

# Monterey Conference Makes Northern AA History

Obligations of AA members in many facets of the Alcoholics Anonymous program and fellowship activities shared attention with the growing activities and recognition of the family or non-alcoholic auxiliaries of AA at the quarterly conference of the Northern California Council of AA in Monterey and Pacific Grove, September 8 and 9.

Each quarterly conference of the council seems to grow in significance and attendance, and the Monterey Peninsula Conference was record-breaking in some particulars. Upward of 400 AA's, some of whom traveled more than 300 miles to attend, were present at the various sessions.

## Hosts and Hostesses

The five peninsula groups — Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Cypress and Seaside, proved outstanding hosts, and astonished themselves in their conduct of the most pretentious AA event they had ever attempted. The visitors were not astonished, as they had expected nothing less. but they were effusive in their comments on the entire weekend of events.

The entire area embraced by the council was represented, with delegates present from as far as Chico on the north and Tulare County on the south.

The opening event was an Open House and Dance in the Pacific Grove Women's Club, Saturday night, September 8. The affair was in charge of the Monterey Peninsula Family Group, and the non-alcoholic wives were showered with congratulations for their arrangements.

The three large rooms of the clubhouse were crowded with more than 300 guests, more than two-thirds of home were out-of-town visitors. A long dining room table was weighted down with cakes, platters of sandwiches, and salads. In another room, bingo players held forth, while the largest room was packed with guests who danced to the music of a recently organized AA orchestra of professional musicians.

"We told the orchestra to play slow pieces because it was the first time in years that some of our members had danced while sober," said one of the committeemen. "But before the evening was over, many of them,

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both young ones and couples up to 70, were asking for jive."

The regular council sessions opened Sunday morning in Monterey County Fair Auditorium, a short distance outside Monterey. Conservative estimates placed the attendance at more than 350. For the first time in the history of the council, the sessions were opened to non-alcoholic relatives of AA's.

Vic M., of Sacramento, was chairman of the day and in his address of welcome gave a striking picture of the council and its purposes. San Francisco contributed the first speaker, Jack I., who spoke forcefully on "Obligations of Membership." He described the obligations as mental, material and spiritual.

## Jersey Pioneer

"Obligations of Sponsorship" was discussed by Charlie S., of Dinuba, who recently came to California from the East, where he was an early day member of AA in Newark, N.J. At one time he was managing director of Newark's Alano Club. He clearly demonstrated his insight into fundamental and spiritual AA in describing his idea of approaches to Twelfth Step work and sponsorship. He stressed his opinion that an AA should truly "want" to help his fellow alcoholic, and not feel that he "has" to help him.

Poncho W., of the Sonoma Group, who started in the Los Angeles AA, was an inspired speaker when he discussed the subject, "Spiritual Obligations." He left no question as to his faith in a Power Greater Than Himself to restore him to sobriety.

The feature of the afternoon session was the charming address of Mickey A. of Alameda, wife of the widely known Ed A. and a pioneer in the Nalano or non-alcoholic group of the East Bay. She was the first non-alcoholic wife to appear on a council program. She displayed detailed knowledge of the AA program, and urged the wives to seek AA for their own development. She advised wives to let their AA spouses alone when they hit rough spots in their program.

The hour's discussion session, with Walter H. of Santa Rosa as moderator, was devoted principally to discussion of the future relations between AA and the growing Family Group movement. The question was raised by Nic N. of the College Bay Group of Berkeley, who is this area's delegate to the General Service Conference. The meeting took no action, as business matters are traditionally not voted on at such sessions.

Nic announced the need for material support for the New York office and the Grapevine. He also revealed the coming visit October 29 and 30 of Bill W. and Bernard Smith, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation.

As a result of his announcement, a brief meeting of district representatives of the council was called after adjournment to discuss the visit. The representatives empowered the outgoing and incoming secretaries to set up a committee to arrange for the October 29 meeting.

The closing address of the conference was made by Homer T. of Monterey-Pacific Grove, a representative on the council from District 10. His eloquence and the depth of his thinking and sentiment might have surprised those who had never heard him speak, but they were no surprise to those who knew him in his metropolitan newspaper days.

## Historic Spot

He pointed out the significance in California history of the spot on which the conference was held, and linked it with what he predicted would be of significance in the history of California AA — the first official recognition of the affinity between AA and its Family Groups.

He paused in his remarks to pay tribute to the retiring secretary-treasurer. Kay P., who was completing 25 months in that office, and set the stage for the presentation of a bouquet of long-stemmed American Beauty roses. The flower girl was the pretty little daughter of Hannah W. of Carmel.

Kay responded appropriately, and introduced her successor, Jack I. of San Francisco, and his wife, Ada, an active member of the San Francisco Family Group.

## Council Elections

Delegates of the odd numbered districts elected representatives to

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# Good News

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## Monterey Session

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serve on the council the next six months. Results follow, with the representatives named first and their alternates second.

District 1, Sacramento County — Ruth G., Sacramento; Muriel P., Sacramento.

District 3, Eureka south to Sausalito and Vallejo — Harvey B., San Anselmo; Phil H., Napa.

District 5, Alameda County, except Berkeley — Jim C., Alameda; Jim H., San Leandro.

District 7, San Francisco north of Market and West of Van Ness — Fran J., Park Vista Group; Ed G., Fillmore Group.

District 9, South San Francisco to San Jose, inclusive — Eddie N., San Mateo; Laurens P., San Jose.

District 11, Stockton south to Porterville — Charlie S., Dinuba; C.H.L., Fresno.

### SEA CLIFF

After an acute attack of summer anemia, Sea Cliff rallied in September and on the final Tuesday, 25 real live persons attended.

Illness, night jobs and vacations had kept away numerous old-timers, who began drifting back with autumn.

At the turn of the month Jane N. turned the chairman's gavel over to Steve S., who will muster speakers for October.

The September 25 meeting featured as speaker Ted F., who came into AA in Seattle and has been attending various San Francisco meetings the past nine months.

After airing some of his AA views in general, Ted touched off a spirited discussion on clubhouses. Among old-timers Paul G., Harold F. and Dell D. expressed interest in Ted's rejuvenation ideas.

Harry C. was chairman for August. He guided the four Tuesday night sessions with dignity but kindness. The meetings produced lively discussions.

The father of Margaret C. died after a long illness.—FRED W.

## Membership of Alano Club Votes To Contribute to S.F., N.Y. Offices

Members of the Alano Club, recognizing themselves as integral parts of Alcoholics Anonymous, even though the club itself is a separate entity, voted at their quarterly business meeting in September to contribute material assistance to the San Francisco and New York offices of AA.

The action was taken in a resolution presented by Jim H., which authorizes the directors at their discretion to divide ten percent of the net proceeds from games as follows: Two-thirds to the San Francisco Fellowship and one-third to the expenses of the general offices in New York.

The offer was accepted by the Central Committee of the San Francisco Fellowship at its September meeting. Acceptance by New York is forecast by the fact that a contribution from the Alano Club was accepted in 1949 and by a letter recently received from the New York office indicating such contributions are in accord with Point 7 of AA Tradition.

### New Year's Eve

The club also voted to approve a project presented by Carlo B. under which the club will be host and bear all the expense of a New Year's Eve Party. Admission will be by tickets to cost 50 cents each, which will be numbered for drawings of door prizes including a \$500 bond, a \$100 bond and several hundred subscriptions to the Grapevine. All net proceeds of ticket sales will go to the New York office and the Grapevine. The recent letter from New York, referred to in the foregoing paragraph, indicated such project was in accord with Point 7. The New Year's Eve project also was approved by the Fellowship Central Committee at its September meeting.

The two foregoing projects are in line with the picnic given August 19 for the benefit of the Fellowship, for which the club underwrote the preliminary expense and placed its facilities at the disposal of Carlo, the picnic chairman—a graphic illustration of the trend toward closer cooperation between the club and the Fellowship. Carlo reported the net proceeds from the picnic to the Fellowship were \$806.53.

Jack I., retiring member of the Board of Directors, presided. Carlo B. was elected to fill his place on

the board, beginning a term of one year on October 1.

### Series of Parties

Following the successful picnic of August 19, the club inaugurated a series of social events, beginning with a dance, floor show, community sing and supper Sunday night, September 2, in celebration of Labor Day.

Herman McC., chairman of the club's entertainment committee, produced a lively program that entertained a packed audience until long after midnight. He was assisted by a hostess committee composed of Rit C., Agnes D., Roz B. and Jessica S.

Herman shared microphone honors with Frank F., a former professional entertainer. Singers of the evening from the club were Roz B., Dorothy B. and Frank F., while two members of the band also sang. The big crowd applauded all enthusiastically. Dancing to the music of a fine band was followed by a box social at which a drawing of numbers paired off the men and women for supper.

### October Events

Two more events are planned for October. A Columbus Day party will be presented Friday night October 12, as a benefit for the Twelfth Step House. Herman promises something special, under the general heading of a "DT Cocktail Party."

The annual Hallowe'en party will be given Wednesday night, October 31, following the regular Central Meeting in the downstairs auditorium at 111 O'Farrell Street. The meeting program will be composed of three very brief talks by early members of the Fellowship, and will close early so the party can get underway.

The club's new television set is already in operation and attracting many to its programs. It drew many for the recent Peace Conference in San Francisco, and is expected to be a drawing card during the World Baseball Series.

### Oakland Nalano Dance

The East Bay Nalano Group opened its winter social season with a dance at Danish Hall, 1664 Eleventh street, Oakland, on September 29. Many AA's attended from this city.

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