

Chairperson
Elaine N.
(617) 354-0737

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

Treasurer
Bob D.
(416) 485-6163

Secretary
William R.
(416) 862-0343

Mailing List
Richard W.
(202) 293-4022

Special Projects
Dewey C.
(301) 439-7442

Roundup Liaison
Rick Y.
(609) 259-3841

Newsletter
Charles D.
(703) 960-6712

**International
Outreach**
Ed B.
(305) 728-8629

**International
Directory**
Nancy T.
(703) 931-6877

Advisor
Fred J.
(608) 356-9429

Past Chair
Alan H.
(717) 587-1258

Recovery Network
202-833-1889

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Installation of the new officers of the International Advisory Council assumed their new roles at an open meeting held in San Francisco on July 3rd. The new officers are: Chair - Elaine N., Vice-Chair - Rey A., Treasurer - Bob D., Secretary - William K. Both Bob and William are continuing in their positions and will bring to IAC a much-needed continuity. We would all also like to thank Alan H. for his efforts as the past chairperson.

A commitment to publish the IAC newsletter four times a year, to provide effective communication with our world-wide membership, was reaffirmed. Dissemination of information on roundups and conferences through the newsletter, has become a priority.

During the coming year IAC will embark on many important ventures. Rey A. has already begun the task of preparing a proposal requesting conference approval of a pamphlet aimed at the gay and lesbian alcoholic.

Nancy T. is hard at work gathering the information necessary to reissue the International Directory of gay and lesbian meetings. Rick W. and Dewey C. have been updating the mailing list and have begun dissemination of Council information via computer through the Recovery Network reaching 38 computer bulletin boards.

During the October March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, the opportunity to find so many of us gathered together led to an in formal meeting of the IAC council. At that time, we discussed an agenda for Council activities in 1988. Charles D. accepted editorship of the newsletter.



CONFERENCE APPROVED PAMPHLET

Work has begun on the process of obtaining General Service Conference approval for an A.A. pamphlet of particular interest to the gay and lesbian alcoholic. An ambitious schedule is in place to permit presentation of the proposal to the GSO Board of Directors at their January 31st meeting in New York.

A range of studies suggest that the lesbian and gay communities experience a rate of alcoholism three times greater than that of society as a whole. The isolation familiar to all drinking alcoholics is often deepened by the process of "identifying out", fostered among lesbians and gay men by their own institutions and by society at large. That A.A. seeks to reach the entire range of suffering alcoholics was demonstrated from the earliest days with the adoption of the Third Tradition in 1937. The provision of conference approved literature is designed to reach those who do not know that their desire to stop drinking through the fellowship of A.A. is not negated by their sexual orientation. The pamphlet proposed will be similar to "Gay or Lesbian and Alcoholic?" which was produced by IAC and has been distributed successfully throughout A.A.

Conference approval guarantees that the literature so designated meets all the standards of A.A. as a whole and ensures it wide accessibility. The process of gaining conference approval is therefore stringent and a long one, taking several years to complete. This effort will

involve patience and lots of hard work. We will need your help in achieving the goal. Our success will be effective Twelfth Step progress-- carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

ROUNDUP LIAISON

In keeping with one of IAC's original purposes, the position of Roundup Liaison was created at the Council meeting held on October 11, in Washington, D.C. Rick Y. of Allentown, New Jersey, has accepted this responsibility, and is now in the process of compiling a complete list of Roundups and A.A. Conferences. He is also preparing packages of IAC materials to be sent to each roundup.

With the growth of the number of gay and lesbian groups throughout A.A. there has been a corresponding increase in the number of roundups and other activities of interest to our community. IAC seeks to publicize these events throughout the widest spectrum of the community, and to assist the organizers in ensuring that the scheduling of events allows maximum participation by all interested A.A.'s. We've come a long way from the days when gay and lesbian A.A. events were few and far between. As pleasant as it is to be able to choose from among several scheduled roundups, it's even nicer to be able to get to more than one!

If you would like to have your event listed by IAC in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Rick, P.O. Box 47, Allentown, New Jersey, 08501. And remember, it's never too early to have a scheduled event listed.

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**IF IT'S 1990,
THIS MUST BE SEATTLE!**

Throughout A.A., planning for the 1990 International Convention in Seattle, Washington, is moving forward. The General Service Office in New York has asked that IAC repeat its successful visibility and sponsorship of events in Montreal, and we will be active in three major areas. There will be a gay and lesbian hospitality suite, a dance open to all, and workshops and panels covering concerns of the recovering gay and lesbian community. IAC has made contact with gay A.A.'s in Seattle for assistance in planning our presence.

TRIENNIAL SURVEY

During 1986 GSO conducted its triennial survey of A.A. members in the U.S. and Canada. As in the past, anonymous and confidential questionnaires were distributed to Conference Delegates to be filled out by members of randomly selected groups representing the 40,500 North American A.A. groups as a whole. For the first time, gay and lesbian A.A.'s were surveyed as a separate entity. Meetings from the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and the Southern Maryland area were polled during a two week period. Members filled out the same questionnaire used throughout A.A. Three hundred fourteen members responded during the two-week drive and the summarized results were reported at the December 6th meeting celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the first gay A.A. meeting in Washington, D.C.

GSO has now published a summary of the overall survey (in the Oct./Nov. issue of Box 4-5-9). It is interesting to see how this sample of the recovering gay and lesbian community differs from A.A. as a whole, and the areas in which it does not. The results for gay and lesbian responses to selected questions are shown below. The figures in parentheses are those for the overall A.A. survey.

Under 31 years of age:

31% (21)%

Female:

21% (34)%

Sobriety length:

48 mo. (51) mo.

Meetings per week:

4-5 (3-4)

Also addicted to drugs:

47% (38)%

GAY GROUP IN MEXICO

There is now a gay group in Mexico City, with seven meetings each week. The group is called NOVO 122 (Gay) and meets at:

Calle de Culiacán 122
Altos 1 esq. Bajío
Col. Hipódromo-Condesa
Mexico, D.F. 06170

The contact person is Hector M. Phone: 658-86-85.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

IACtivity, the newsletter of the International Advisory Council, is published four times a year (February, May, August, and November). It exists to provide gay and lesbian groups and individuals information on the IAC council's work, and on events and meetings of interest to

our community. The International Advisory Council and its newsletter can serve as a resource only to the extent that IAC is informed and involved. If you know of a Roundup or Conference that will be of interest to the recovering gay and lesbian community, let us know. If a meeting is not listed in the International Directory, we'd like your help in seeing that it gets there. Information on the formation of new gay and lesbian groups, and the history of development of gay and lesbian groups in an area, are of interest to IAC and to our wider international community.

Time-sensitive information (Roundups, conferences, and the like) should reach us early enough to ensure publication when it will benefit our members. The following schedule has been adopted by IAC for the newsletter.

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Copy to editor</u>
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May	30 April
August	31 July
November	31 October

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