

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
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(Between 119th and 120th Streets)

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

October 15, 1998

Nathan [REDACTED]
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84118

Please direct all communications to:

GRAND CENTRAL STATION
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Dear Nathan:

Thanks for a good letter about the recent ICYPAA Conference in Washington, D.C. Yes, I, too, was totally energized after that terrific weekend, as I always have been at young people's events. In your letter, Nathan, you asked about providing information and experience regarding young people's groups and conferences.

You were interested in a copy of Bill W.'s 1960 address to the Fellowship concerning ICYPAA and young people's groups in A.A. This is what Bill stated in his May 9, 1960 letter to Eugene M.:

"I wish to send the meeting my warmest congratulations and my high confidence for its success. For us oldtimers the coming of so many younger members into A.A. is one of the deepest satisfactions that we can ever have. To think that so many are to be spared that extra ten years of unmitigated hell that so many of us pass through, it is something for the greatest of gratitude."

In a letter to Bob C. on June 24, 1968, Bill said:

"In my view among the younger members of our Fellowship has been one of the most inspiring developments that we oldest have seen. That such great numbers have been, and will continue to be spared the last agonizing years of alcoholism is certainly something for which to thank a loving Providence. For these reasons I would sincerely like to be with you [on the Convention]."

Nathan, having been involved with young people's groups in San Francisco and attending several ICYPAA Conferences, I can assure you that young people's groups, conventions and conferences are vital activities in Alcoholics Anonymous. We encourage you to continue to communicate with the area, get young people involved in service work, i.e. G.S.R., D.C.M., corrections, treatment, C.P.C., P.I., etc. Invite the area officers to young people's activities and make sure the young people's groups attend area assemblies and service weekends.

There have been Conference presentations on young people, 1985 and 1986 and Grapevine articles on youth groups and ICYPAA. We've enclosed copies, along with a copy of "Facts, Aims and Purposes" of the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous, published by the Advisory Council of ICYPAA. The subject has not been a topic of discussion or action at a General Service Conference. Most areas support young people's activities and encourage communication.

If you are in the New York area, Nathan, do not hesitate to stop by for a visit. As you know, my retirement will be in a few short months and my successor will be named. We at G.S.O. are always inspired by young people's conventions and wish you well and encourage you to keep trying. May your sobriety be sustained day by day through the A.A. Fellowship and its program of recovery.

Warmest regards,


George [REDACTED] General Manager
General Service Office

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Encs.