



Good News



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San Francisco in 1980

California, Northern Coastal Area (CNCA), with the enthusiastic endorsement of the Bay Area Intercounty Fellowship (San Francisco Central Office), has submitted a bid for the 45th anniversary of the International AA Convention to be held in 1980.

Following procedures, which were established by the General Service Conference, areas interested in hosting the Convention were asked to submit completed bid questionnaires to the GSO by January 10, 1976. Three possible sites will be selected after all bids are reviewed by the General Service Conference, which will meet in New York City, in April.

A special Site Committee of the General Service Board will then visit the selected cities before a final choice is made. Approximately ten cities are expected to bid for the Convention, which has been held every five years since the first Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950. Over 20,000 people attended the 1975 Convention, which was held in Denver, Colorado.

CNCA worked with the San Francisco Convention Bureau to obtain detailed information for completion of the bid questionnaire. As a tourist center and a city that has hosted many large conventions, San Francisco has many advantages as a site for the International AA Convention.

A location which will accommodate the general sessions, or so-called "big meetings", is sought. It's believed that the proposed downtown "San Francisco Sports Arena" or the San Francisco Cow Palace would fulfill this need.

In his letter enclosing the bid, CNCA Delegate George D. mentioned that at this time the size and requirements of the next Convention appear to present problems, of which, no one city may have all the answers. Letting go, he said, "We are grateful that all we have to do is to tell you what we have and what we don't have, and to assure you that we would love to have the Convention in San Francisco. We can then 'turn it over' and not have to worry about the final decision."

"Leap Into Freedom"

The 4th annual All-California Young Peoples Roundup will be held February 27, 28 and 29 at the Oakland Hyatt House, 455 Hegenberger, Oakland, CA, 94621. Come to the workshops and panels. Share!

Mail Roundup registrations (\$3.00 for A.A., Al-Anon or Alateen, includes the dance) to:

Roundup Chairman
28231 Wren Ct.
Hayward, CA 94545

Send \$9.00 per person if you plan to attend the super Gourmet Banquet. If no \$, bring a brown bag and hear the speaker!

Mail room reservations to the Hyatt House - Attn: Reservation Manager. Tell him when you are coming to the Roundup. Room rates are \$26.00 per ROOM per night. Two people at \$13.00 each, etc. See ya' there!

Day of Unity and Fun

The Valley Service Center celebrates its 5th Anniversary with an all-day program at the Veteran's Memorial Building on Main Street in Pleasanton on Saturday, January 31st. To look at their program, you'd think that every AA in the Livermore, San Ramon, Dublin and Sunol area was in the action. Wow! They are even featuring Homer D.'s Twelfth Step Play at 7 p.m. and speaker, George D. of Tiburon. At 10 p.m., the Birthday Girls will serve ice cream and cake as of the celebration of all local A.A.'s birthdays for January.

Livermore Alateen Activities

Every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Livermore Alateens hold a pastry sale at the Crossroads Fellowship, 1840 Portola Ave. The sale precedes the regular open AA speaker's meeting. Also, the group wishes to announce an open Alateen Meeting to be held in the Alateen Room starting at 8 p.m. on February 26th at the Crossroads.

A.A. Marathon

Skimping on AA? You have a chance to catch up at the First "1976" AA Marathon to be held in Castro Valley on Valentine's Day.

The 24 hour Marathon will consist of 11 two-hour sessions plus breaks. Each session will include a speaker meeting, which will be followed by audience participation. The list of speakers is impressive: Gene L. (Santa Rosa), Gary A. (San Jose), Grace H. (Hayward), Sam E. (Hayward), Tom C. (Alameda), Toby N. (Pleasanton), Mark I. (Hayward), Bob P. (Hayward), Bruce (?) (Hayward), Barbara K. (San Leandro) and Terry O. (Hayward).

Kick-off time is 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 14. Stay until noon on Feb. 15th. The address is 5560 Crow Canyon Road, Castro Valley. Phone (415) 886-1686. If you can't come to all of the meeting, at least come by and share what time you can.

Valentine Party

The Marin Alano Club is holding a benefit dinner-dance at 6 p.m. in the Corte Madera Recreation Center (take Corte Madera Exit off Highway 101) to celebrate Valentine's Day on Saturday, Feb. 7th. Be a Lover! Get your tickets at the Club or write "CORKY", 1360 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901. A ten-dollar donation covers dinner, a super-speaker (Clancy I. of Los Angeles) and dancing to a live band. Hope to see you there!

Speakers & Dance At Eureka

George B. and Lois J. will speak on AA "Service" at a meeting sponsored by the Humboldt Del Norte General Service Committee. The meeting will be at 8 p.m. on February 7th at the Sons of Norway Hall, 1619 California St., Eureka, Ca. The Young People's Group is hosting a dance after the speakers.

P.I. Footnotes

[California, Northern Coastal Area]

Public Information—two words that conjure up thoughts of advertising and promotion—is a seeming contradiction to AA traditions. Yet, historically public information has always played an important part in AA history. As a matter of fact, early AA's might be considered to have dipped into promotional activities; particularly in efforts to publish the Big Book. But as with many other phases of AA, our co-founder, Bill W. had the knack of turning paradoxes into realities: Explaining, rather than selling, and thus letting our friends "sell" the society of Alcoholics Anonymous. And this has been the key to public information in AA since that time—explaining, rather than selling; an effort to make this invisible society visible to the suffering alcoholic and the non-alcoholic.

Today, public information in AA has many ramifications: Informing doctors, lawyers, the clergy and other professional people; co-operating in court programs; furnishing books to libraries; participating in DWI and mental health programs, upon invitation; contacts with newspapers, radio and television reporters and directors; and most recently, furnishing AA speakers, upon invitation, to non-AA groups. With the recent awakening of the public to the problem of alcoholism in school children, this latter service has proven of much value in informing the teen-ager and pre-teener.

The Public Information Committee of the Northern Coastal Area of General Service has developed into a unique group. While the impetus comes from the Area Committee, the members are not only General Service Representatives, but also members of Intergroups and Central Offices. In fact, most of the effort is furnished by members of Intergroups, since requests for service come directly to those organizations.

The role of General Service in such a structure is merely to implement, co-operate, and act in an advisory capacity. Display material and other matters common to the Area are frequently furnished by the Area Committee. When it is considered that there are nine Central Offices and/or Intergroups in the Northern Coastal Area, the importance of coordination becomes apparent.

Regular monthly meetings of the CNCA Public Information Committee have proven the worthy. Speakers have been furnished at schools; displays have been made available at non-AA functions; a program of participation in County Fairs has been instituted; and many other facets of public information are being planned for 1976. This sharing has proven invaluable.

The CNCA Public Information Committee meets regularly at 8 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the East Bay Central Office, 2910 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, California. All participants in P.I. and those interested in participating are invited to attend.

Dean K., CNCA Alt. Delegate

Napa News

The Napa Intergroup now has a stock of AA literature for the benefit of the groups in the area. Contact Bea P. or Jim S. at 255-4900. Intergroup meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Napa Valley Alano Club, 1455 Pueblo Ave., Napa. All groups in Napa County are urged to send a representative. This is where the business of AA is conducted, especially how we organize the 12th Step service for Napa County.

Two AA members recently appeared on a radio talk show on station KVON, and this station is also featuring some AA Public Service Announcements so we can get the "message" to more drunks. Plans are almost set to have some TV releases on Napa Channel 6, so keep watching for them. Cooperation with local news media is really paying off!

And in another important area, the St. Helena Sanitarium & Health Center is planning a seminar on alcoholism for the medical profession. The seminar will be one full day and the medical doctors attending will receive Continuing Credit. Date and program will be announced later.

The Napa Valley Alano Club welcomes new members. Dues are \$1.00 per month and Sobriety is necessary. See any member for information about joining. There are AA meetings at the Alano Club every night, except Wednesday, and daytime meetings are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Jim S., Napa Intergroup

San Mateo County Fellowship News

Earl C., current Secretary/Delegate Chairperson, replaces Carl W., who has done a fine job. This group, which serves the San Mateo County Fellowship, has accomplished much. They've helped in the birth of the Volunteer Office Telephone Service, a Newsletter, a Speakers Bureau for schools, churches and outside organizations, and a Teleservice.

A special informational meeting of the Hospital and Institution committee and election of a replacement for Hal R., San Mateo County Area Chairman, will be held on January 25th at the Alano Club, 714 North San Mateo Drive, at 2:00 p.m. Hal has done a terrific job, bringing the Program to many confined alcoholics. AA meetings are being held at 8:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at the Crystal Springs Rehabilitation Center. An Alumni Group also meets at the center at an earlier time. Welcome to this new group of "winners."

Our beloved friend, Dewey S., one of the original 100, is confined at Crystal Springs Rehabilitation Center, 35 Tower Road, San Mateo. Cards and visitors are welcomed. Dewey is one of the oldest living members of AA, and he's an inspiration to all who meet him.

Lynne A. and Linda I. were the instigators of the highly successful Christmas and New Year's Alkathons at Belmont Hills Psychiatric Hospital. This was a "first" for this area. This Alkathon, like others, was well attended, greatly supported, and much appreciated. Our special thanks to all who assisted.

New meetings bust'n out all over! Now at 4:30 p.m. "Living Sober" Study Group at the old Post Office Building, 2nd and Ellsworth, San Mateo, Monday thru Friday. Other area meetings include the following Thursday Nighters at Sequoia Hospital AA, at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Building - H & I Alanon, 8:00 p.m. Extended Care Unit, 2nd floor - H & I Alateen, 7:30 p.m., Extended Care Unit 2nd floor.



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Don M., Editor Protem
Pete D., Business Manager
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The Newest A.A. Booklet, Living Sober

I'm not exactly a dry-eyed A.A. member. My emotions sometimes keep me from telling a new member very much about the "what happened" part of my story, which is the really important action about recovery. A.A.'s newest booklet comes into the picture here.

Living Sober is a collection of A.A. experience about subjects that can eliminate problems for problem drinkers. The chapters on "Live and Let Live", "Watching Out for Anger and Resentments", "Eliminating Self-Pity" and "Seeking Professional Help" were especially striking to me during my first readings. Each chapter is a lot like an A.A. meeting where the topic for discussion is that chapter title. The stuff that is said in this "meeting" is the distilled experience of all A.A. on this topic. For \$1.75 you can "attend" 30 meetings on subjects that cause every drunk problems. Buy a copy of **Living Sober** for yourself and give one to that new person you met last night.

Don M., Editor pro tem

Letters and Comments

Dear Readers:

I want **Good News** to be a useful avenue of communications among AA groups. H & I and General Service committees. Inter-groups and Fellowships and the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous. Also I want to see important information about Alanon and Alateen activities on these pages. I don't want **Good News** to appear to be a publication that caters only to a few special organizations; if this happens, I will help in its demise.

Meanwhile, **Good News** is continuing to be in business. Only one issue has been missed (January 1976). A new volunteer staff has finished billing subscribers whose bills became due during September, October, November and December 1975, as well as those which are due in January, February and March 1976. We are trying to get a non-profit bulk mailing permit (at this writing). As you see, there are significant changes in format and mailing procedures, which we believe will lessen the production costs. We re-designed our mailing labels so they include information about the expiration date of your subscription and, in some cases, about the number of copies that are mailed to one address. There is no easy way for us to check to find omissions from our old mailing list. I expect that some errors have been made in these new addresses and in the dates that each subscription expires. Please realize that **Good News** does not want any unhappy subscribers (cause they might get drunk!), so tell us if errors are made.

The amount of newsworthy material we print still depends upon what news is sent to us. We, the staff, will try to cover meetings and conventions where we can. It appears (at this writing) that we will have regular columns on Public Information, General Service and H & I activities. I believe that we also need news on a regular basis from all Inter-groups and Fellowships (Alano Clubs included) as well as from Alanon and Alateen. Some news can be obtained from the newsletters and the circulars that are mailed to the **Good News** office, but a regular reporter would be best. Will you take on this responsibility? Let me hear from you.

Your Servant,
Don M., Editor pro tem

SAN FRANCISCO ALANO CLUB

San Francisco Alano Club, 414 Grant, (at the Gate to Chinatown), announces that their Saturday night dances are starting again.

On the second Saturday of each month, come to a Rock Dance with a live band—donation is \$1.00—band begins at 10:00 p.m. and ends at 1:00 a.m.

On the third Saturday of each month, dance to music from the Dry Notes—donation is \$1.50—band plays from 9:00 to midnight.

On the last Saturday of each month, celebrate your AA birthday (or someone else's!!!) by dancing to taped music for all age groups. (Contributed by Lynn E., reporter for S.F. Alano Club.)

Thanks to the committee at the Alano Club for helping mail so many issues of the **Good News**.

Monterey Central Office

The new secretary for the AA Central Office in Monterey is Fred B. **Good News** wishes him the best in his new job.

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