



Good News



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SUMMER CONFERENCE IN SACRAMENTO

YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A. WILL MEET

The Summer Conference of the Northern California Council of A.A. will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 28-29, 1969, in the Memorial Auditorium, Sacramento, California, according to Max McD., Council Secretary.

Plans are already under way which the Sacramento Conference Committee believes will make this an outstanding event. These include a dinner to be served Saturday Night, June 28th, at the Senator Hotel, the same sort of affair as the first such dinner in San Jose in March, the cost, \$5.00 per person.

Ben G. of Phoenix, Arizona, will be the Saturday Night speaker, and Arnold R., San Francisco, will speak on Sunday Afternoon. The Young People in A.A. will hold a meeting Sunday Morning, the first time for such a meeting at any NCC conference. They plan to make this a permanent activity.

The two Northern California General Service panels will hold a joint meeting Saturday Morning at 10 a.m., the only GS meeting at this conference.

The Hospitals and Institutions committee will have their open speaker meeting at 1:00 p.m. Saturday Afternoon, Guest Speaker to be announced.

There will be a full program of both Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, a kick-off A.A. meeting Fri-

day Night the 27th, dancing after the Saturday Night meeting, and plenty of refreshments, buffet style, at all times.

See the June GOOD NEWS for the complete program and other details.

DOCTORS IN A.A.

All physicians and dentists in A.A. are cordially invited to this year's meeting of International Doctors in A.A. Aug. 8-10 in Morristown, N.J. For information write I.D.A.A., Information Sec'y., 1950 Volney Rd., Youngstown, O. 44511. 4-5-9

12th Annual Dinner Sacramento May 10th

The 12th Annual A.A. Dinner and Dance will be held on Saturday, May 10th, 6:30 p.m. in the Sky Room, Country Club Bowl, 2600 Watt Avenue in Sacramento, tickets \$5.50 per person donation, deadline May 9th. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Clancy I., Los Angeles, will be Guest Speaker for this gala affair. Tickets may be obtained at your A.A. Group or the Central Office, 1412 20th Street, Sacramento. Ample parking is available.

600 AT EAST BAY FETE IN BERKELEY

A crowd of 600 or more people were on hand Saturday Night, April 19th, to hear 'Chuck' C. of Laguna Beach deliver the keynote address at the opening meeting of the East Bay's 28th Anniversary celebration, held at the Veterans' Memorial Building in Berkeley.

Truman H., long time member-operator of Mountain Vista Farm in Glen Ellen was guest speaker at the closing meeting on Sunday at 3:30 p.m., attended by nearly as many as on Saturday Night, a tribute to Truman.

Between these two meetings was everything; good food, raffles, dancing and much arm's length A.A., including a Continental Breakfast Sunday morning. Two panel meetings Sunday, on 'Unity' at 10:30 a.m. and 'Service' at 1:30 p.m., were the other real highlights.

The Unity meeting was enough to thrill the heart of this reporter, and should result in a distinct improvement of communications in the East Bay.

The meeting on Service presented a number of 'old-timers' including two who were both General Service Delegates (Ex) and Council Secretaries (Ex), Bill G. of San Francisco and Stan W., Fairfax. Stan is also one of the leading sponsors of the Western States General Service Assembly.

Nick N., the first A.A. member of the East Bay Fellowship, an Ex-everything good in A.A., was presented a plaque at the Saturday Night meeting testifying to the feelings, the gratitude and friendship of his fellows in A.A.

The committee is to be congratulated for a fine job, well done.

PORTLAND SPRING BANQUET MAY 10

Everett K. of Seattle will be the featured speaker at the Portland Intergroup Spring Banquet on Saturday, May 10th, in the Congress Hotel, 1024 S.W. 6th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., with the open meeting at 8:30. Tickets are \$5.75 each, and can be had by contacting the intergroup office at 614 Dekum Building, at the clubs or through the Congress Hotel.

NEWS OF AA DOINGS IN FRESNO

By GRACE A.

The Spring months find Fresno A.A. groups 'springing' into action! Plans are under way for the ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Alano Club building, and proud club members are shining up their ground breakin' shovels. Tom A. did a twelfth step 'call' by discing the entire property so that 'better members' might grow.

Mary J's Friday Night Alano Club meeting will have another conference speaker "on tape" May 9th, the second Friday of the month. Dick and Eunice M. celebrated their fifth birthday recently with this group.

The Intergroup meeting sponsored by the Tom G. Sunday Morning group will present Leonard Smith, State Probation Officer, on Sunday, May 10th. He works with men and women on parole and is greatly interested in the program of A.A.

On May 23rd the Village group will have Charles W., Los Angeles, as Guest Speaker at their regular fourth Friday speaker meeting.

Bill E. and Grace A. will be guest speakers at the monthly Sunday Breakfast meeting on May 18th, the third Sunday of the month as always.

Mary H. has turned her "Betty Crocker" skills into planning an Alano Club dinner on Saturday, May 17th; 'hams and yams' with all the trimmings—and the fashion garb for the occasion will be Western.

"THE TRIANGLE GROUP" MEETS IN LAFAYETTE

The Triangle Group which meets each Friday at 8:30 p.m. in St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, presents an interesting schedule of five speaker-discussion meetings in May:

- May 2—Jack G. from S.F. Young People's Group.
- May 9—Jim G. from S.F.
- May 16—Chuck G.—Attorney.
- May 23—Shirley G. from S.F. Young People's Group.
- May 30—Bus D., S.F. (A very inspiring message).

Dave B. is the new Intergroup Secretary, replacing Eunice S. who has served her year with vim and vigor.

Howard T., one of the most active members in Fresno for a number of years, left for Texas about April 15th, 1969. Howard has been and/or done practically everything there was to do in Fresno's A.A., and leaves with the well-wishes of many friends in many places.

Jess F. is confined to the St. Agnes hospital with a serious illness, and will be there for some time. Cards and letters are welcome.

AA YOUNG PEOPLE GATHER IN FRESNO

The First Rally of Young People in A.A., held in Fresno April 26-27, 1969, had 110 people registering, 90 of them 'Kids', according to Jack G. of San Francisco. The registrations were about equally divided between Northern and Southern California members.

Four meetings were held in the two days, two on Saturday, 8 and 10 p.m., and two on Sunday, 10 and 11 a.m. All four meetings had panels of three speakers. The largest attendance was on Saturday evening, nearly 150.

The outstanding event was perhaps the appearance, on the Saturday Night 10 p.m. panel, of "Fats", an inmate of the Preston Conservation Camp at Blue Lake, California, who was a very interesting participant.

This was another 'First', the first time a young A.A. member has ever been released on a pass from any California Camp to attend an A.A. event.

The young people will have a spot on the Sacramento Conference program in June.

S.F. ALL-GROUPS 23rd ANNIVERSARY MEETING MAY 23rd

Lou H. of North Hollywood will be the Guest Speaker at the 23rd Anniversary meeting and dance party of the San Francisco Friday All-Groups which will NOT be held at the usual place.

On Friday, May 23rd, at 8:30 p.m. the Anniversary Meeting will be held in Gresham Hall, in the basement of Grace Cathedral, Taylor and California Streets, on Nob Hill. Limited parking available from Sacramento Street.

Lou H. is hailed as the most outstanding speaker in Southern California. After the meeting there will be refreshments, door prizes, dancing until?

SEBASTOPOL TO HOST SPECIAL MEETING AND POT LUCK SUN., MAY 4

A special meeting, followed by a fine buffet, will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 4th, at Apple Acres, 802 High School Road in Sebastopol, the time, 3:30 p.m. according to Blanche S., hostess.

The film strip, "The Link", will feature the meeting which will be put on by members from San Francisco. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a pleasant Sunday afternoon.

SAN CARLOS COUPLE SPEAK IN KANSAS CITY

John and Claire F., well known San Carlos couple, were guest speakers at the 28th Anniversary celebration of the Kansas City, Missouri, A.A. Group No. 1, Saturday and Sunday, April 19-20, according to the program.

Claire spoke at the Alanon Family Group meeting Saturday Night, and John was the Guest Speaker at a banquet meeting on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the Hotel Continental.

NEWS FROM MODESTO

Firmly established now as a monthly affair at the Freeway Fellowship is the Sunday Morning Breakfast, served each third Sunday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Attendance has proven this to be a popular event.

The newly elected officers for Freeway Fellowship are: Derald C., Secretary; Lavilla P., Group Treasurer; Anna H., Club Treasurer, and Jack B., GSR.

Freeway will have a potluck on Saturday, May 3rd, with bingo and a raffle to follow.

At a regular Freeway Alanon meeting one Friday Evening in April, the group was surprised and pleased to have four Sonora Alanons as visitors.

The Sonora Group was originally formed as an institutional Alanon group at Angels Camp. Toni R., Soulsbyville, new Secretary, and other members are presently forming a permanent Sonora Alanon group with a specific meeting place and time. They feel there is a real need in the Sonora Area.

Beginning May 17th the Family Alanon Group at Sierra Conservation Center will meet twice monthly, the first and third Saturdays of the month. Ada D. of Modesto will continue coordinating the first Saturday, and third Saturday meetings will be in the hands of Lois E., Lodi.

Birthdays celebrated at group #1 in April were Mary Ellen and Harry M., their tenth, and Vi with two years. Gene M. will celebrate his first in May.

CLEVELAND INTERGROUP ANNUAL DINNER MAY 10

Upwards of 1400 members and guests will gather on Saturday, May 10, in the ballroom of Hotel Statler Hilton, Cleveland, Ohio, for the 18th Annual Intergroup Dinner, held under the sponsorship of the Cleveland A.A. Office.

Speaker at the dinner meeting will be Chuck C. from Laguna Beach, California, a long-time, dedicated and committed member of A.A.

"THE LINK"

"The Link" is the name chosen for this column at a meeting of the Northern California Coastal Area, General Service, held in San Mateo Sunday, March 30th.

Members had been asked to suggest names for the General Service column to run monthly in GOOD NEWS, and several were submitted such as "459, Jr.", "Our Common Welfare", "We are responsible" and "AA's in Action". Each one was polled, and "The Link" received a large majority of the votes.

The change in the nomenclature of Coastal Panel One to Coastal Area was voted unanimously by the Assembly after it was explained that A.A. World Services refers to "Areas" in conformity with the Third Legacy Manual.

The Assembly also voted to procure radio and TV spot announcements from the New York A.A. Office for use throughout the area wherever and whenever possible, to carry the message of the availability of A.A. to the public.

It was decided, after some discussion, that the Western Region Assembly, held in Fresno in 1968 and Reno in 1969, should be continued, but later in the year because of January weather. Delegate Ed B. will go to New York so instructed, where he will confer with the delegates from the nine Western States involved. If they decide to continue the assembly they will also decide in what city and state the 1970 meeting will be held, and when.

A meeting was held in San Mateo on April 12th to plan action to rejuvenate the General Service Committee in San Mateo County, including groups from Palo Alto to Daly City. Plans were made to visit the various groups to urge them to send representatives to a meeting to be held on Monday, May 12th, 8 p.m. in the San Mateo Alano Club, 714 San Mateo Drive.

The committee representing Contra Costa, Napa and Solano counties meets monthly. They are working on what they call "Third Party" 12th step work, contacting doctors, etc. who wish to obtain information and literature.

Both this committee and the San Francisco District committee are working on the matter of getting A.A. books into the libraries which do not have them; working with

groups to furnish books that are needed.

The San Francisco Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 12th, 8 p.m. at the United Church, 7th Avenue and Geary Boulevard, according to Norman W., Chairman.

In addition to the libraries project they will discuss why a large number of A.A. members look on "General Service" as a **dirty word**, and regard this committee of service as something not a part of the A.A. Fellowship.

All groups should have a General Service representative who will attend meetings of the various committees, in their own area at least, and give their groups the representation they should have and are entitled to.

On Sunday, May 25th, Delegate Ed B. will give a report on the New York General Service Conference, held April 21-26, at a meeting to be held in the Methodist Church, 109 Patten Street, Sonoma; the time, 1:00 p.m. This will be an open meeting, and all members are urged to attend.

INDUSTRIAL CLUB FETES "NEW LOOK"

On Saturday Evening, May 24, 1969, the Industrial Club at 3198-16th Street, San Francisco, will stage a buffet and dancing party to celebrate the "new look" of the Club. Buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., with the dancing starting at 9 o'clock. Anticipated donation \$1.00, with all donations going directly to the Rehabilitation and Building Fund.

The Club has a new Board of Directors and New Management. "Come and see for yourself" they say, "You will see; it's different!"

MISSION AL-ANON FETES SEVEN YEARS

This Mission Al-Anon Family Group will celebrate their Seventh Anniversary on May 20, 1969, with an open meeting and party in the Salvation Army Men's Social Center, 3550 Army Street, San Francisco; the time, 8:00 p.m.

Four Al-Anon speakers, Angie R., Marge B., Marge J., and Russ K., will make up the program, and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

"BY-THE-WAY" NOTES NO. SACTO 22nd FETE

The North Sacramento Group will celebrate their 22nd Anniversary on May 24th at the Hagginswood Clubhouse, 3271 Marysville Boulevard. A turkey, ham, etc., buffet dinner served at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a meeting at eight with Joe W. as the speaker.

A number of free door prizes will be awarded, and after the festivities bingo as usual at the Fellowship Hall, 701 Dixie Avenue, 10:30 to midnight.

* * * * *

Prior to the 12th Annual Dinner on Saturday, May 10th at the Country Club Bowl, the H. & I. Committee will hold a meeting in the Labor Center, 2525 Stockton Boulevard, at 2:00 p.m., which will be followed by a meeting of CCFAA Delegates, 4:00 p.m. at the same location.

* * * * *

The Spring Assembly of Northern California General Service Interior Panel will be held Sunday, May 18th at Group #3 hall, 3125 Broadway, Sacramento, California, according to Ralph W., Chairman-Delegate. Registrations will start at noon, with the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

* * * * *

NEW GROUPS — Chico Young People's, 1148 West 8th Avenue, Chico, and Group 35 (C), a Young People's group, which meets at 107 Main Street, Roseville.

H & I BROADSIDES

By George R., general chairman,
Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

Many times individuals in A.A. ask, "What is the purpose of the Hospital and Institution Committee? What does it cover and how is it organized?"

The following may help to answer these questions.

1. The only purpose of the Hospital and Institution Committee of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who is confined. The activities of this committee are based on and governed by the Twelve Traditions.
2. The H and I Committee, although a part of the Northern California Council, is entirely self-controlled, and functions as a separate committee. At the present time it services over 100 facilities, including prisons, hospitals, jails, road camps etc., covering an area approximately 300 miles long and 200 miles wide. Meetings vary in number from 1 to 8 per week in these facilities and roughly 2500 people are involved in adequately covering these meetings.
3. In order to cover such a large number of facilities spread over such an area, the committee, of necessity, is organized in an endeavor to avoid confusion and duplication of effort. This is a service committee and our responsibility has many facets, most important of which are:
 - a. To the patient or inmate group within a facility.
 - b. To the facility, courteous acceptance and compliance with its wishes.
 - c. To the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous; namely, conducting ourselves in a manner above reproach; to ensure that we will not say or do anything that will reflect unfavorably upon the Committee or AA as a whole.

Since our program is one of attraction rather than promotion, we serve these facilities at the invitation of the administration, ever conscious of the admonition "Cooperation Not Affiliation".

This Committee covers all of Northern California from the Tulare County line in the South to the Oregon State line in the North, and from the Nevada State line in the East to the Pacific Ocean in the West. The Hospital and Institution Committee is made up of 14 areas, each having its own Area Chairman. Also, there are 5 Regional Chairmen who coordinate these areas. In addition the entire organization is headed up by a General Chairman. A Service Committee, consisting of a Secretary, Treasurer, Literature Librarian, A Co-Chairman for Hospitals and a Co-Chairman for Institutions, assist the General Chairman in the performance of his duties.

In order to adequately cover all of the facilities in these areas, the Hospital and Institution Committee always has need for more members. Anyone interested in this type of A.A. service is welcome and should contact the Area Chairman in his locality.

Many ask why we go such distances and take all the time involved. This answer is twofold:

1. But for the grace of God I could be there and
2. If some AA guy or gal had not taken the time to carry the message to many of us who were confined, we might still be there.

Don't forget our next General Meeting, May 11, 1969 at the San Jose Alano Club, 1122 Fair Avenue, San Jose — 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. At this meeting, you will elect the General Chairman of the H and I Committee for the next two years.

"UNITY PICNIC DAY" IN EAST BAY JUNE 22

The Central Offices of the East Bay, Contra Costa Fellowship, Southern Alameda County Service Center and the East Bay Fellowship, are planning their first unified event, "Unity Picnic Day".

The picnic will be held Sunday, June 22, at Hidden Valley Ranch, a spacious, well appointed picnic grounds near Fremont. The entire facilities will be taken over for the day, and a varied 'fun' program is promised.

The idea of "Unity Picnic Day" may well be traced to the Unity meeting held Sunday, April 20, in Berkeley during the 28th Anniversary celebration, and has been greeted enthusiastically by all members of these Fellowships.

See the June GOOD NEWS for a more detailed schedule of events.

COMING EVENTS IN OTHER STATES

May 10—Portland, Ore. Intergroup Spring Banquet, Congress Hotel.

May 10—Cleveland, Ohio—18th Annual Intergroup Dinner, Hotel Statler Hilton.

May 17-18—15th Annual Sedona A.A. Roundup, School Auditorium, Sedona, Arizona.

May 29-June 1—Daytona Beach, Fla., 13th State A.A. Convention, Box 198, Holly Hill, Fla.

July 4-6—Pacific Northwest Conference, Penticton, B.C.

July 17-18—Dallas, Texas. State A.A. Convention, Sheraton Hotel.

July 25-27—International Young People's Convention, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sept. 19-21—Scottsdale, Arizona, 19th State Convention, Safari Hotel.

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HENRY FIELDS DIES OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

Henry Fields, one of the most active and devoted members of A.A. in Northern California, passed away on March 29, 1969, the victim of a flu bug or some sort of respiratory illness. At the time of his death he was a member of the Round Table Group in Sacramento where he resided.

Henry came to A.A. in 1950, through Sacramento Group 3, started right in on K.P. duty, and joined in on committee work. He never turned down a Twelfth Step call, working tirelessly with the sick alcoholic.

In 1955 he moved to Redding where he continued his A.A. activities. He was the "spark plug" in bringing the first NCC conference in Redding to that city in October, 1959, overcoming opposition from various sources.

Henry returned to Sacramento in 1958 and took up where he had left off—active in everything. As Chairman of the Program and Entertainment committee of the Central California Fellowship he organized many very successful events; dinners, picnics, etc., and he seemed to have a special knack of organizing, for they were invariably a financial success, also.

It is difficult to give proper recognition to Henry's dedication and devotion to A.A. in Northern California for the 19 years he was with us. His death is a distinct personal loss to his many friends as well as to A.A. as a whole.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 10—12th Annual Dinner, Sacramento, Cal.

May 18—Interior Panel General Service Spring Assembly, Group #3 hall, 3125 Broadway, Sacramento.

May 23—23rd Anniversary Meeting, Intercounty Fellowship, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, Calif.

May 24—6th Annual Conference, Cascade-Sierra Mountain Group, CCC Lassen, Susanville, Calif.

May 24—16th Annual Conference, Folsom Prison, Cal.

June 22—East Bay "Unity Picnic Day" Hidden Valley Ranch near Fremont.

June 28—15th Anniversary Atascadero Inmate "Path Group".

June 28-29—N.C.C. Summer Conference, Sacramento.

July 26—2nd Annual Convention—22nd District A.A. San Luis Obispo, Calif.

August 3—Inter-County Fellowship Picnic, Blackberry Farm, Cupertino, Calif.

Susanville CCC Group 6th Annual — May 24

The Cascade-Sierra Mountain Group of A.A., California Conservation Center in Susanville, will hold their 6th Annual Conference on Saturday, May 24th. The meeting will start at 1:00 p.m., run until about 7 p.m. and then break for dinner and the social hour.

This conference is by invitation only, but anyone wishing to attend will be given an invitation, according to Ron L., Secretary. Address Ron at P.O. Box 790, Susanville, Calif. 96130. They are hoping for a large group of interested A.A. visitors.

ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS

MONDAY BEGINNERS

Speaker Meeting with
Questions and Answers

THURSDAY BEGINNERS

Speaker—Discussion Meeting

Both Meetings held at 1755 Clay St., San Francisco—8:30 pm
Coffee — Refreshments — Arm's Length A.A. after each Meeting

STOCKTON MIDTOWN AA

By JOAN F.

Good food and companionship can be enjoyed by our Pot Luck on May 3rd. We eat at 6 p.m. Bring a hot dish or salad. Midtown furnishes dessert and coffee. The regular meeting at 8 o'clock is followed by bingo.

The meeting on May 16th will celebrate eight birthdays this month; Dottie R., 11 years, Jack B. 6, Ida 5, Curley H. and Bill W. 4 years each, Alma M. and Beverly B. 3 each, and Marvin H. 1 big year.

Our own Chet M. is scheduled to present his topic "Dr. Earle and his Blackboard Talk" at the meeting on May 24th. Home-made cake will be served, followed by bingo.

INMATE 'PATH GROUP' CELEBRATES 15th AT ATASCADERO JUNE 28

The inmate 'Path Group' at Atascadero State Hospital will celebrate their 15th anniversary on Saturday, June 28th, with a meeting from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. in the New Visiting Area of the hospital.

'Chuck' C. of Laguna Beach will be the Guest Speaker/Chairman which the group feels is very fitting, as Chuck was also with them for the 10th anniversary. Louise H. of San Luis Obispo will be Mistress of Ceremonies.

Those who wish to attend should contact Mr. R. E. Komanti, A.A. Liaison Officer, not later than Tuesday, June 3rd, for clearance so that Hospital Policy and Security regulations may be met.

ALAMEDA STUDY GROUP NEW MEETING ADDRESS

The Alameda Study Group is now meeting in Christ Church Parish Episcopal, 1700 Santa Clara Avenue, according to a note from Ruth R., Secretary.

They meet Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

SANTA ROSA CLUB POT-LUCK MAY 10

The pot-luck dinner put on by the Santa Rosa Alano Club's Thursday Night groups on April 12th was such a success that another one is planned for Saturday, May 10th, at 6:30 p.m. according to Bill W., coordinator.

There was almost a convention atmosphere on April 12 as members came in from the surrounding areas, from as far away as Ukiah. About 150 members and their families enjoyed dinner, a raffle and a bingo game that held nearly all at #70 South 'E' Street, the Club address in Santa Rosa.

ALUMNI GROUP MOVES

The Alumni Group which started meeting in the Community Church, 34th Avenue and Noriega Street in San Francisco, is moving to a new location, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 33rd Avenue and Ulloa Street, according to Bill S., Secretary.

The first meeting at the new location will be on Wednesday, May 7th, at 8:30 p.m. with Father Art as Guest Speaker. Transportation is good via the 'L' car, and there is plenty of parking space. This is an open group.

Other speakers during May (Wednesdays) will be Helen D., Frank B. and Tim H.

S.F. ALL-GROUPS ADDS NEW FEATURE

The Friday All-groups meeting in San Francisco has added a half hour beginners' meeting, from 7:30 to 8 p.m., to their weekly meetings in the Starr King Room of First Unitarian Church, Geary & Franklin Streets. Due to space limitations this meeting is for beginners and sponsors only.

The schedule for the five Fridays in this month of May includes a number of out-of-town speakers: Cal P. and George C. of Oakland on the 9th and 16th, respectively; Dr. Douglas M., Alameda, on the 30th, and a big special anniversary meeting on May 23rd (see page 2)

These meetings start at 8:30 p.m. The public is invited, and plenty of parking space is available. Coffee is served both before and after the meetings.

AL-ANON INTERGROUP "GARAGE SALE" IN S.F.

The San Francisco Al-Anon Intergroup will hold a two day "Garage Sale" on May 16-17 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They will sell items contributed for the benefit of the Intergroup by members and friends.

The sale will be held in the garage at 398 Day Street, San Francisco. Anyone wishing to contribute items call 824-1030.

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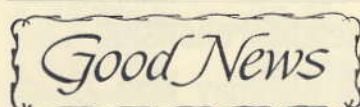
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SAN BRUNO MONDAY'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

The San Bruno Monday Night Group will celebrate six years on May 26th with a meeting at 8:00 p.m. to be followed by a buffet and dancing to a 'live' combo provided by Jim T.

Frank B., well known member from the "Seven Seas" Club in San Francisco, will be guest speaker for the occasion which celebrates not only six years for the group but also the monthly birthdays.

The San Bruno Monday Group meets in the old Fire Hall at 618 San Mateo Avenue in San Bruno. Other speakers this month include John B. and Mike J., San Francisco, and Ruth F. from Petaluma.

SEDONA 15th ROUNDUP

The 15th Annual Sedona A.A. Roundup, sponsored by Verde Valley Group of Cottonwood and Serenity Acres Group of Sedona, will be held the weekend of May 17-18, 1969.

Dick H. of Ventura will address an open meeting at Sedona School Auditorium on May 17th at 8 p.m.

A "cowboy" breakfast will be served on Sunday, the 18th, at the ranch from 8 to 10:30 a.m., preceding an open participation meeting. Breakfast for adults, \$1.50, children (under 12) \$1.00.

"Certificates of Appreciation" for Guest Speakers available FREE at S.F. Central Office.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GROUP SECRETARY

By JACK IRVING

(Continued from April Issue)

The first Open Conference of the Northern California Council was held in Sacramento in March 1951. (Prior to that time Council meetings were closed . . . for alcoholics only). At that meeting in Sacramento, that Saturday night, we had 1,300 people. Later on, in October of 1951, we had the Lasker Award meeting in San Francisco at the Opera House, and that night we had nearly 3,000 people. That was 18 years ago, remember!

At the Saturday night meeting at the March Conference, this year, when we had Jack Bailey, we had 2,800 people; and that was an exceptionally large meeting — the largest we had in some time. But we had more people than that attending these meetings 14 years ago!

We have some growth, yes. But we're living in a state that is growing tremendously. Six hundred thousand new people come to live in California every year. That's almost 2,000 a day. Not tourist—permanent residents. And, California has the highest incidence of alcoholism of any state. We have 8,000 alcoholics per 100,000 of population—and this is far higher than the national average. We have the highest incidence of women alcoholics. So we're bound to have some growth.

STOP "DROP OUT"

If we are to be of help to the new people who come to AA we must do whatever is necessary to keep them coming back. I don't believe anyone will argue against that. And the Group Secretary plays a vital role in this area. The Group Secretary can really provide a solution to this turn-over problem.

We must be realistic, I believe. This is 1969. Not 1940 or 1945, or 1949, or 1955. Things are not the same today as they were in the bygone years — and they never will be. We can't do things today the way we did 15 or 20 years ago.

We have an entirely different

type person coming to AA today. The National Council on Alcoholism reports 90% of the alcoholics in the U.S. are "alcoholics with assets" they estimate that 2,000 of these active alcoholics are employed, and are in the higher income brackets. I was 54 years old when I came into AA. Today the average of the people in AA is estimated to be below 40.

Many people who come to AA today come with some doubts, some misgivings. They are concerned with what they may become involved in. And, if these people are not favorably impressed with what they see and hear — they are quite apt to "drop out" after a few meetings.

And, in my opinion, when they leave, they leave without being missed. And this, I think, is where we are making a big mistake. Many members will tell you why these people drop out. These AA members have a ready answer. The answer is: "They're not ready!" Some "low-bottom snobs" may even decide they're not alcoholics!

(Continued on page 8)

PENINSULA ALL-GROUPS SATURDAYS AT 8:30 p.m.

The Saturday Night Peninsula All-Groups open meetings are held in the Recreation Room of St. Matthew's Church, Baldwin and El Camino in San Mateo, at 8:30 p.m. Coffee is served before and after the meeting.

The schedule for May follows:

May 3—Dick G.—S.F. Fellowship
Host—Pacifica Coastside.

May 10—Irene W.—S.F. F'Ship.
Host—San Bruno Monday.

May 17—Arnold R.—S.F. F'Ship.

May 24—Len R.—S.F. Fellowship
Host—Menlo Monday.

May 31—Evans B.—Gratitude
Host—San Mateo Tuesday.

RESPONSIBILITIES

(Continued from Page 7)

How we are endowed with this great infinite intelligence that enables us to remember what goes on in other people's minds, I don't know. Certainly, this sort of thing can hardly be looked upon as an exercise in humility. I firmly believe that anyone who approaches AA has some kind of problem—is ready for something—otherwise AA would be the last place he would think of applying.

He may not be ready to become affiliated with us if he receives an impression that we irresponsible. He may not be ready to identify with a secretary who has trouble reading a simple announcement. Or a chairman who says, "well I goofed. But what can you expect? I'm an alcoholic." Or, "that's alcoholic thinking alright!"

WHIM AND CAPRICE

Personally, I don't believe any AA member has the right to brand all the rest of us as rattle-brained, inefficient people; people who can't be depended upon; people guided by whim and caprice. Actually, what we should be trying to do—and what most of us are trying to do—is to impress employers, relatives, friends, and the general public—that we are efficient, dependable people.

If we are to continue to grow it is obvious we must be concerned with this 90 percent. Something has to happen so that we will remember this forgotten alcoholic. He's not better off just because he's solvent. He may be worse off as a result of having assets. This is something the responsible group secretary will keep in mind. The responsible secretary is in a position to make a tremendous contribution in this area.

The good secretary will realize that his job is a labor of love (for which, many times, too few love him). But, be it that it may, he has been presented with a truly great opportunity for service. When his term expires he will have the real good feeling that comes with the knowledge he has tried to do a good job.

KEY POSITION

The good group secretary is the motivating spirit, the spark-plug, the heart-beat of the group, you might say. He is one single member upon whom depends, many times, the success of the group as a whole.

Now briefly, we will try to list a few of the things that a group secretary assumes responsibility for:

1) He will see that adequate literature is available for newcomers, and for Twelfth Step workers in the group, at all times.

2) The good secretary will have for ready references the names and phone numbers of members who will accept Twelfth Step calls.

3) The responsible secretary will make it his business to become acquainted with every new person that comes in; he'll get the new members name and phone number; and, he will watch out for this new member for at least six or seven weeks. If the new man or woman misses a meeting, the good secretary will call the next day and tell the newcomer "we missed you last night."

Friendly Fellowship 9th Birthday May 23

Father Ernie of Pittsburg will make the keynote address at a meeting to be held on Friday, May 23, at 1426-13th Street in San Pablo, celebrating the Ninth Anniversary of the Friendly Fellowship.

A buffet dinner will be served following the meeting which starts at 8:30 p.m., and a gala celebration is in the works. Plenty of parking.

On Friday night, May 16, Ruth Tulley, Psychiatric Social Worker with the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center in the Richmond and Walnut Creek Areas, will speak at the Fellowship, with a question period to follow. Mrs. Tulley has worked with, and is a trusted friend of many alcoholics.

The monthly birthdays celebration, with decorated cake for the honored members, will follow this meeting.

I know from personal experience how effective this can be. It can do a lot to correct this "drop out" situation. (Continued in June)

News Events from S.F. Alano Club

By Paul "Bus" D.,

By Paul "Bus" D.

The success of our parties and dances depends on you—so—any advice or suggestions you may have will be gladly accepted. Let us know!

We're here to please you, and the only way we can do this is to have you pass on your ideas and thoughts to us.

SATURDAY, MAY 3—MAYDAY DANCE. We won't have a Maypole, but our great combo, the "Dry Notes", will play any type of dance music you wish. Fine door prizes, too.

SATURDAY, MAY 17—MID-MONTH DANCE. The "Dry Notes" will play for your pleasure, and you can either dance or just sit and socialize. Personalized door prizes.

SATURDAY, MAY 31—MAY BIRTHDAY PARTY AND DANCE. Celebrate your A.A. birthday with us. Coffee and cake. Dancing to great records.

Remember, unless there is some special event nearby, we have a dance for you the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month, and a birthday party the last Saturday of each month. If you are looking for a place to go on week-ends, give us a try—you won't be sorry.

SAN FRANCISCO ALANO CLUB

414 GRANT AVENUE, NEAR BUSH STREET