

# Panel

## S

**Panel** — Refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which the area's delegate will first serve. The two-year cycle frequently applies to area committee officers and committee members, as well.



# ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

*Comes of Age*

That period, 1945 to 1950, was one of immense strain and test. We were confronted by three grave issues. The first had to do with money, the second with anonymity; and, **most dangerous of all, there was the question of what was to become of Alcoholics Anonymous when its old-timers and founders had gone.**

THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE  
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

YOUR THIRD LEGACY  
WILL YOU ACCEPT IT?

By  
Dr. Bob and Bill  
(November, 1950)

*\* Additional copies of this plan, 10 cents each. Write  
the Alcoholic Foundation, P. O. Box 459, Grand Cen-  
tral Annex, New York 17, N. Y.*

1952 Edition

## WHY NOT LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?

Yet some may still say - "Of course the Foundation should go on. Certainly we'll pay that small expense. But why can't we leave its conduct to Dr. Bob and Bill and their friends the Trustees? We always have. Why do they now bother us with such business? Let's keep A.A. simple." Good questions, these. But today the answers are quite different than they once were.

Let's face these facts:

*First* - Dr. Bob and Bill are perishable, they can't last forever.

*Second* - Their friends, the Trustees, are almost unknown to the A.A. movement.

*Third* - In future years our Trustees couldn't possibly function without direct

**Bill D. (AA  
#3)**

**Helen  
B.**



## BIRTH OF THE CONFERENCE

It was one thing to say that we ought to have a General Service Conference, but it was quite another to devise a plan which would bring it into successful existence. The cost of holding one was easily dismissed, but how on earth were we going to cut down destructive politics, with all its usual struggles for prestige and vainglory? How many delegates would be required and from where should they come? Arrived at New York, how could they be related to the board of trustees? What would be their actual powers and duties?

With these several weighty considerations in mind, and with some misgivings, I commenced work on a draft of a plan, much assisted by Helen B., an A.A. staff member.

Though the Conference might be later enlarged to include the whole world, we felt that the first delegates should come from the U.S. and Canada only. Each state and province might be allowed one delegate. Those containing heavy A.A. populations could have additional delegates. To give the Conference continuity, delegates could be divided into panels. An odd-numbered panel (Panel One), elected for two years, would be invited for 1951, the first year. An even-numbered panel (Panel Two), elected for two years, would be seated in 1952. Thereafter, one panel would be elected and one would be retired yearly. This would cause the Conference to rotate, while maintaining some continuity.

Consequently it was with many misgivings that I began work on the draft of a detailed plan. Headquarters people and Trustees alike made many fine suggestions. Helen B. of the office staff had a real flair for statesmanship in the best sense of the word, and she understood practical politicking too. Her assistance throughout proved invaluable.

Though the Conference might someday be enlarged to include the whole world, we felt that the first delegates should come from the U.S. and Canada only. Each state and province might have one delegate each with the provision that those containing heavy A.A. population could have additional representation. To give the Conference continuity the delegates would be divided into two panels: Panel One to be elected in 1951 and Panel Two the following year. Hence only half the delegates would drop out at one time and the conference membership would rotate. Elections could take place at the largest centers of population in each state or province. Yet how could these assemblies of group representatives choose their committeemen and delegates without terrific political friction?

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**Panel 1 = 1951**

**Panel 2 = 1952**

**Panel 74 = 2024**

**Panel 75 = 2025**

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**These Delegates will serve in two rotating panels. Panel No. 1 will be formed by inviting representatives from the 28 States and Provinces having, by our Group Directory, the largest A.A. populations. Panel No. 2 (which will start in the second year) will be created by inviting Delegates from the remaining 28 States and Provinces plus additional representation from densely populated regions.**

REPORT  
of the first annual  
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

of  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

#  
Hotel Commodore, New York City  
April 20-21-22  
1951

(For use by *members of* the Conference  
and State and Provincial Committeemen)

ROSTER OF DELEGATES

ALABAMA	Charles Abercrombie, 21 LeBron Avenue, Montgomery
ARKANSAS	Kenneth Garrett, P.O. Box 233, Pine Bluff
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Charles Brown, 3239 W. 30th Ave., Vancouver
CALIFORNIA	Clifford A. Walker, 1163 Ocean View, Whittier
	M. W. Nicoson, 3040 Halcyon Court, Berkeley
COLORADO	Merton M. Robbins, 32 S. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs
CONNECTICUT	Page Duke, 183 Seaton Road, Stamford
DIST. OF COLUMBIA	H.S. Cole, 1219 Clement Place, Silver Springs, Md.
FLORIDA	Thomas A. Sharpe, P.O. Box 6121, Jacksonville
	Clifford H. Glick, 325 Albemarle Road, West Palm Beach
ILLINOIS	Lewis Hunt, 617 Grove, Evanston
	Ward Montgomery, 700 So. 12th St., Springfield
INDIANA	Robert White, 3060 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis
IOWA	Ray Harrison, 320 Fleming Building, Des Moines
LOUISIANA	George Collamore, 69 Gull Street, New Orleans
MASSACHUSETTS	Robert Goldsberry, Jr., 51 St. Stephen Street, Boston
MICHIGAN	H.R. Eshleman, 773 Trombly Road, Grosse Pointe
	C. F. McIntosh, 360 W. Muskegon Ave., Muskegon
MINNESOTA:	Pat Cronin, 2415 Harriet Ave., Minneapolis
MISSOURI	David Millar, P.O. Box 411, Sedalia
NEW JERSEY	Walter Behnfield, Columbia Road, Morristown
NEW YORK	Henry Zoeller, 87-10 Clover Hill Road, Hollis, L.I.
	Cecil Bassett, Cazenovia
NORTH CAROLINA	John S. Ruggles, P.O. Box 145, Southern Pines
OHIO	William I. Dotson, First National Tower, Akron
	Bert Paschall, 1122 Atlas Bldg., Columbus
OKLAHOMA	Roy Scovil, 1722 N. Lindsay, Oklahoma City
ONTARIO	Adam T. Capeling, 761 Bayview Ave., Toronto
PENNSYLVANIA	George Roberts, 131 Greenwood Ave., Jenkintown
	W.G. Griffith, 20 Shady Drive West, Pittsburgh 28
TEXAS	Olin Lancaster, 4678 Fairfax, Dallas
	E.D. Sheridan, 5020 Griggs Road, Houston
UTAH	Clyde Gooderham, 871. Westminster, Salt Lake City
VIRGINIA	N. G. White, P.O. Box 5126, Richmond
WASHINGTON	Dale Anderson, 5705 - 45th Ave., N.E. Seattle
WEST VIRGINIA	James Hardin, 2119 Highland Ave., So. Charleston
WISCONSIN	George J. Strachan, 617 North Second St., Milwaukee 3,

# *In Memory of Helen*

**J**UST six years ago last month, a girl named Helen made a journey from Boston to New York. She came to this city to join the staff of AA's General Service Headquarters.

Her decision to leave Boston's Central Office, where she had for three years been much loved as its first Secretary, was to result in benefits beyond measure to worldwide AA. But for her, this decision proved to be a fateful one.

Helen died in my home at Bedford Hills September 28, 1955. Her death was the climax of a long period of severe exhaustion and of many difficulties. She had come to stay with Lois and me to recuperate for the fresh start about which she had eagerly written to friends only one day before the unexpected attack of illness that did, in a matter of minutes, carry her away from us.

All the countless AAs who knew Helen will surely declare her to have been one of the finest servants that we have ever had. Speaking for ourselves here at Headquarters we feel that a void has been left in our lives of the kind which can never quite be filled. With Lois and me, Helen always stood high among our most devoted and treasured friends.



One more unforgettable thing: When the crucial decisions were made in 1951 that a Conference of elected AAs should be called to meet yearly with our Trustees, that this Conference should ultimately become the guide and conscience for our entire Society, and the successor to its founders, a most difficult problem had to be faced. Anxiously we asked ourselves, "How can this be done?"

Because of her keen sense of AA feeling and reaction, her inborn flair for sound diplomacy, Helen was assigned to help me in the preparation of the Third Legacy. This document, on which the future of AA so much depends, and of which so many of us recently became conscious at St. Louis, will ever bear the stamp of Helen's great perception and devotion.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

*Bill W.*

*Helen B. was buried in Rockland, Massachusetts on Saturday, October 1, following a Solemn High Mass of Requiem at the Church of the Holy Family in Rockland.*



**AA Grapevine November, 1955**