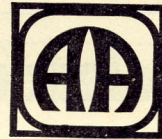




Good News



VOL. IX
No. 12

Published Monthly in San Francisco, California
By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

AUGUST
1961

Preliminaries for NCC at Sacramento October 7-8 Studied by Committees

Henry F., chairman, Conference Committee of the Northern California Conference of AA, scheduled for Sacramento, October 7-8, will convene a pre-Conference meeting in San Francisco, Sunday, August 13, at 11:00 a.m. in the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Ave.

Delegates, alternates, and committeemen who have been named to head the various committees for the Fall conference have been alerted to attend. Purpose of the gathering is to formulate plans, agenda, speakers, and all the details necessary to carry out a successful Conference, Bill K., secretary of the NCC, said.

Describing some of the activities that are now "in the mixer", Chairman Bill offered these ideas and predictions:

High Gear

Conference Chairman Henry F. is getting his committee crews into high gear now. They are getting the best co-operation from the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting room capacities will be ideal for most of our AA meetings. The speakers and program actually are the finest AA format we have yet seen. This program will soon be finalized and published.

Promotional activities under our new Information Committee will assure for the first time, the complete coverage of group contact, newspaper, radio, TV and personal letter interest in the great work of this fellowship. All of us in Northern California will be proud of the manner in which Sacramento "Carries the AA Message."

Register Forms

Registration contribution forms will be in the mail to you shortly. Be certain to bring them to the attention of your groups promptly. You can guarantee that the finest of top-notch Speakers, public officials, and devoted friends of yours in AA will head every session for the two days. Any hotel or motel

guide will list where you can stay and the rates. We suggest that you make your reservations immediately. It will be the wisest thing you have ever done.

Great Expectations

One of the greatest things in AA progress will be in evidence throughout this Sacramento Conference. You can only witness it by being there. The true, unadulterated message of love communicated by one AA to another will prove the fact that there is **HOPE AND FAITH FOR THE NEWCOMER AND THE BEST INSURANCE IN THE WORLD FOR THOSE OF US THAT VALUE OUR SOBRIETY AS A PRICELESS POSSESSION.**

Thank You, KRON

Members of AA, and particularly S. F. Inter-County Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, are grateful to KRON-TV for running the Twelve Step "spot" commercial whenever time availabilities permits.

During the months of May and June, KRON flashed on the 20-second "trailer" at least seven times. This number was seen and reported to Central Headquarters. Very likely others were broadcast but not reported by viewers.

Thanks again, KRON. This is a fine unrequested public service.

Monday Beginners

Monday Beginners Group move to 1755 Clay Street. Meeting place is social hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. This is same meeting place in which Midtown and Saturday Night' Open Groups meet.

PLANS SHAPE UP FOR 1961 FALL BANQUET

The Seventh Annual AA Banquet sponsored by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, set for Saturday, October 28, at the Sheraton Palace Hotel, Market Street and New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, is rapidly taking shape, Jack I., Fellowship secretary, announced yesterday.

Two main rooms have been engaged for the huge Autumn affair and a stand-by room has also been spoken for. The Garden Court will serve as the main dining area and the adjoining Rose Room for dancing. The Concert Room has been reserved by the Banquet Committee for an after dinner coffee and conversation salon.

One of the highlights of the affair will be the attendance of Archibald Roosevelt, last surviving member of the famed Theodore Roosevelt family. Teddy Roosevelt, famed for his charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish American War and later for his "speak softly—Big Stick" foreign policy, has gone down in U.S. history along with another Roosevelt—FDR—as two of America's greatest presidents.

Mr. Archie Roosevelt, a non-alcoholic member of AA, is treasurer of the General Service Office of AA, with headquarters in New York City. He is slated for a brief banquet address.

Keynote speech will be made by "Gene" B., a well known radio, movie and TV personality of Hollywood. Not as well known to local AA audiences as he should be, "Gene" is rated as a truly great

(Continued on page 3)

Soledad Open House Voted "Huge Success"

*By Bud C., Chairman, Northern California
Hospital & Institution Committee*

The Soledad open house on June 25 was one of the best AA meetings that this writer has attended. Don't miss the next one and you will be more than rewarded for the trip. An air of excitement prevailed and to a great extent due to the fact that for the first time the ladies were invited, both as speakers and guests.

Opinions were unanimous that all participants did outstanding jobs and that the ladies, Harriett H. and Corrine K., pretty much stole the show.

It would be difficult to name all of those that contributed to the success of the day but, just a few, Mr. Forden, Deputy Superintendent of the North Facility; the Soledad AA Steering Committee; all participating and guest "students", Chriss C., Harry A., Buzz D., and the Dixieland Band and many, many others. This kind of an AA gathering with the full cooperation of all hands really carries the message in magnificent style.

Fort Bragg Aga'in

Leo M., Dr. Ruth, Esther and, in fact, it seemed that everyone in Fort Bragg combined to make the weekend of July 15-16 a grand affair. AA was in evidence almost around the clock, and ABALONE? We'll never know just how such delicious morsels are obtained from such a creature as a "Gastropod".

Leo and Esther have tentatively invited the Committee again for next year and we surely hope that things work out and that we, and many more, will be blessed with the opportunity to participate.

About H. & I.

Chriss C. advises that there will be a meeting of the Area No. 7 Committee in San Jose on Saturday, August 19. Many items are on the agenda for the improvement of the services rendered by the Committee.

Ernie B., Area Chairman of Area No. 6 schedules a meeting on the last Thursday evening of each month. The meetings in Area No. 6 are held in the Alano Club on Grant Avenue, San Francisco. You are more than welcome.

John N., retiring Area Chairman of the Eastbay H. & I. and, who is succeeded by Norman B., consistently holds a meeting at 8:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Eastbay Center, 237 East 14th Street, Oakland.

At the last H. & I. meeting in Area No. 4, Sacramento and vicinity, our friend Harold M., resigned and Walter Mac was elected to succeed to the Area Chairmanship. We hate to lose Harold and certainly no one has worked with more vigor than Harold. We, of course, sincerely hope that Harold will continue actively in the Committee work. He's a good man.

Next scheduled meeting of the H. & I. Committee is set for Martinez, California, on Sunday, September 10, at 707 Howard Street. As usual, the Steering Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. and the full Committee will open discussions at 1:00 p.m. Do you like H. & I. work or, don't you know? Come up and get acquainted and find out.

Eastbay "Open"

This meeting was geared pretty much as a presentation by the Eastbay H. & I. Committee. We were privileged to hear Mr. Paul A. Chamlee, Associate Superintendent at Folsom, for the first time and, the good Lord willin', we'd sure like to hear him some more. Walter Mac was in rare form and gave out with an excellent message. Walter is somewhat of a genius at getting through to many people. The Eastbay Service Committee and the people that handled the advance publicity are certainly to be commended for a job well done. It was held Wednesday, July 19.

Dr. Earl to Speak At Pac. Northwest AA Council Sept. 1-3

The 14th Annual Pacific Northwest AA Council will be held at the Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Washington, over the Labor Day weekend, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 1-3.

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Pacific Northwest, the Conference will be held exclusively in the Olympic, one of the better Seattle Hotels. The various panels, H & I, Alanon, and Alateen sessions, the main meeting, and the Saturday night banquet are slated under one roof.

Main speaker at Friday night's open meeting will be Church C., Laguna Beach, who made the principal talk at 25th NCC convention at Long Beach, last year.

Salute to Dale

Dr. Earl M., San Francisco's M.D. member will be featured at the banquet Saturday night. **This affair honors Dale A., first AA in the Pacific Northwest. Convention committeemen state "if the S.F. surgeon is up to his usual high speaking standard, the trip to Seattle will be well worth the message we will hear from Dr. M." Banquet chairman is Pete P.**

Other speakers on the agenda are Miss Jo W., General Service delegate from British Columbia; Les V., speaking on Industry; Reverend Jim G., on Clergy; Jim O., Washington State Health Department.

Jerry M., Spokane, will be chairman of the Sunday breakfast session, and Ralph B., has the chair for the open Sunday night gathering.

Reservation Data

General chairman of the 14th Annual Pacific Northwest Conference is Eric B., Seattle. Reservations and additional Conference data may be obtained by writing P.O. Box 765, Seattle 11, Wash. Phones are MA 3-3909 and EA 5-2889.

DR. BOWMAN SPEAKS AT CENTRAL MEETING

A fine selection of AA speakers will feature four Open Meetings sponsored by S.F. InterCounty Fellowship during August at the "Big Meetings" held each Friday at the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, Jack I., secretary, announced. He said that Myrl G., program chairman, has arranged for the following:

FRI., AUG. 4—Frank M., Uptown Group, will share the rostrum with Jim W., Stag Group, Mill Valley.

FRI., AUG. 11—The great Walter O.K. will divide honors with Dr. Karl M. Bowman, president emeritus, Langley Porter Clinic.

FRI., AUG. 18—Eloise K., Mill Valley Group, and Bud G., Midtown Group.

FRI., AUG. 25—Ruth W., Sonoma, and Bob "Blackie" S., Ambassadors Group.

The "showcase" meetings, starting at 8:15 p.m. every Friday throughout the year have served a valuable service to the Fellowship. They have been responsible for giving thousands of Doubting Thomases a full-scale understanding of the aims and purposes of AA ever since the Big Meetings were inaugurated.

"JAKE" MOURNED

After twelve years and one day of sobriety, and having experienced that a Power Greater than Ourselves is most kind to those who sincerely believe, Neils "Jake" Jacobsen died quietly July 16 in a Eureka hospital.

Jake was one of those carefree, happy-go-lucky type of persons; always ready to lend a helping hand to those who even looked like they needed help, whether they asked for it or not. It was because of this attitude that he became the friend of all he met.

He was a "charter member" of the Eureka No. 1 Municipal group, had served as its secretary and on various committees throughout the years.

His friends will substantiate the fact that Jake based his life on our Twelve Steps, the little "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, and "Why We Were Chosen".

A.A. and its members have lost a staunch and very humble friend.

EDITORIAL

Let's Relegate "Billingsgate" to Trash Heap

In the July 1 issue of the Secretaries Bulletin released by Jack I., secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, appears a re-write of an article in the July issue of The Grapevine. We reprint it in Good News for its obvious value. "Billingsgate"—coarse, vulgar language—has no place in the AA Program. It should be shunned. —Editor.

Too many non-alcoholic visitors at open AA meetings—ministers, church members and others seeking information about AA to pass on in their churches—go away with a bad taste in their mouths and a poor opinion of AA.

Far too many speakers resort to profanity to express their thoughts and obscene stories to get a laugh. In the latter case, the old ego asserts itself to focus attention when the speaker feels his story does not have the impact to hold the audience.

Profanity and obscenity cannot possibly implant the AA story or the need for AA in the minds of visitors, alcoholic or non-alcoholic. It does the speaker no good nor does it impress the listener.

I cite our own group as an example of what damage these types of speakers can unwittingly effect. It took nine years to obtain permission from the institution whose facilities we use for meetings. There was a definite need for an AA group in this institution (about 500 alcoholics pass through each year). But the leaders were convinced that AA should not be in their building.

The adverse opinion of AA in this case, was formed some years ago when one of the officers, eager to use any facet of alcoholic rehabilitation, invited some AA speakers to talk to a group of alcoholics in this building. Both speakers resorted profusely to profanity and obscene stories—then proceeded to try to convince the officer that AA was basically a spiritual program.

As I heard it, the officer queried: "How can you utter profanity and obscenity out of one side of your mouth and support a spiritual program out of the other?" We have solved our profanity problem very simply. On the rostrum, from which a bold AA sign hangs, is a neatly typed notice to speakers:

"This building is dedicated to the God of our understanding—please avoid profanity." (signed) M. McD.—Washington, D.C.)

154 Attend Surf's 9th Anniversary

A record-breaking crowd of 154 were in attendance at the Ninth Anniversary celebration sponsored by Surf Group at its meeting place, Community Church, 34th Avenue and Noriega Street.

The affair held last July 17 was featured by a keynote talk delivered by Walter McC., Sacramento. Jack I., secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship, served as chairman.

A buffet rounded out the evening.

ST. FRANCIS MEN'S

Effective immediately, St. Francis Men's Group will meet at Park-Presidio Methodist Church, Seventh Avenue and Geary Blvd. Same meeting night—Friday, at 8:15 p.m.

MORE ABOUT

BANQUET

(Continued from page 1)

speaker with a terrific AA background and a rich sense of humor. He should endear himself to his San Francisco audience on October 28.

The music of Anson Weeks will provide danceable tunes which has made Anson's music famous for more than two decades.

Tickets at \$7.00 per person will go on sale August 15. On a first come—first served basis, tickets will be available in single or for full table blocks. Checks and money orders should be made payable to AA Banquet Committee, 166 Geary Street, San Francisco 8, Calif.

General Service Conference of April Developed Important AA Policies

In April, this year, a General Service Conference was held in New York City. Space limitations in Good News prevented making known the highlights, salient reports, recommendations, approvals and suggestions coming out of this meeting. We feel that many of these will have lasting impact on the future policies of AA everywhere. For these reasons, Good News belatedly prints a thumbnail review of the meetings and at the same time apologizes for its tardiness in getting this highly important data to Good News subscribers.—Editor.

It was generally considered that "Willingness to Help" keynoted the 11th Annual General Service Conference recently held at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. Opportunities for increasing service to alcoholics through greater participation in AA activities at group, area and world levels highlighted the total deliberations of this major gathering. A total of 184 delegates from North America

participated in the four-day sessions, special presentations and general discussions. They were joined by three non-voting Conference "observers" representing Norway, The Honduras, and Netherlands.

SCAN WORLD SERVICES

They reviewed the scope and calibre of the world services provided in behalf of the movement by the General Services Office of AA. They brought news of AA trends and developments in their own areas, and they concentrated on sharing their total experience in order to carry the message of the AA recovery program more effectively to still-suffering alcoholics who may turn to the Fellowship for help in the future.

As the link between groups and the General Service Board, delegates were called upon for decisions and "advisory actions" to guide the Board in its 1961 activities. Highlights of such "advisory actions" are summarized in the following paragraphs:

1965 CONVENTION

The delegates indicated their approval of a 1965 International Convention of AA to be held in Toronto, Canada, with the clear understanding that all final decisions on a movement-wide gathering of this type are reserved in the Trustees of the General Service Board as custodians of the Fellowship's Traditions and services.

THIRD DELEGATE

The delegates approved, in view of the large geographical area and increasing population involved, a request for a third delegate from On-

tario, Canada, to serve the north and northwest sections of the Province. The new delegate will be eligible to attend the 1962 Conference. In approving this admission, the delegates cited the opinion of Bill W., surviving co-founder, that each application for a new delegate should be weighed on its merits.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The delegates re-affirmed the importance of AA's traditional policy of "Cooperation - YES — Affiliation — NO" in working with other agencies in the field of alcoholism, but encouraged delegates to establish and maintain communication with directors of tax-supported agencies on alcoholism within their respective areas.

Delegates recognized the growing importance of this field of activity by establishing the Study Committee on Relations with Outside Agencies as a standing committee of the Conference.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The delegates approved simplified procedures of a single mailing to the groups to obtain information for the World Directory of the General Service Office records.

"BIRTHDAY" PLAN CITED

Delegates recommended adoption, or continued use, of the so-called Birthday Plan to provide supplementary support of AA's world services. (Under the plan, individual members, on their "AA birthdays" contribute \$1.00 per year for each year of sobriety up to a fixed amount.) The desirability of \$3.00

per - year - per - member "yardsick" was re-affirmed since many groups are not able to support world service on this basis.

Delegates suggested that interested groups undertake careful studies of various plans available to them to increase their support of world services with a view to adopting and supporting that plan which seems most suitable for a particular group.

Delegates approved a proposal that the General Service Board set aside a specific allocation of funds for a one-year period through which overseas groups might be assisted in their efforts to publish Conference-approved translations of pamphlets now available from GSO and other pamphlets.

ANONYMITY PROGRAM

Delegates approved present plans of the General Service Board to issue its third general mailing to media on the significance of anonymity in the recovery program and structure of the Fellowship. The mailing, first of its kind in three years, will go to a broad list of publishers, broadcasters, and film producers in the United States, Canada, and other selected countries.

NEW TRUSTEES

Delegates approved the General Service Board's nomination of Tom S., Jacksonville, Fla., and Dave B., Montreal, Canada, to fill positions of AA Trustees of the Board which became vacant this Spring.

They also approved the General Service Board's nomination of Austin MacCormick, noted penologist, and former Trustee, as a non-alcoholic Trustee.

BILL W.'s ROYALTIES

Delegates asked the General Service Board of Trustees to consider specific action, in respect to royalty payments on textbook literature to assure that co-Founder Bill and his wife, Lois, may not suffer a possible loss of income in the future.

GRAPEVINE GOAL

Delegates endorsed a "Grapevine group sponsorship program" under which groups are encouraged to send a new subscription each month to outside agencies or interested non-alcoholic friends of AA.

Established as a goal for 1961 an increase of 5,000 in the number of

Grapevine subscription, and

Re-affirmed the value of the program to establish "Grapevine Representation" at state, area, and group levels.

LONG BEACH FILM

Delegates viewed with appreciation a short film based on footage ordered as an historical record of the 25th Anniversary Convention at Long Beach in 1960. Agreed, however, by an overwhelming majority, that it would be compatible with the anonymity tradition to release the film for local or area showings in view of the difficulty of limiting such showings strictly to AA members.

MISUSE OF DIRECTORY

Delegates directed attention of AA members once more to the statement on the inside front cover of the Directory which specifies that the book is not to be used for any form of solicitation or for any commercial venture. (Delegates noted that restriction is not intended to limit "free communication" among members in sharing AA experience).

PROPOSED PAPERBACK

Delegates rejected, after hearings on detailed presentation of the financial factors involved, a proposal to issue the "Big Book" in a paperback edition.

DELEGATES' CHAIRMAN

Vince S., southern Minnesota, was chosen by lot to be chairman of the 1962 "Area Delegates Only" meeting.

"TRAVEL"

It must have been ten thousand,
thousand miles I'd gone,
When I found myself so very much
alone,
I tasted then the terrible agony,
the despair;
That the ones before me sampled
when they were there.
It's definitely not an easy way, my
friend,
I shrink with disgust, regret, re-
morse, no end.
I cringe beneath the burden of my
load,
And stumble on in blindness down
the road.
There'll be no lessening, no place,
no shelf,
Until I find that Power that's greater
than myself.

By "Press",
Island Fellowship of Guam

If You've Got the Disease-The Symptoms are well Defined

We are indebted to "Phoenix" publication printed by The Henry Ohlhoff House, 601 Steiner Street, The Episcopal Hostel for Alcoholic Men for permission to publish the symptoms of alcoholism. Good News also congratulates The Right Reverend James A. Pike, Bishop of California Diocese, president, and The Reverend K. L. Sandercock, priest-director, The Henry Ohlhoff House, for their early recognition of, and vigorous attack on, one of the Nation's foremost killer-diseases.

NOTE: Presence of any of these symptoms may indicate the presence of the disease. Absence of any of these symptoms does not mean that the disease is also absent.

SYMPTOMS

1. First blank period or amnesia
2. Sneaking drinks
3. Preoccupation with drinking
4. Gulpng drinks
5. Becoming evasive about drink-
ing
6. Second blank period or amnesia

CRUCIAL

7. Loss of control of drinking
8. Manufacturing alibis
9. Aggressive behavior
10. Extravagant and grandiose be-
havior
11. Persistent remorse
12. Periods of total abstinence
13. Tries changing pattern or
drinking
14. Begins dropping friends
15. Leaves or loses jobs
16. Becomes more preoccupied with
alcohol
17. Loses outside interests
18. Indulges in orgies of self-pity
19. Impulse to escape from en-
vironment
20. Experiences unreasonable re-

sentments

21. Protects his supply (hides bot-
tles)
22. Malnutrition (neglects food)
23. Hospitalization
24. Decrease or loss of sexual de-
sire
25. Alcoholic jealousy
26. The morning drink

CHRONIC

27. Prolonged benders
28. Ethical deterioration
29. Impairment of thinking
30. Drinking with social inferiors
31. Debasement of taste (drinks
anything)
32. Loss of tolerance for alcohol
33. Vague indefinable fears
34. Persistent tremors
35. Cannot perform work without
alcohol
36. Drinking becomes obsessive
37. Vague religious desire develops
38. Alibis and rationalizations fail,
and the patient admits defeat,
OR he faces insanity or death.

Halloo from The Mountains

Our Mountain Correspondent, Lucille H., P.O. Box 395, Pollack Pines, Calif., writes to inform Good News that Pollack Pines is trying to start a Family Group although not as yet organized.

If we know Lucille, the Family Group will be a reality by the time Good News goes to press. She also said Pollack Pines had its first meet-
ing Friday, May 19 with three "alkies" and one Alanon present.

She added that Phil M., bed-ridden with Hepatitis for the past two months is better and gaining every day. He wants to thank the many AA's who stopped by to say "Hello" and for the many cards he received.

Bob and Jean M., with son Greg, flew back to Kansas City to attend funeral of Bob's father; that Laura M. and Connie G. recently celebrated their seventh birthdays in AA.

AN AA DREAM

I dreamed one night I passed away
and left this world behind.
I started down that lonely trail
some of my friends to find.
I came to a sign-board on the trail
the directions it did tell:
**KEEP RIGHT TO GO TO HEAVEN,
TURN LEFT TO GO TO HELL.**

I hadn't been too good on earth,
just a hopeless boozing rake,
And knew there at the crossroads
the path I'd have to take.
So I started on that rocky path
that leads to satan's place;
And I shook within not knowing
just what I'd have to face.

Old satan met me at the gate,
"What is your name, my friend?"
I said, "I'm just old sober Sam
that's come to a sad end."
He glanced through some yellow
files,
"You've made a mistake I fear.
You're listed as an **ALCOHOLIC**,
We do not want you here."

I said, "I'm looking for my friends."
And a smile stole o'er his face.
"If your friends are alcoholics
They're in the other place."
So I went back the way I came
'till the crossroads I did see.
Then turned right to Heaven
as happy as could be.

St. Peter smiled and said, "Come in,
for you I have a berth.
**You are an alcoholic,
You've been through hell on earth.**"
I saw Ol' Dub, and Ol' Pat too,
Bill P., and a friend called Bell.
And brother, I was tickled
'cause I thought they'd gone to hell.

So brothers all take warning,
learn something from my trip.
You've got a place in Heaven
if you try hard not to slip.
If someone tempts you with a drink
when you're not feeling well,
Tell him you're going to Heaven
And he can go to Hell.
(Rprinted from Chit-Chat)

'Tis a Small World

The following is from a letter recently received at GSO: "Thanks for your kind letter and particularly for the address of the Group in Paris. This is a small world. After receiving your letter I looked up this group in the World Directory and saw that its secretary was a youngster I had known since he was born. His Father was my boss for years and we were good friends. You couldn't get away from AA now even if you wanted to."

(Reprinted from GSO Bulletin)

St. Helena Group

Due to a printing miscue, Good News inadvertently listed St. Helena Group meeting on Thursday at the Presbyterian Church.

Correct meeting night is WEDNESDAY. Correct meeting place is Episcopal Church Hall, Spring and Oak Streets, St. Helena, at 8:30 a.m.

We regret this error and like most alk'ies when we make a booboo we generally compound it. In this case, both meeting place and date of meeting were incorrectly printed.

Richmond Speakers At Alanon Meeting

The husband-and-wife team of Barbara and Bill A., from Richmond, Calif., will be featured speakers at a meeting slated by the Avenue Alanon Group, Wednesday, August 16, at 8:00 p.m.

Avenue Alanon Group meets in the auditorium of St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Last July 19, the group had a near-capacity crowd of 40 to hear John and Ruby C., another husband-wife combo, relate their experiences, since they became affiliated with AA and Alanon.

FIRESIDE GROUP

Wednesday Night Fireside Group, a new Open Group, now meets at Grace Lutheran Church, Loma Verde and Waverly, in Palo Alto.

MISSION DOLORES

Mission Dolores Group has moved to a new meeting place at 1464 Valencia Street. Same meeting night—Friday, at 8:15 p.m.

MELLO-DAIRS LIST AUGUST ACTIVITIES

The Mello-Dairs, who serve as AA's unofficial dance band combo for S.F. Inter-County Fellowship and Northern California Council, have the following August dates:

SAT. AUGUST 12—San Jose Alano Club, 1139 Minnesota, San Jose.

SAT. AUG. 19—S.F. Alano Club, 414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

SAT. AUG. 26—Santa Cruz Meeting and Dance at Soquel Hall, Santa Cruz.

Since this issue is not expected to be printed and mailed to subscribers before our big AA Annual Picnic at Adobe Creek Lodge, it is predicted the Mello-Dairs will perform their usual professional standard of providing for this big outdoor affair.

To engage the Mello-Dairs for dance dates, 'phone "Bus" D., OV 1-8601, or write the Mello-Dairs, 1568 18th Avenue, San Francisco 22, Calif.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire has been mailed to Institutional Committees—to sponsors of groups in correctional facilities and hospitals—to Intergroup and Central Offices—and to Area Delegates and Committee Members.

Purpose of this questionnaire is to survey and obtain information that will supplement data which General Service Office, New York already has, and which it can share with new Institutional Committees and AA's who are interested in sponsoring AA groups in Institutions.

For further information, write Eve of the GSO staff for a questionnaire, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York City 17.

REBOUND GROUP

Rebound Group has shifted its meeting place to Park-Presidio Methodist Church, Seventh Avenue and Geary Blvd. Group meets same night—Wednesday, at 8:15 p.m.

Crossroads Group

A new Closed Group, the Crossroads, meets on Mondays at 8:30 p.m. in the Sonoma Improvement Club, Feters Hot Springs, Sonoma.

Good News

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Determination To Live, Grow Spurs Guam Group

Chuck and Mary Y., now in Guam, write this letter to Rolland W., about the Island Fellowship of Guam. Chuck was formerly one of the two people who handled the NCC Tape Library.—Editor.

Thanks a million to you and the many good people who sent Mary and me such a wonderful message on tape from the Santa Rosa Conference. I wish we could thank each of them individually.

Well, we both have continued our AA activities out here only on a smaller scale. Enclosed is a wonderful little poem that one of our members wrote yestday, July 4. (Poem is reproduced elsewhere, this issue.)

I say a new member but he has been on and off for quite some time. He says now that I am his sponsor. I think my tape library has a lot to do with that. He said he only moved the pen to write this poem, he doesn't know where it came from. I think he will soon find out.

Before I go any farther I'll tell you why I am sending his little poem. Can you put in Good News? I'm sure it will help Press and maybe it will help someone else.

The Island Fellowship of Guam (formerly AA of Guam) is a very small group. There are only six of us, and Mary is the only woman, as yet. I am working very hard through the usual channels to build it up—and I know it can be done. I want to get a small center started later on.

We sure have plenty of prospects here, and I'll bet we never get a "wino". Why? Thes best of liquor is only \$1.85 per fifth. We like it fine,

here, rather hot, around 90 degrees all the time and plenty of rain. This, for the next three months, is the rainy season. Average rainfall is 90 inches per year.

Any little things you may have picked up from this note to put in Good News about us and our little group will be greatly appreciated.

Please drop Mary and me a line if you can find time. All for now.

Yours 24 Hours-a-Day,
Chuck and Mary Y.,
O.I.C.C. Navy 926
FPO San Francisco,
Calif.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 1, 1961

BALANCE IN BANK JANUARY 1, 1961.....	\$ 105.00
SAN JOSE CONFERENCE.....	1,062.32
CONTRIBUTIONS	160.69

TOTAL.....\$1,328.01

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

OFFICE RENTAL (S.F. FELLOWSHIP).....	\$ 170.00
SANTA ROSA CONFERENCE DEFICIT.....	83.16
COMMITTEE MEETINGS & INCIDENTALS.....	43.00
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ALANON.....	150.00
HOSPITAL & INSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE.....	200.00
GOOD NEWS (PORTION OF ENVELOPE SUPPLY)....	50.00
PRINTING, STATIONERY & OPERATING SUPPLIES..	290.26
POSTAGE	50.62
SECRETARY'S MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE.....	138.37

\$1,124.79

TOTAL.....\$1,124.79

BALANCE IN BANK JULY 1, 1961.....\$ 203.22

Northern California Council FINANCIAL REPORT — SANTA ROSA CONFERENCE MAY 27 & 28, 1961

CASH RECEIPTS:

REGISTRATION CONTRIBUTIONS.....	\$ 885.00
BINGO	50.00
COKE & COFFEE KITTY.....	357.04

TOTAL.....\$1,292.04

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

AUDITORIUM RENTAL & EXPENSE.....	\$ 205.00
ORCHESTRA	125.00
FOOD (\$353.47) & COKE (\$67.04).....	420.51
POSTAGE & PARCEL POST.....	53.50
SPEAKERS EXPENSE.....	165.29
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE EXPENSE.....	123.65
SECRETARY'S EXPENSE.....	47.50
BINGO EQUIPMENT RENTAL.....	17.50
STATIONERY SUPPLIES.....	6.82
PRINTING	65.99
FLOWERS	43.44
PAPER GOODS.....	101.00

TOTAL.....\$1,375.20

DISBURSEMENTS OVER RECEIPTS DEFICIT.....\$ 83.16

Eastbay Fish Fry

Fifteen AA members of the East Oakland Group "went down to sea" in a chartered boat and brought in a plentiful catch. Ladies of the group prepared the catch which loaded down picnic tables with a variety of delectable seafood.

This marked the annual fish fry held at Lake Chabot attended by some 70 members', their families and friends. It was held July 9. This is a remarkably simple method of having an unforgettable outing that is both in'expensive and loads of fun.

HUMBOLDT-DEL NORTE CENTRAL GROUP SETS BIG AUGUST MEET

Fifteen years ago, on or about October 10, 1946, Leo M., at that time an A.A. member living in the San Francisco bay area, and presently residing in Fort Bragg, made a Twelfth Step call in Eureka at the plea of the very distraught wife of a suffering alcoholic. As a result of this 300-mile journey, our great society of Alcoholics Anonymous had its beginning in the California northcoast area.

In commemoration of this occasion, some 200 present active members in that area have scheduled an open speaker meeting, to be held Saturday, August 19, in the Home Economics building at Redwood Acres, 3750 Harris Street, Eureka, at 8:00 p.m.

The Humboldt-Del Norte Central Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous, sponsors of the event, have announced that none other than Chuck C. of Laguna Beach has accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker of the evening.

Group Is "Born"

The exact details of the story of what happened those 15 years ago are not too clear. Leo M., however, at a special interview held in Fort Bragg during the NCC Hospital and Institution committee meet July 15 and 16, told a Good News reporter that after making several trips to that area, an AA group was finally established. The "charter" members, all of whom are still and since have been membs, were Nellie L., Fortuna Group, Orville C., Arcata No. 1 Group and Glenn P., Eureka Thursday Night Group.

The H-DCC committee making arrangements for the meeting point out that the Humboldt County fair at Ferndale will be in progress during that week, and suggest that northern California members planning a vacation at that time include a trip to Humboldt County and combine some good AA with their leisure time.

All Welcome

And, of course, it was reported, ALL AA members, their families and friends are invited to go to Eureka and share an evening of friendship and fellowship with Chuck C., and to re-hash their first years in AA with some of the "old timers" they are bound to run across that evening.

Origin of The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the

difference.

This prayer has been credited to almost every theologian, philosopher and saint known to man. It was actually written around 1932 by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York City, as the ending to a longer prayer. In 1934 the doctor's friend and neighbor, Dr. Howard Robbins, asked permission to use this part of the longer prayer in a compilation he was making at the time. It was published in that year in Dr. Robbins' book of prayers.

The prayer came to the attention of an early member of AA in 1939. He read it in an obituary in the *New York Times*. He liked it so much he brought it to GSO, then on Vesey Street, for Bill W. to read. When Bill and the staff read the little prayer they felt that it particularly suited the needs of AA. Cards were printed and passed around. Thus has this simple little prayer become a part of the AA literature.

(Reprinted from General Service Bulletin)

San Jose Report

The recently-held 20th Anniversary Dinner and Dance sponsored by San Jose AA groups, was a real "blast" according to Mary B., San Jose secretary. She said some 250 attended the affair which was highlighted by a fine menu, an excellent orchestra and splendid entertainment.

If "Summit" Confabs Fail, Can AA Help?

President Kennedy and White House advisers seem unable to get any satisfaction from USSR's Premier Nikita Khrushchev on Berlin talks Laos negotiations, "summit" conferences, etc. Many remember Prohibition Days in America and the chaos and havoc stemming from the "Noble Experiment" and a Nation of Speakeasies. Russia, according to an AA publication called Chit-Chat, is suffering from the same malady. Mr. K. may have to call on AA for a meeting at the "summit" to stopper up the flow of Vodka.—Editor.

That old institution—"speakeasies"—born in the United States during the prohibition era, has finally reached fabled Tashkent, Russia.

The newspaper Truth of the East reports with indignation that kitchen bars are springing up everywhere in that old citadel in Central Asia whose history dates back to the Seventh Century.

Shun Soda Pop

"Some individuals have opened private bars where they sell Vodka and all the rest," the provincial newspaper complains in an issue that has just reached more cosmopolitan Moscow.

And, it notes (with documentation) that one of the bars was especially popular—"on one day 15 visitors were served within ten minutes". In the Soviet Union, Vodka and other hard liquors are sold only in restaurants. Bars, as such—strictly for sloshing out drinks—are forbidden. But, says Truth of the East, some people in old Tashkent seem to forget the Law.

"Speaks" Flourish

The journal goes on to state, "not only are speakeasies defiantly operating but Vodka is even being ladled out in dining rooms of state farms. And booze is being sold in stores and restaurants which are supposed to limit their drinks to soda pop."

What makes things worse, the newspaper said, is these places sell Vodka "openly and sometimes in the presence of militiamen." Truth of the East did not go so far as accusing the militiamen of imbibing but concluded on this somber note: "Hard drinking is a terrible evil."

And Quietly Flows the Don.