



# Good News



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## SACRAMENTO FELLOWSHIP Ham, Turkey Dinner at New Year's Party

Fun, Frolic and Good Food will highlight an annual New Year's Eve party planned by the Central California Fellowship in Sacramento on Monday, December 31, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Labor Center Hall, 2225 Stockton Boulevard, Sacramento.

Henry F., chairman of the committee handling arrangements for the colorful shindig, said, "our decorating committee has elaborate plans to convert the Labor Center into a glittering, gleaming party arena that will be set off by a revolving, circular crystal chandelier that will throw a million lights on a thousand balloons suspended from the ceiling. It will create the impression of entering the finest night club in California."

Guests will be provided with noise-makers, fun hats and serpentine. At 6:00 p.m. they will be seated at a banquet table loaded with the finest viands obtainable including baked ham, roast Tom turkey and all the trimmings. Surprises and entertainment will be provided the entire evening.

At 9:00 p.m., one of the best dance bands in the Sacramento Valley will provide the music for a New Year's Dance in the cleared hall. Dick Murray and his Orchestra is noted in the Valley for his great dance band, the committee chairman said.

He said that in the past Central California Fellowship has had a historic reputation for putting on some very fine parties, but, said Henry, "this will surpass anything we've yet planned."

Tickets at \$4.00 per person (includes everything) are now on sale and may be obtained at the Central California AA office, 4445 Fourteenth Avenue, Sacramento, Calif.

Everyone is cordially welcome.

## Peninsula All Groups Set New Year Observance

The Old Year will be rung out and the New Year rung in with a gala celebration sponsored by the Peninsula All Groups, Monday, December 28, at 8:30 p.m. at St. Matthews Auditorium, El Camino Real and Baldwin, San Mateo, Calif.

Turkey, ham and all the trimmings are on the dinner menu with dancing, noise-makers, balloons, funny hats and all the gadgets and tomfoolery that goes to make a joyous New Year is on the entertainment agenda.

Peninsula All Groups invites all Bay Area AA members, their relatives and friends to join the merry-making.

## Cyrus King is Dead

Throngs of mourners attended services held for Cyrus King at the Church of the Advent of Christ the King, 261 Fell Street and at the N. Gray Funeral Parlors, Tuesday, November 20.

A greatly beloved person, Mr. King died in Santa Clara on Sunday, November 18, after doing good works and contributing much to alleviate human suffering wherever he found it.

Graveside services and interment was at Greenlawn Cemetery in San Mateo County with hundreds of relatives, friends and people "who just knew Cy as a great guy" in solemn attendance.

## Breakfast Club Moves to Hotel

Santa Rosa Breakfast Club announces that it has moved to the Flamingo Hotel on Fourth Street, Santa Rosa. Breakfast, which is optional, is served from 11:00 a.m. to noon with a Speaker Meeting starting promptly at noon and concluding at 1:00 p.m. These are open meetings.

## Central All Groups Slates Fine Speakers

Central All Groups meetings, sponsored by the S. F. Inter-County Fellowship, held each Friday throughout the year at the Building Service Center, 240 Golden Gate Avenue, again is presenting a stellar AA "cast" for December, Myrl G., program chairman, announces.

Here's the line-up:

**FRIDAY, DEC. 7** — Ellen S., of Burlingame, a member of Van Ness Group; and George O'H., Palo Alto and Menlo Park Groups, a former General Service Board member.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 14** — Lynn N., Park-Presidio Group of S. F., and Dr. Frederick F. Boyce, former director, Adult Guidance Center of 150 Otis Street, S. F.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 12** — Jack H., Palo Alto Friday Group; and Chaplain Fordyce Eastburn, chaplain, St. Luke's Hospital and acting director, Social Relations for the Episcopal Diocese of California.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 28** — The husband-and-wife team of Marge and Jim M., of Carmichael, Calif., members of Sacramento Group No. 3. All meetings at 240 Golden Gate Avenue commence at 8:30 p.m. but coffee is served from 7:30 p.m. Parking around corner on Leavenworth Street; elevator service to meeting place; comfortable seats; and fine P.A. system.

## Intergroup Meeting Starts in Burlingame

A new speaker-type meeting, sponsored by the San Mateo-Intergroup Office, will be held each Sunday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Burlingame Recreation Center, 850 Burlingame Avenue, Burlingame, Calif.

# 1000 California Members Attend 8th Annual Banquet and Dance Staged By SF Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

More than 1,000 persons gathered in the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco on the last Saturday night in October, to rejoice over the fact that most of them are alcoholics—but they have done something about it.

From throughout the Bay Area, from Hollywood, Santa Monica, and Beverly Hills in Southern California, and as far north as Medford, Oregon,—they travelled to attend the eighth annual banquet and dance of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The occasion marked the 27th anniversary of the founding of AA and the 24th anniversary of the start in San Francisco.

While drinking nothing stronger than black coffee, they roared with laughter as a nationally known television personality recounted some of the misdeeds that led him to join AA—called by some “the club with the most expensive initiation fee in the world.”

But though the speaker poked good humored fun at the plight of an alcoholic before he gets sober, he wound up with the solemn words, “Thank God for sobriety. Without sobriety we are nothing.”

“My case,” he said earlier, “was a case of life and death. I do not feel tragic over the fact that I am an alcoholic and am in AA. The tragedy is all back there.”

Speaking on the topic “What I Like About AA,” the television m.c. said the thing he liked most was that it was organized by drunks themselves, who once they got sober were able to lay down the guidelines for those who followed.

“You get good billing in the medical world,” he said. “There are three big killers: Heart disease, cancer AND US!”

And all the alcoholic has to do to arrest his disease, he said, is not drink “and talk to some other drunk who cannot drink” to carry the message of how people get sober in AA.

“I didn’t have the shakes,” he said, “I had the LEAPS. I couldn’t wear cufflinks for 15 years—they would

fly out of my hands when I tried to put them in my shirt.”

Turning serious, he said that after he had just downed his last drink “Came the wondrous glories of AA. I take life one at a time.” His miraculous recovery came, he said, “after I learned I couldn’t run it all” after he surrendered to the fact that he could not handle alcohol.

In a lighter vein again, he said, “To get into AA you’ve got to be almost dead, almost nuts and be nearly at the end of the line. We don’t want nice people in AA. The worst drunks ARE NOW OUR LEADERS. AA was the only thing left I could get into.”

He said most clubs kick people out for misbehaviour but no one kicks anyone out of AA if he has a relapse back to drinking after a period of sobriety followed by complacency.”

“Don’t take a drink. It’s that simple,” he said regarding how to succeed in the fellowship. But regarding slips or relapses by the alcoholic, he once heard a friend say, “I never heard a man say ‘I don’t know what happened. I suddenly found I was in a candy store.’”

Serious again, the speaker said, “To me AA is a God-given thing. God as we in AA understand Him. What a relief it was to me and other AAs to know we could turn our life over to God and let Him worry about it.”

The principal speaker was introduced by Sheriff Matthew Carberry, who welcomed the diners in behalf of Mayor George Christopher. Carberry termed AA “one of the great success stories in the history of human conduct.”

Chairman of the dinner was John F. of Peninsula All Groups of AA, who said 350,000 persons now are sober in AA. He said the U. S. Public Health Service recognized alcoholism as a disease. He said “The alcoholic goes through life with the anesthetic of alcohol. His spouse must share it with him without the anesthetic. We in AA share our sobriety with others, or we too, will die.”

## Leo M., Fort Bragg To Speak at Vallejo

A fine panel of speakers is scheduled to make pitches at the Vallejo Fellowship during the month of December, including Leo M., dynamic Alternate Delegate to the GSO. The line-up is, as follows, according to Hezel L., Vallejo’s program chairman:

**THURSDAY, DEC. 1** — Leo M., Ft. Bragg, and Sailor Skee from Long Beach.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 8** — Bab Y., San Rafael.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 15** — Oscar P., Berkeley.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 22** — Palmer D., Martinez.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 29** — Bill G., San Francisco.

Sailor Skee, bringing a part of friends from Long Beach, is a dedicated hospital and institution worker and makes a couple of trips each year to Folsom.

All meetings in Vallejo are held at 820 Marin Street, starting at 8:30 p.m.

From New York, William G. W., surviving co-founder of AA, who had his last drink in 1934 sent the dinner a wire, saying “May God prosper you in the days ahead.”

Invocation was pronounced by Msgr. James M. Murray, general director of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. James T. Golder, director of the “Program on Alcoholism and Society for the Episcopal Diocese of California.”

Those sitting at the speaker’s table included: Dr. Alfred Auerback, Judge Wallace W. Cox of Vallejo; Judge Emmet Daly of San Francisco; Clinton Duffy, executive director of the S. F. Council on Alcoholism; Cliff Engle, producer of “The Problem Drinker” on KFRC; Robert Flippin, San Quentin Prison parole officer, and Prof. E. M. Jellinsk of the Yale School on Alcoholic Studies, and Dr. John R. Philp, chief of the State Division of Alcoholic Rehabilitation.

Following the dinner in the Grand Ball Room, the diners danced until 1 a.m.

A coffee bar and soft-drink bar in the Regency Room did a thriving business.



## 8 Groups Stage Dinner-Speaker Meeting Dec. 8

On Saturday, December 8, a unique dinner-speaker meeting will be held in Sacramento, at the El Camino High School, El Camino and Eastern Avenues.

Sponsored by the Central California Fellowship of AA, the meeting will be composed of eight separate groups affiliated with the Sacramento Fellowship. The eight groups are not only co-sponsoring the dinner-speaker meeting but are providing all necessary food and supplies . . . and then turning over the proceeds to the Sacramento central office.

They are the Town and Country Group, Carmichael Group, Cordova Group, Creekside Group, Round Table Group, Fair Oaks Group, North Highlands, and Wednesday Women's Group.

Here's the time table:

Dinner commencing at 6:00 p.m. is a sumptuous repast consisting of baked ham, yams, baked beans, salads, rolls, butter, petit fours, pie, cake, coffee. At 8:00 p.m. the noted husband-and-wife team, Jim and Jane O'T., will deliver another of their topnotch talks.

Handling the arrangements for the 8-group dinner-speaker gathering is Griff of the Carmichael Group, who announced that the total price for this elaborate affair is a mere \$1.50 per person.

Let's go!

## Rutgers Seminar

The 1963 Summer School of Alcoholic Studies will be conducted at Rutgers State University, June 30-July 25, under the auspices of the Rutgers Center of Alcoholic Studies. The series of lectures, section meets and seminars will take place at 35 College Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J.

Limited to 250 students it invites physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, educators, clergy, public health personnel, administrators, and board members of institutional and community programs.

Write for data to the Director, Summer School of Alcoholic Studies at above address.

## Intergroup Office Opens in Peninsula

The San Mateo County-Intergroup Office is now open at 33 North B Street, San Mateo, it was announced by Joe M., a member of one of the groups sponsoring the central office.

Eddie N., a Beginner's Group leader, at San Mateo Friday Night Group, and Carl W., former secretary, Burlingame Wednesday Group, are currently serving as co-secretaries.

Rapid population expansion occurring on the Peninsula was the reason given for establishing the San Mateo office.

The 'phone is DI 4-8611.

## Central Office May Soon Move

The Central Office of the S.F. Inter-County Fellowship may soon move to larger quarters.

The office at room 79, 166 Geary Street, San Francisco, which has for a half-dozen years efficiently served AA's interests despite cramped, inadequate space, may move to expanded facilities on the Eighth Floor, same building, soon after the New Year.

### Upstairs

Jack I., central secretary, said, "If all portents prove accurate, our moving upstairs where a larger area will provide sorely needed space, is only a matter of time. When that occurs we will have a bigger Reception Room; a room where private consultation may take place, if necessary; area for our mimeographing and mailing operations."

### Growth

He said the larger space requirements stemmed largely from the increased number of calls and services generated by California's population growth; particularly in the several counties served by the S. F. office; the steady response coming from the Friday night AA program on KFRC, plus the desire to give continuing and better service to the ever-growing groups now served by S.F. Inter-County Fellowship.

A playboy is a fellow who records his daily activities in a loose-life notebook.

## Eureka Has New Rehabilitation Home for Men

Spruce Point Rehabilitation House, financed and furnished by the State Welfare Department, 5600 Broadway, Eureka, Calif., is a new project recently established for the benefit of men patients in the Eureka area.

Although established by the State of California, it calls for group meetings to be held on the premises at least once a week, and it is mandatory that the building be supervised and maintained by responsible people.

To cope with Phase One, Spruce Point AA Group was formed and meets in the Rehabilitation House each Tuesday. It had its first meeting Tuesday night, November 14, with 22 persons in attendance.

Phase Two was solved when Leonard and Yole F., Eureka AA and Al Anon members accepted the job of supervising and maintaining the premises.

Eureka AA members decided to give unstinting support to the State built home (the Welfare Department has it listed as a trial project since a large sum of state money has gone into its establishment; and AA groups and members in the Eureka area believe it should be given every consideration and cooperation despite that entry to the rehabilitation home must be obtained through the Welfare Department.

Groups in the northern part of the state are being encouraged to Eureka to attend the Tuesday night meetings and are putting out a Welcome Mat to attract AA travelers headed in the general direction of Eureka.

Leonard F. is secretary of Spruce Point Rehabilitation House and may be contacted by mail at 5600 Broadway, Eureka, Calif.

## TOO MANY COOKS

A guy in Indiana sued his sis for Five G's. She spiked his coffee with a chemical that spoiled the taste for whiskey.

## ANOTHER SUIT

A Kansas motorist, arrested for intoxication, sued police for not giving back his blood after they finished testing it for alcohol.

# Twelve Concepts FOR WORLD SERVICE

by BILL W.

## CONCEPT I

The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.

## CONCEPT II

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the conference, complete authority for the active maintenance of our World Services and thereby made the conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in article 12 of the conference charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

## CONCEPT III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, The Conference, The A.A. General Service Board and its several corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of World Service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

## CONCEPT IV

Throughout our conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

## CONCEPT V

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

## CONCEPT VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our World Services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the con-

ference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the trustee members of the conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## CONCEPT VII

The conference recognizes that the charter and the by-laws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the World Service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

## CONCEPT VIII

The trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) with respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) but with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

## CONCEPT IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary World Service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## CONCEPT X

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and by-laws.

## CONCEPT XI

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s World Service Administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

## CONCEPT XII

General warranties of the conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that through the conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

## Vallejo Newlyweds

Donna B., and Les W., became the target of Cupid's arrows and are now Mr. and Mrs. A host of friends of Vallejo Fellowship gave them a gala send-off on a happy honeymoon. The staff of Good News offer its compliments, too.

## Surf Club Sets Date for Annual Christmas Party

The social hall of the Community Church, 34th Avenue and Noriega Street, will be the scene of a gala Yuletide party sponsored by the Surf Group of San Francisco.

The colorful affair has been set for Monday, December 17, starting at 8:30 p.m., Bill G., Program Chairman for the AA unit, announced.

Floyd B., Roseville, will be principal speaker. Floyd is former delegate to the General Service Conference, N.Y., from Northern California

General Service Committee, Panel Two.

Fbrette P., visiting chairman from Sausalito will do the introductions. Coffee will be available from 7:30 p.m. until the meeting starts after which a lovely buffet will be served.

The social hall has ample space to accommodate all AA members, relatives and friends. And a cordial welcome is extended to everyone to attend.

## New Group Formed On the Peninsula

The burgeoning San Mateo Peninsula boasts the formation of another AA unit with the Twelve Step Discussion Group now meeting each Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in St. Dunstan Hall, 600 El Camino Real, Millbrae.

St. Dunstan's is considered by many to be the most beautiful meeting hall within the scope of the San Francisco Inter-County Fellowship.

## Napa Schedule

The following speakers are slated to speak at Napa Fellowship meetings during December: Tuesday, Dec. 4—Arnold R., San Francisco; Tuesday, Dec. 18 — Graham R., Alameda.

The other two Tuesdays and four Thursdays are devoted to closed meetings. The Al-Anons meet on Tuesdays.

All meetings are held in the AA meeting place, 641 Randolph Street, Napa, Calif., and start promptly at 8:30 p.m.

## BANQUET TAPES

Tape recordings of the great talk delivered by "Queen for a Day" Jack B., at the Eighth Annual Banquet held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco, October 27, are available to groups or individuals.

Jack's is a joyous tape, solid, earthy, and strictly all-AA. Mixed with wit and wisdom, it takes its place among other "AA gems."

Tape prices: A Tapes—60 minutes or less, \$4.00; B Tapes—61 minutes to 120 minutes, \$5.50; C Tapes—120 minutes to 180 minutes, \$7.00.

For purchase or tape information, write to AA Tapes, 1828 Rosedale Avenue, Oakland, 1 Calif.; AA Tapes, 615 Johanna, Sunnyvale, Calif.; or AA Tapes, 2103 Miller Avenue, Modesto, Calif.

## HOW OLD IS OLD

An item in Chit-Chat asks, "How Old is Old"? It summarizes this way: Let's all remember that one is as young as his faith, as old as his doubts, as young as his confidence, as old as his fears, as young as his hopes and as old as his despair.

## LOVE AND SERVICE

by LEO M.

*Alternate Delegate to G.S.O.*

Not very many individuals ever spent great effort in doing much for mankind, Henry Ford has been paid tribute for freeing the horse, and Abe Lincoln for freeing the slaves.

To my way of thinking no one since the time of Christ has done more for humanity than our own Bill W. We claim only 300,000 recovered alcoholics, but there must be more.

### ARE THERE MORE?

We say an alcoholic affects four people out of a hundred — there again I think it is closer to eight. Multiply this and you get close to two and a half million people who know what misery alcoholism can create.

Our program has only been in existence a little over a quarter of a century. I dare not guess how many centuries past has humanity been affected by alcohol, and I dread to think how many more of us would perish in the future.

### MIRACLE OF AA

All of this was changed with the miracle of of A.A. Now then, Bill W. has been sober on the program for twenty-eight years, and probably not much danger in his falling by the wayside. There are some who may think he has it made. Maybe he has. Or maybe he should be selfish and just look out for himself. Perhaps attend a meeting once in a while just enough to kee in touch.

### COMPASSION FOR MAN

But here is a man who has a deep compassion for man, a deep concern about the program of A.A., a great desire for the organization of A.A. to continue running smoothly even after he is gone. We still look up to him for leadership and guidance, and probably nothing can go wrong of vast importance as long as he is in our midst. That day is coming, and we in A.A. hope it will not be for a very long time. If there is such a thing as a spiritual leader, Bill W. is just that to all of us.

### TWELVE CONEPTS

So, in order to leave us that unquestionable assurance that A.A. shall continue even after he is gone, he has, with great effort, put together the Twelve Concepts for World Service. It took several years of hard work. That is the way Bill is — always aware of our needs and instead of letting go and relaxing he is still doing his utmost in living up to the 1962 General Service Conference's theme in carrying the "One Primary Purpose." So, the 1962 General Service Conference adopted the following twelve concepts which will be part of our Third Legacy.

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### Wisconsin Man Lauds Good News

Arthur J. H. Kohler, Wisconsin, but formerly of Stockton, where he found AA six years ago, writes:

"Through Good News I have been able to keep in contact with my California friends in Stockton and Sacramento since I subscribed to the AA publication four years ago."

Arthur said that "today is my sixth AA birthday." He added that a half-dozen years he was a skid row derelict in Stockton; that Rose M. (then of Sacramento, but now a Milwaukee resident) helped plant the seed of AA firmly in me. He expects to see her again at 11th AA Wisconsin Conference, held in Milwaukee.

"I live a new and wonderful way of life here in Kohler without alcohol," Arthur added.

### More New Groups

The San Jose-Santa Clara area is burgeoning with new groups springing up like mushrooms after a soft rain. Here's the latest:

**Swing Shift Group**, 1910 Alameda, Apartment 8, San Jose. Meets Tuesdays (Wednesday morning?) starting a half-hour past midnight. Sam B. is secretary.

**Fireside Group**, 80 South Fifth Street, San Jose, in the Christian Church. Meets Mondays at 8:00 p.m. Terry D. is secretary.

**Third & Eleventh Step Group**, 51 North Ninth Street, St. Patrick's School. Meets Fridays at 8:00 p.m. Mary B. is secretary.

## H&I BROADSIDES

by BUD C., H & I Committee

### San Quentin Celebrates

On the evening of Saturday, December 8, this facility will celebrate the 20th anniversary of "AA" in San Quentin. Our good friend Bob Flippin and Associate Warden W. D. Achuff are going all out to make this a most memorable occasion and invitations will be sent to approximately two hundred alleged "Free" people. If you get one, be sure to use it. There will be terrific speakers galore, such as Dr. Earle. Other speakers will be returning to their Alma Mater with the knowledge that they will be free to leave after the meeting. Ain't that sompin'? As usual, when something unusual is about to happen, we're excited.

### How About 1963

1962 is rapidly coming to a close and our program teaches us, "don't look back" but in retrospect we are happy in knowing that we have accomplished a little, and frustrated in the knowledge that there is so much more that could have been done. We know that we have scored by a tiny nick in the surface of the problem. We sincerely believe that if we all live each twenty-four hours to the best of our respective abilities that 1963 will pretty much take care of itself. Someone said, a long time ago, "Live each day as though it is your last one for it well may be." Amen.

### Thanks to One and All

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many friends who have been so generous in their support of the committee during the past year, and years. We are most grateful for the giving of yourselves in this activity. Too, we deeply appreciate the financial support that has been accorded the committee and wish to assure you that we have made every effort to use the donations where they will do the most good for the most people. You know, of course, that we serve groups that are termed "CAPTIVE" and this is literal.

A Very Merry Christmas — A Happy New Year — A Sober and Successful 1963 for all of us to all of you everywhere.

### WHAT HAPPENS...

## When you Put \$3.00 in The Hat

This is a mild discourse, "lifted" from a GSO pamphlet, on the somewhat unconventional way AA shares its service costs. We say there are more than 300,000 men and women who consider themselves to be good AA members.

And there are! Yet, our ACTIVE membership, as reported in 1961 by the groups themselves, was 176,474 in 9,305 groups.

### Free Loaders?

Of this active membership, less than 50 percent contributed anything at all to GSO last year. In short, about 4,000 groups and approximately 75,000 members footed the bill for the entire Fellowship.

Unfair? Perhaps. But before anybody starts crying in his or her coffee, let us look around a bit. First of all, 17 percent (31,229) of our members are in hospital and prison groups where even a little money is hard to come by.

### Scarce Money

Thirteen percent of our groups are outside the United States and Cana-

da. Money is not only scarce but it is illegal to send it out. Besides, most of these areas are new to AA territory and such money as they have is needed for local AA work.

### Survival Battle

That still leaves quite a few groups, and members, who might contribute, but don't. Some of these groups are new, still struggling for survival. Other groups, for one reason or another, don't yet know enough about GSO and World Services to feel any great sense of responsibility.

So that's why it works out to \$3.00 each, for those of us who want to pay the bill for AA World Service. Certainly a small price for sobriety and not enough to quibble over with those who don't yet contribute.

We've toasted in whiskey, toddy and nog.  
We've toasted in brandy and beer.  
In countless dim-lit bistros.  
From tim-buck-too to here.  
Now in a cup of coffee in every A.A. hall.  
From grateful hearts of sober friends.  
Comes the grandest toast of all.  
May this be a sober Christmas, and  
another successful year.



Merry Christmas  
AND  
A Happy New Year!