; Dennis M., Boston; Adina P., Northern VA; Karen R. SF, CA; Ken E. Orlando, FL; Karl B. Jr., Palm Springs, CA; Kathy M., Santa Barbara, CA; Donald E, Philadelphia; Brian A., Albany, NY; Laurel L., W. MA; Thurman A., Columbus, OH.

All above can be contacted at IAC, P.O. Box 90, Washington, D.C. 20044

### IAC-ACTION COUPON

Please change address (include your old address label.  Add new listing.  Contribution is enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (no cash).

Enclosed is \$5 for 1991-92 *World Directory* of Gay & Lesbian meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (includes shipping/postage).

**NOTE: Bulk Rate for directories 10 or more @ \$3 each.**

Below, please indicate group or individual. If group, also: (a) show date/time/place/type of meeting(s); (b) contact person and phone number (if possible) and address and; (c) if place of meetings differs from mailing address, please list both.  Indiv  Group

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_, 1991

Full mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Optional) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Attach any additional data and mail to: IAC, P.O. Box 90, Washington, D.C. 20044

# IAC Roundup Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 1991**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**OCTOBER 1991**

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27	28	29	30	31		

**NOVEMBER 1991**

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**DECEMBER 1991**

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**1991**

**SEPTEMBER**

9/27 • Edmonton, Alberta: *Sober, Strong & Free*. 604-11020 Jasper, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T4K 2N1. Call Alan P. (403) 425-2291.

9/27 • Seattle, Washington *Coming of Age*. 1202 E. Pike, #552, Seattle, Washington 98122. Call Rusty S. (206) 362-1865 or Cowboy Tom (206) 525-8765. Cost is \$25.00

\* London, England: *Gay & Lesbian Conference*.

**OCTOBER**

10/4 • Atlanta, Georgia: *Hotlanta Roundup '91*. P.O. Box 13481, Atlanta, Georgia 30324. Call Rebecca (404) 874-7767 or Keith (404) 636-5059. Cost is \$35.00. At Castlegate Hotel.

10/4 • Minneapolis, Minnesota: *Twin Cities Gay/Lesbian Roundup*. Mike Murphy, 5717 - 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417. Cost is \$20.00. At St. Stephens Church.

10/10 • Denver, Colorado: *Rocky Mountain Roundup VI*. 1200 Humboldt #1204, Denver, Colorado 80218. Call Alan H. (303) 894-9017. Cost is \$25.00 single or \$45 couple. At Executive Tower Inn (800) 526-6651.

10/11 • Toronto, Ontario: *Gratitude Roundup*. P.O. Box 74, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1H0.

10/11 • Santa Barbara, California: *Sober Unity*. P.O. Box 238, Santa Barbara, California 93102. Call Kathy M. (805) 966-6556. Cost is \$15.00 advance, \$20.00 at door. Miramar Hotel (800) 322-6983.

10/11 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: *Freedom Roundup*. P.O. Box 15978, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

10/25 • Provincetown, Massachusetts: *Provincetown Roundup*. P.O. Box 227, Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657.

10/25 • Las Vegas, Nevada: *Soberfest Roundup*. P.O. Box 20345, Las Vegas, Nevada 89112. Call Ron U. (702) 253-9944 or Harry A. (702) 451-2535. Cost is \$25.00. At Union Plaza Hotel.

\* Indicates exact date & other information unavailable

**JANUARY 1992**

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**FEBRUARY 1992**

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**MARCH 1992**

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**APRIL 1992**

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**NOVEMBER**

11/1 • Jennings, Louisiana: *Southwest Louisiana Roundup*. 426 First Street, Jennings, Louisiana 70546. Call Roy R. (318) 824-3758. Cost is \$15.00.

11/28 • Houston, Texas: *Houston Roundup*. P.O. Box 27703 #339, Houston, Texas 77227. Cost is \$25.00 thru 10/10, \$35.00 thereafter. At Stouffer Presidente Hotel.

11/28 • New York City, New York: *Big Apple Roundup*. P.O. Box 451, Village Station, New York, New York 10014. Call Elaine L. (212) 679-0474 or Gary F. (212) 595-0475. Cost is \$45. At Washington Irving High School, E. 16th at Irving Pl.

11/30 • Sacramento, California: *River City Roundup*. P.O. Box 163572, Sacramento, California 95816. Cost is \$8.00 thru 10/20, \$10.00 thereafter.

**1992**

**FEBRUARY**

2/15 • New Bedford, Massachusetts: *S.E. Massachusetts Roundup*. P.O. Box E-736, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02742-0736. Call Fred S. (508) 866-3575 or Dan P. (508) 564-5643. Cost is \$25.00 thru 11/16, \$30.00 thru 1/11, \$40 thereafter. At Bayshore Hotel.

2/21 • Nashville, Tennessee: *Grande Ole' Roundup*. P.O. Box 121171, Nashville, Tennessee 37212. Call Rick W. (615) 872-0477. Cost is \$25.00 thru 1/1/92, \$35 thereafter. At Rodeway Inn.

**MARCH**

3/21 • Oakland, California: *East Bay Conference*. P.O. Box 30062, Oakland, California 94604. Call Doreen G. (510) 234-0693 or Steve W. (510) 228-8081.

3/19 • Miami, Florida: *Florida Roundup*. P.O. Box 030237, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33303-0237.

**JULY**

7/3 • Albuquerque, New Mexico: *Roundup '92*. 1609 Princeton N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106. At Historic Old Town.

**We Need Your Roundup Information!!!**

Roundup Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Gary H., Roundup Liaison, IAC, 2806 Knight #105 B, Dallas, Texas 75219