



AA's Twelve Concepts For World Service

(Editor's note: Reprinted with permission from the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, 1975, Final Report. This article is the first of a series on AA's Twelve Concepts — Bill W.'s guidelines for AA Service.)

'The Future Belongs to You'

These simple but meaningful words were spoken by Bill 13 years ago on this very spot, to the 1962 Conference as it gave approval to the Twelve Concepts for world service.

"Since all my main service tasks are now complete," Bill said, "it seems right that my primary and long-held responsibility for our **world operations** ought to end with this session. This should be the final step in placing AA wholly on its own."

In 1946, an earlier step toward this goal had given us the Twelve Traditions. In 1955, at the International Convention in St. Louis, we had accepted the Conference Charter. And now, Bill had spent several years detailing and putting on paper the exciting collective experience contained in the Concepts, in order that this final transfer of responsibility could occur.

The Traditions tell us how AA groups and individual AA's can relate successfully to each other and to AA as a whole. The Concepts are a beautifully simple pattern for the functioning of our service structure and for the **relationship** of all its different parts to the **whole**.

At the International Convention in Miami Beach, the late Bernard Smith, nonalcoholic trustee who played such an important role in creating our service structure, spoke on "Unity and Continuity." He talked of unity as a totality of **related parts**. "Our Fellowship is composed of all of the groups of AA, the separate areas of the General Service Board and all of its related service organizations, and the Conference, ...and so the whole of the parts becomes **one** — the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. This unity can have continuity only so long as the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous remains strong. Slowly and painstakingly," Bern continued, "we have built upon the spiritual foundation of this great Society a structure that can, with continued devotion, insulate this Fellowship against the ravages of time, of dissent, of materialistic decay."

As members of this Conference, we are the **custodians**, not only of the Steps and the Traditions, but also of the Concepts. What are we going to do with this Legacy? First, we trusted servants should **not** keep it to ourselves, but make it available to our entire Fellowship — and we can do this only through our own knowledge, because we cannot pass on that which we do not have! Therefore, it becomes important that you and I take the time and make the effort to **understand** well enough to communicate. We should understand **each Concept** well enough to talk about it, its application, and what it means to AA's future.

You and I should know: who has the final authority for world services; how our trustees relate to our business corporations; how we handle the situation fairly if someone disagrees with the majority; how our Conference relates to the board of trustees; why it is so necessary for us to have **good rotating leadership**; why Conference action should never be personally punitive nor incite public controversy.

As Bill said of the Concepts, "They detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today. These Concepts aim to record the **why** of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the lessons we have drawn from that experience can never be lost or forgotten."

Today, with over 25,000 groups spread all over the world, it becomes increasingly important for all of us who work for AA "Unity Through Love and Service" to understand how our world service structure functions and how it developed, through trial and error, through foresight governed by love and faith. Now we have the design outlined in these Concepts for the interrelating of all the many parts, so they add up to an effective, unified, continuing **whole**. And here we are again at — unity.

The Concepts help to insure AA unity and do a very beautiful thing for us: They **free** you and me so we may devote our attention to carrying out our Fellowship's primary purpose. So, in a sense, the Concepts, too, help to bring recovery to the alcoholic out there, **anywhere in the world**, who might need our help.

Margaret C.

P. I. Footnotes

At the January meeting of the Trustees' Public Information Committee there was considerable discussion how to make better use of AA's 30 and 60-second television spot announcements. The Committee recommended the AA World Service (AAWS) Board be asked for an appropriation of \$1,000 to cover the cost of sending the spots free of charge to TV stations in the ten top markets. At their meeting of March 18 the AAWS Board moved that the \$1,000 be authorized to the Trustees' Public Information Committee to carry out this request. As a result, both the 30 and 60-second spot announcements have been sent to KTVA, Channel 2, KRON, Channel 4, KPIX, Channel 5, KGO, Channel 7, and KBHK, Channel 44 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

These 30 and 60-second spots are in color. In both TV spots the speaker faces the camera and talks simply and honestly, from personal knowledge, about the effectiveness of the AA program. Yet the 11th Tradition is fully respected, since the speakers are neither AA's nor Al-Anons. In the 60-second spot a young woman tells of her husband's recovery, with obvious gratitude and happiness. In the 30-second spot a young man salutes "the sense" and "the guts" his mother showed in joining AA.

Presentations about AA on television have a dramatic impact, but present a unique challenge in preparation and yet maintaining anonymity. Use of material from GSO is helpful in making such TV presentations; and guidelines are set out in the Public Information Manual on methods of contacting TV stations, and special lighting or camera angles to maintain anonymity.

The history of the TV program "If you NEED a drink", presented on KNXT-TV, Los Angeles, the winter of 1970 illustrates three different kinds of cooperation with AA Traditions: Between a local PIC and TV station personnel; among AA central offices in the area; between AA and an outside agency in the field of alcoholism. This one-hour color program was aired in prime time (pre-empting "Gunsmoke" that evening). It was patterned on the 12 questions in the pamphlet "Is AA for You?" These were flashed on the screen, then repeated by the announcer-host. Drawing upon their experience, ten AA's provided the answer in their own spontaneous words. All were seen only in silhouette.

Because there were several AA central offices in this heavily populated area, it was decided to give the telephone number of the local Council on Alcoholism (branch of the National Council) for expected responses. It was estimated an audience of about 870,000 watched the program, which drew an Arbitron rating of 15. The Local Council on Alcoholism usually

receives 100 calls per week. In the four days following the show, the office received 1170 calls. The NCA reported that "two-thirds of the calls were from early stage alcoholics." It is true that not every PI is located in an entertainment capital such as Los Angeles. However, the principle of cooperation illustrated can apply everywhere; although the local PI Committee may be cooperating with a small-town radio station, neighboring AA Groups (rather than central offices), and a modest community alcoholism program or local hospital.

At the July meeting of the Northern Coastal Area Public Information Committee Mr. Ian Zellick, Public Service Director of Channel 2, KTVU-TV, Oakland, attended and shared. Hopefully this will be the beginning of increased efforts in reaching the vast TV audience. At that meeting it was pointed out that during the Young Peoples Roundup in San Francisco last year, Channel 5, KPIX, conducted a live interview with a young AA member for its 11 P.M. News, which was extremely effective and adhered strictly to the 11th Tradition.

Some past efforts of other TV stations have been reduced to film and are available upon order. Two of these are "The Wisdom to Know the Difference", originally a one-hour program on a local New York City TV channel. It is an accurate representation of a typical AA closed meeting, though carefully preserving the anonymity of the actual members taking part. A second film is "A Time for Decision", produced in color for the Los Angeles County Commission on Alcoholism. Employing actors, it relates in fiction from one man's descent into alcoholism and opportunity for recovery in AA.

Dean K.

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Open Alateen Meeting

The S.F. Mission Alateen Group invites one and all to attend an open meeting at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 25, at the Salvation Army Center, 3550 Army St. (across from St. Luke's Hospital). Come for the meeting and stay for coffee and cookies. Shelly W.

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NOCAC!

The Northern California Alateen Conference will be held September 24-26 in Redwood Glen (North of San Jose). The cost is \$35.00 per person and if you're going please have the money in by August 22. For information and registration forms contact Pat F. (he's an Alateen) at 1205 Coral Reef Pl., Alameda, Ca. 94501, ph. 522-0657.

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Dear Editor:

My name is Russ, and I have been a member of the AA for some time now. I am in prison and we here at Sierra Conservation Center really enjoy the GOOD NEWS. I enjoy it more than most because I am from the San Francisco area (Daly City). In this month's issue (July), your H&I broadsides pointed out some good reasons for women to come to inside meetings. Being a person who is inside looking out, I see another important reason, one we all overlook sometimes. Sharing and relating our common problems is what AA is all about. Not being able to communicate to another person about our problem is a very large problem many of us have.

To be able to talk about your problem to your mother, wife, or girlfriend is just something I couldn't do. This is something that I have gained from AA. Learning and relating to others. Now the question comes to mind — "Are you only going to talk to men for the rest of your life?" Of course, there are the people who say most guys in prison only go to meetings because there are women to look at. So what? Is girl watching something new? I have never seen any fellow inside say anything or do anything in bad taste in front of a woman guest.

The most important fact is that most of the fellows keep coming back, and it's not long before they begin to relate to the rest of us in the group.

Women are a part of this world we live in and a part of our lives. To tell them that they can only share a part of the AA program goes against everything AA stands for. Yes women are needed in AA, to give all of us some of that inner strength that they all seem to have.

Sharing has become a part of my life and I want to share it with everyone in AA, not just a few who feel that they are the only ones who can carry the message to us inside. Keep up the good work. I love to write, so look for more letters now and then. I must always place my full name and address on my out going mail and it must be the same coming into me.

Love AA and all the good I have received from everyone in it. Lots of AA love to all of you.

Sincerely, Russ R.

(Dear Russ: Thanks for the inside view I can't print your last name but I can take mail to you care of Good News and forward it. Editor)

San Mateo Public Information Committee

The newly formed Public Information Committee of San Mateo includes the County speakers bureau and all others interested in Public Information. Meetings will be held monthly on the fourth Thursday at the "old" San Mateo Post Office on the corner of 2nd and Ellsworth (upstairs in back). All interested persons are invited.

Lynne A.

Special Invitation!

Have some fun in the sun or be lazy in the shade! AA's, Al-Anon's, Alateens, family and friends are invited to the Santa Clara County, Alameda County, Valley Service Center AA Picnic, Sunday, August 22, 10:00 a.m. to dusk at Hidden Valley Ranch, Mission Blvd., 0.4 mile east of Rt. 680, south 0.3 mile past Winery on Stanford Avenue, Warm Springs (between Fremont and Milpitas). There will be something for everyone—swimming, bingo, kid's games, badminton, softball, volleyball, dancing, gate prizes, a raffle, lots of arm's length AA (Frank S. of Alameda will be speaking at the AA meeting at 1:30 p.m.), coffee, beans, a snack bar, and hot charcoal. Bring games, sports equipment, food, drinks, silverware, plates, table covers and some extra for those who can't. Please don't bring pets but do bring a group sign for your table and volunteer where you see a need.

Tickets, available through your Representative or Central Office, or at the gate, are \$1.50 for adults, 75c for children 6-15, and free for kids under 6. Groups may obtain blocks of 10 tickets at \$1.40 per adult and 65c per child with unused tickets redeemable for literature at their Central Office. For information contact the Valley Service Center Picnic Chairwoman, Judy, at 828-3641, or, in Alameda County, contact the Central Office at 653-4300 or John at 521-9228, or, in Santa Clara County, contact the Central Office at 297-3555 or Chris at 969-9729 during office hours. Sam W.

Contra Costa News

AA will be at the Contra Costa County Fair for the first time July 28 thru Aug. 3. This is a first for the CC Service Center, and we hope that besides the public there will be AA members from other areas dropping by to visit our booth.

The 10th Anniversary of the Contra Costa Service Center will be celebrated on Saturday Sept. 18th at the Pleasant Hill Recreation Center — 310 Civic Dr. — three blocks from Sun Valley Shopping Center. Al-Anon & Alateen speakers in the afternoon — Pot Luck dinner at 5:30 and guest AA speaker Don G. from L.A. after dinner. A dance will follow.

Joan H.

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Speakers for the Peninsula All Group Meeting on Saturday nights in St. Matthews Episcopal Auditorium, Baldwin & El Camino Real in San Mateo are as follows (Name of host group is in parentheses): Aug. 7 - Curly F. of Mt. View (Mt. View); Aug. 14 - Meek M. of Redwood City (Redwood City Thursday); Aug. 21 - Vince H. of San Mateo (San Mateo Fireside); Aug. 28 - Eddie K. of South San Francisco (South San Francisco). Coffee and arms length AA before and after meeting.

John F.

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Modesto 12 x 12 Fellowship News

Meetings are held at the 12 x 12 Fellowship Group, 1807 G Street, Modesto every night at 8:00 p.m. Sunday night is a Spanish speaking group and Tuesday is 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts Study Night, chaired by Jack B.

On Tuesday July 6, a tape of Bill W.'s talks on our Three Legacies, Unity, Service, and Recovery, was played. In this tape, he talked of many things that happened in getting AA going. As we listened, we could feel the understanding, caring, and togetherness, but most of all, the love that Bill W. had for all AA. The book AA Comes of Age came to life through this tape. It was all there.

My own personal feelings of that meeting are that there are no hopeless alcoholics. We can fail those that come if we are not there when they are ready. The most important 12 step work happens the table, and if the message isn't carried there we can fail. God gets the newcomer to AA. It's our responsibility to put a helping hand out of each and every one, letting God do the rest through us. It may start with two talking together, and it begins and ends with the AA group, God working through us all.

Thank you very much Jack B. for sharing this with us.

Love, Diane C.

P.S. Happy 5th Birthday (Honda) George C. Thank you for being out in front the first time I came to a meeting.

Satin Stag Group Open Meeting

The Satin Stag group of Hayward is sponsoring an open meeting with guest speaker Joyce Y. (Sparks, Nev.), Sunday, Aug. 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Alano Triangle Club - 631 Jackson St. (near Silva St.) in Hayward (ph. 581-9651). The meeting will be preceded by lunch at noon at Burt's Restaurant - 603 A St., Hayward.

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Let's Eat!

The Contra Costa Alano Club, 84 Broadway, Richmond (ph. 232-9743), is having a Pot Luck, Sunday, August 1, from 2 to 5 p.m. Bring a plate—Come and see the newest Alano Club in the Bay Area. Buede S.

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Why Me?

Due to a strategically timed business trip, Don M. was not able to edit this Good News. His son (me) has been volunteered to the post of Editor Protem until Don returns, which will be about the time this issue goes into the mail. Anyway, that's why me. Keith M.

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When you send the announcement of a coming AA/AlAnon/Alateen event to GOOD NEWS before mid-month, over 2000 readers will see it at the beginning of the next month.

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Correction!

It was announced in the Stockton Alano Club June newsletter that the DINNER-SPEAKING Meeting would be moved to the third Saturday of each month to avoid conflicts with conferences, etc...It will return to, and remain on, the second Saturday, with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and speaker at 8:00 p.m. The Stockton Alano Club (535 W. Fremont St., ph. 948-9869) appreciates the interest shown this change of date and wants to hear from you — it's the only way they can know your wishes.

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Pot Luck & Speaker Meeting

The Guerneville-Monte Rio River Group will hold its Anniversary Pot Luck & Speaker Meeting August 7 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Hubert's Hall, intersection of 4th and 5th St. (across from the fire station), in Guerneville. Jane O'T. of San Francisco will speak at 8:00. Coffee and a main dish will be provided by the Guerneville and Monte Rio Groups. Please bring salads, bread, finger foods, casseroles, desserts, and friends to share.

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Speaker Meeting Moved

Chuck C. from Laguna Beach will speak at the Bicentennial Hall, 22300 Foothill Blvd., Hayward on Saturday, Aug. 21 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was originally scheduled to be at the Alano Triangle Club in Hayward.

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Ninth Annual 22nd District Convention

"Keep it simple" is the theme of the 1976 Ninth Annual 22nd District Convention to be held at the Santa Maria Convention Center, Stowell Road and Thornberg, Santa Maria, August 6, 7, and 8.

The kick-off meeting will start Friday at 8:00 p.m., but the early comers can come to a marathon meeting to open at 1:00 p.m. Friday and run continuously, except during main meetings, until 10:00 a.m. Sunday. Saturday, come to an Al-Anon luncheon at noon, a steak barbeque at 6:00 p.m., and a live dance from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Ted H. of Rancho Palos Verdes, Alvin McM. from Lynwood, Anita G. of Pacific Grove, Bob L. from Glendale, and Gene D. of Calistoga, are some of the speakers to be heard.

Eleven dollars covers registration ((\$1.00), the Al-Anon luncheon (\$4.50), and the steak barbeque (\$5.50). You can register at the Convention Center starting 10:00 a.m. Friday or 9:00 a.m. Saturday, or send the money, the name you want on your badge, and whether you are AA, Al-Anon, or Alateen, to: 22nd District Convention, P.O. Box 964, Morro Bay, Calif. 93442. For more info, call (805) 722-2068. Kay T.

Calendar

- August 1 San Mateo Alano Club Picnic.
 August 6-8 *Ninth Annual 22nd District Convention.
 August 22 *Bay Area Picnic at Hidden Valley Ranch.
 August 28 *27th Anniversary of Tracy Fellowship.
 August 29 First Annual Summer Festival at the Calistoga Fairgrounds — 3:30 p.m. 'til ? For Info phone (415) 897-3220. Elsa C. from Southern California will speak.
 August 29 Central California Fellowship of AA Annual Picnic in Sacramento at Elk Grove Picnic Grounds, Area Nine from 9:00 a.m. to dark. Special feature is "Leo's Barbeque Chicken Dinner".
 Sept. 3-5 Alaska 11th Annual State Conference of AA. Hosts: Kenai & Soldtna Wilderness Group. Theme: "I Am Responsible."
 Sept. 3-5 26th Oregon State Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Rodeway Inn, Eugene. Theme: "Happiness Is Sobriety". To register or obtain more info contact 1976 Conference Registration, 1233 Alder St., Eugene, Or. 97401
 Sept. 18 *10th Anniversary of Contra Costa Service Center.
 Sept. 24-26 *NOCAC!
 Oct. 1-3 First Annual Columbia River Young People's Round Up at the Jantzen Thunderbird, Portland. For info write: P.O. Box 13067, Portland, Or. 97213.
 Nov. 6 Northern Interior Area General Service Assembly. Look for more information in GOOD NEWS.

Sonoma County Intergroup Blood Bank

Sonoma County Intergroup wants donations to its blood bank. Our thirteen pints will be lost if contributions are not made each year. The last deposit was in May, 1975.

The nurse at the Bank says that in order for a person who has had a drinking problem in the past to give blood, he/she must be in excellent health, preferably in their early 20's, with a record of one year's abstinence. There are also many other conditions which can exclude one from donating—a history of liver disease and convulsions, for Example. The good news is that anyone who is eligible may give our account credit for their donation.

Blood from the AA Blood Bank Account may be withdrawn by AA members and their families. A unit of blood costs \$50.00. When the blood is replaced, \$25.00 is returned to the patient, and \$25.00 is used to cover the actual cost of processing and making the blood available. The Sonoma County Intergroup secretary is the coordinator of the service.

That's The Way It Was

The 25th Anniversary of Al-Anon Services was celebrated at the 1976 World Service Conference which happened to coincide with the Bi-Centennial of the United States. In keeping with the historical commemoration the Delegates were given a souvenir booklet containing 25 capsule accounts of Al-Anon's own historical moments. These accounts had been presented throughout the week by conference members.

Lois W. the wife of Bill W., co-founder of AA, says in her story, "After a while I began to wonder why I was not as happy as I ought to be since the one thing I had been yearning for all my married life had come to pass. The one Sunday Bill asked me if I was ready to go to the meeting with him. To my own astonishment, as well as his, I burst forth with, "Damn your old meetings!" and threw a shoe as hard as I could.

When a horse throws a shoe, his rider can take him to a blacksmith; when Lois threw her shoe she had no place to go; she felt she should apply the AA spiritual program of recovery to her own problems. Much later, with the help of Anne B. and others, she started the Al-Anon Family Groups for people who don't drink but throw things. . .I'm Lois W. and that' the way it was!

I'm Irma C. and that's the way it was!

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What is a Sponsor?

An AA sponsor listens to new people in AA as well as to "old timers". He loves talking to people looking for help and patiently explains to new and old alike that a "sponsor" is really another harsher word for "friend". Sponsors seemingly have nothing to do—but are always there when needed. When they converse with us they are patient with our impatience. They never say "You had better" or "You are heading for your next drunk". If you are listening you will hear them softly say "Easy Does it" and "First Things First" quite a lot.

Sponsors sometimes look like "an unmade bed" and sometimes like "fashion plates". Appearances really don't count. When you talk to a sponsor they really listen. They know some of the answers—but not all. They often say "I don't know" and "Let's look in the Book for an answer".

They listen more than they talk—and they almost never interrupt—but when they do the "Sponsee" had better lend an attentive ear.

Every AA member should have a sponsor - especially members who "know it all" and those who talk so fast that they often say some things they haven't thought of yet.

Paul G.

News From The Al-Anon Family Groups

Al-Anon family groups are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. Think of all the families affected by someone else's drinking problem that have been helped over this length of time.

Northern California Al-Anon started out with around 40 groups. We had grown to 200 groups by 1963 and today we have a little over 300 groups (including Alateen), and are growing rapidly. That's not bad progress.

In 1963, California was divided into two Assemblies, each with its own Delegate to New York. Our Assembly has sent Delegates to the World Service Conference in N.Y.C. since 1964. Anne O. was our first delegate, then Muriel B., Judy W., Bonnie H., and myself.

In 1960, we were 1526 Al-Anon groups and 97 Alateen groups worldwide. Today we are 12,000 Al-Anon and 1349 Alateen groups, with 262 Lone Members and Alateen Contacts.

In Northern California today we have 13 busy districts, each with a District Representative (except for the Santa Rosa area) and committees working with various projects: General Conference Planning, headed by our Alternate Delegate, Faun L. of Redding, H&I - Carolyn H. of San Jose, and P.i. - Margaret M. of Atwater and Jean G. of Visalia. Alateen is coordinated by Arcie P. of Lafayette.

We have Telephone Services, five Information Centers, and five H&I groups. Our newsletter the *Al-Anon/Alateen 12-Stepper* (edited by Marion W. of Concord) has a mailing list of about 400, including private subscriptions. Our literature committee is managed by Bonnie H. and Jean M. of San Jose and Ellen T. of S.F. Our coordinators for the State H&I Conference held each year in Fresno are Peggy K. and Bev S. of San Jose. Lois B. of Burlingame is our treasurer and Phoebe H. of San Jose is our Secretary. These are just a few of our hard working "Trusted Servants". Each of our approximately 300 groups has a Group Representative, a secretary and a treasurer that hold together the backbone of Al-Anon and Alateen, the group.

We are grateful to Alcoholics Anonymous for sharing their program with us and cooperating with us every step of the way. We thank Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous especially for traditionally inviting Al-Anon and Alateen to participate in each of the three Conferences per year. As we have grown over the years, AA has grown too, and it has become more and more difficult to find accommodations at these Conferences - just ask any AA trusted servant. But somehow everything works out just fine, and each Conference becomes "the best ever."

We also appreciate the cooperation we have received from AA - the taping of two of our meetings, for instance. Billy M. of Modesto started this function years ago, and it is continued by Bart D. today.

Let's not forget the AA fellow or woman who goes out on a 12-Step call. . .and says to the family member before he leaves: "There's a group called Al-Anon and a bunch of young people called Alateen who can help you and your children. . .here's a telephone number to call. . .or I'll ask one of them to stop by to see you, if you wish."

Good communication and cooperation has always been the key to our progress and it will continue as long as there are those who care deeply enough to keep our goal in mind, viz., to help those whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking problem.

God in His Wisdom might have thought when AA & Al-Anon began - "Here are people who have something to share with others, and can work together, each in his own entity, to 'carry the message' to bring happiness and love to a great multitude of people."

Lois W., our First Lady of Al-Anon, put it best in her letter to the World Service Conference held in NYC this past April: "May we, in all our activities, express the love we share with each other as we work together toward our common goal: the spreading of Al-Anon's message. May we find joy in our work and lasting friendships in our personal contacts. And may God's great love and wisdom guide us in all our undertakings."

With Al-Anon Love, Irma C.

Dear Good News Editor:

Greetings to you with happy news — El Cerrito Fellowship is having a pot luck buffet dinner and Birthday Speaker Meeting Aug. 28 - 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be Bill M. of Northbrae group.

We plan music & dancing following Birthday cake. Everyone is invited and let us be happy in our sobriety and share our strength and hope in God's grace and love.

With love, Kay T.

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New Meetings!

The Sonoma County Intergroup Fellowship announces 4 new meetings — An Al-Anon meeting at the St. Sebastian Church, 7983 Covert Lane, Sebastopol, Mondays at 1:30 p.m. — The Summer Step Study Meeting at the Community Church on Armstrong Woods Rd. in Guerneville, Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. — The Cotati Sharing Group at the Recreation Hall, Cotati City Hall, West Sierra St., Cotati, Thursdays at 7 p.m. — and the Tape and Discussion Meeting at the Petaluma Alano Club, 151 Copeland, Saturdays at 8 p.m.

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From the Mail Bag

...Wish to thank you for continuing GOOD NEWS, I'm sure I owe my 20 years of continuous sobriety to Rollin W. and men like you.

If I can help you financially any time, let me know.
Chuck K.

Please continue my subscription to GOOD NEWS. I am pleased with its excellent coverage and I pass it on to friends each month.
Elise W.

The article in our July issue of GOOD NEWS about The Tenth Tradition needs challenging by someone and it might as well be me—because it could very well be me who believed that abstinence from Alcohol might not be necessary and then began to drink "socially" after 20 years of sobriety.

Let's take a look at Tradition #5: "Each group has but one purpose—to carry the (sic) message to the alcoholic who still suffers."
Leslie C.
(Dear Les, I did not print what the person in the Central Office said "off-the-record" because that was his opinion—not AA's—I also have an opinion about this issue, but I can't speak for Alcoholics Anonymous either! Don M.)

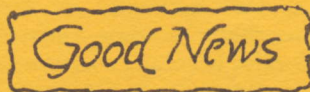
Dear Don:

Have been subscribing to GOOD NEWS since 1960. Thank you for taking on such a time consuming job but we all do appreciate it and you.

I am an AA member but we have lost a beautiful and dedicated Al-Anon this month due to cerebral hemorrhage.

She is Estelle K., 25 years in Al-Anon and first member of the Melody Al-Anon Family Group started in 1955. Her husband, 'Blackie' K. celebrated his 25th year as a sober member of AA in Nov. 1975.

Blackie and Estelle have many friends in the Eureka area and the Bay area.
Love in AA, Marion F.



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166 Geary Street, Room 804
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The El Cerrito Fellowship (11231 San Pablo Ave.) introduces a Big Book Study Group Wednesdays at Noon replacing the Beginner's class.

29th Anniversary!

The San Carlos Awareness Group (at the Community Church Auditorium, Arroyo and Elm Streets, in San Carlos) is celebrating its 29th anniversary Wednesday, August 18, at 8:30 p.m. Jack H. (Santa Rosa) will speak at the meeting, to be chaired by Paul G. (Mill Valley). "Please come and help us blow out 29 candles on the cake!"

Island Fellowship Saturday Speaker Meetings

The August speakers at the Island Fellowship (828 Lincoln Ave., Alameda) Saturday 8:30 p.m. meetings will be: August 7 - Bob M. (AA) and Betty M. (Al-Anon) from Belmont; August 14 - Betty W. from the Sunshine Group in Oakland; August 21 - Gene D. from Myrtle Dale; and August 28 - Eleanor H. from East Bay Intergroup.

"No Booze Boogie!"

The San Mateo Alano Club, 714 N. San Mateo Drive (Ph. 343-0507) is having a live rock dance with FLESH, Sat. Aug. 7, from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. A \$2.00 donation gets you in, so come and do the No-Booze Boogie!

The material published in GOOD NEWS represents the experience and opinions of AAs and others interested in the field of alcoholism. Opinions expressed herein are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous, nor does publication of any information imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or the GOOD NEWS.

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