



Good News



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COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Following up the article in the August issue of GOOD NEWS, let's look at what is involved in cooperation with the professional community (CPC). The AA Guideline on CPC states "Members of these committees inform those working in the field of alcoholism about AA) where we are, what we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. An attempt is made to establish better cooperation between AA's and professionals in the field".

AA's experienced in such cooperation report three gratifying results: (1) It helps US to stay sober; (2) Often it attracts alcoholics into AA; and (3) It helps non-alcoholics gain understanding and respect for our Fellowship. By now AA has accumulated a tremendous bank of experience in ways of cooperating, which preserve the letter and spirit of the 12 Traditions. Outlined in the pamphlet "How AA Members Cooperate" are these ideas:

1. No hard and fast rules can be laid down in advance in all cases covering exactly where the line is to be drawn between *cooperating* and *affiliating*.
2. The alcoholism scene is constantly changing.
3. AA is in competition with no one.
4. Non-AA agencies and professionals are under no obligation to abide by AA's Traditions. The Traditions are strictly for the guidance of AA.
5. AA members employed in the field of alcoholism need to make it very clear which hat they are wearing — at all times.
6. AA's can be good *volunteers* in non-AA programs — so long as it is made clear they do not represent AA.
7. We cannot discriminate against *any* prospective AA member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency.
8. As we mature in AA, we generally become less fearful and rigid.

The following, often reaffirmed by the General Service Conference, is AA's position in relation to others in the alcoholism field: The AA field consists basically of Twelve Steps designed for personal recovery from alcoholism. The Fellowship functions through approximately 30,000 local groups in 92 countries. At the last estimate, one million-plus alcoholics had achieved sobriety in AA; but members recognize their program is not always effective with all alcoholics and that some may require professional counseling and treatment. AA is concerned solely with the personal recovery and continued sobriety of individual alcoholics who turn to the Fellowship for help. The movement does not engage in the fields of alcoholism research, or medical or psychiatric treatment, and does not endorse any causes — although AA members may participate in such activities as individuals. The Society has adopted a policy of "cooperation but non-affiliation" with other organizations concerned with the problem of alcoholism.

AA utilizes at least six channels for cooperating with others in the field of alcoholism: (1) The individual AA member acting as a private citizen, not as AA; (2) The AA Group; (3) The AA Intergroup or Central Office; (4) CPC and H&I Committees; (5) The Area General Service Committee; and (6), the General Service Board and GSO.

(To be Continued)

How it Works — Buy Why?

An Atlanta, Ga. group follows the custom of reading the first part of Chapter 5 of the Big Book and the Traditions at every meeting. During the Traditions, some people used to tune out. Then the group hit on an idea. They began saying, "we'll call on so-and-so to read 'How it Works' ". And then, "Now so-and-so will read *why* it works!" With that, the Traditions are read with all ears at attention!

(From Box 459)

THE ONLY REWARD OF VIRTUE IS VIRTUE, THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A FRIEND IS TO BE ONE.

THE LINK

California Northern Coastal Area — General Service

THE GROUP CONSCIENCE

This years General Service Conference, at the suggestion of the California Northern Coastal Area, discussed "the group conscience, and how it operates" Few, if any, AA members question AA's tradition that our only authority is a loving God, as He may express himself through our group conscience. However, in the course of conducting AA affairs, some of us wonder whether we always obtain a true expression of the group conscience, and if we haven't, what went wrong.

In a presentation at the conference, a Canadian delegate defined group conscience as "the voice that is heard when all available information has been presented, understood and thoroughly discussed, and a decision reached that is satisfactory to all". It may be impossible to reach a decision satisfactory "to all", but we should certainly work for substantial unanimity, not just a bare majority. Of course, it can require time and a lot of patience before this "voice" is heard, but we should remember that people have emergencies, AA seldom, if ever, has them. How is the finding of the group conscience frustrated? Some of the ideas expressed at the conference were:

1. The group has to be informed. All information should be presented and explained in a way that everyone understands. This may require going over ground that is familiar to many. It also means that each member should be given a chance to ask a question or state an opinion. Obviously, a sensitive and sympathetic chairperson can do a lot to see that these needs are met.
2. We really have to beware of the powerful personality — the skilled advocate, who can sway the group with the force of his or her presentation. There are these gifted types in AA, and we don't have to discourage them. We do have to be careful that they do not intimidate those who have questions or differing opinions. The group itself, and particularly the chairperson, has the responsibility of being sure that the doubting or opposing voice is heard.
3. The current San Diego delegate, who teaches parliamentary procedure in "civilian" life, told me he is frequently appalled by the results of our use of what we hope are Roberts

Rules of Order. Roberts, or any other such procedural rules, are meant to facilitate decisions and to promote harmony. They are not intended to be used to create confusion and disunity. We should never use them as a means of manipulating a meeting to achieve approval of our ideas. Although I don't think this sort of willful manipulation happens very often, many of us have been to service meetings at which rigid use of procedural rules resulted in confusion, and frustration of the group conscience. It is all too common to have complicated motions made early in a discussion, perhaps amended two or three times, and voted on before the group understands the issues. No one really means to "railroad" anything — the group simply ties itself up in an effort to follow procedural rules. Ideally, motions should be discouraged until the discussion has reached the point that the group feeling is clearly sensed, so that the motion merely puts it on the record.

All of these ideas place responsibility on the group and the chairperson, but it can and does work. In our monthly CNCA meetings we have come a long way. No one individual is successful in overpowering the group through force of personality (although I guess some of us have tried). The recent area chairpersons have shown great sensitivity in making sure that minority views, even when unpopular, are heard. At times we have a little trouble with motions and procedural rules, but not to the point they destroy the group conscience. Decisions of importance are never made in haste and are frequently referred back to the districts and talked about for months before a final vote. Always, if it is an important matter, the committee works for "substantial unanimity" — the point at which everyone is "comfortable" with the decision, even if not in complete agreement.

George D.

TOLERANCE

The most lovable quality any human being can possess is tolerance. —It is the vision that enables one to see things from another's viewpoint. —It is the generosity that concedes to others the right to their own peculiarities. —It is the bigness that enables us to let people be happy in their own way instead of our way.

—Anonymous.

(Reprinted from the Good Will Magazine, San Francisco)

H & I BROADSIDE

HURRAH! The Northern California Hospital & Institutions Committee made it thru 25 years without doing in the state medical & prison system and causing a rebellion within the fellowship.

In recognition of this memorable occasion, the Committee has planned a special 25th Anniversary Program for presentation at the Fall NCC Conference at Santa Rosa Oct. 21-23.

Our Saturday H&I Program will be chaired by past General Chairman, HUMBLE Bill S. of Stockton. (He always wanted to speak on Humility but his sponsor would never have it.) Bill was the 4th in succession to our general chairmanship. — Vintage 1965. That was the year your writer first tasted booze (someone spiked my Ovaltine). Bill says he doesn't want anyone to make a fuss over him — just treat him as they would any other Great Man. (He used to tell the committee — "Of course it's only a suggestion, but lets not forget Who's making it.)

The Non-AA Speaker Sat. will be Mr. A.B. (Gus) Harrington (Ret.) (You shouldn't have any trouble distinguishing Gus — he'll be the only one on the program who'll make any sense.) Gus is a great friend of AA and cooperated with the committee in various capacities in the Dept. of Corrections from 1954-1969. After dealing with the likes of Bill and Walter McK. it's a wonder he wasn't driven to drink. No offense, Gus.)

The Saturday AA Speaker will be none other than our own Stan (Barrymore) W. of Fairfax. You remember Stan — he's the Ex-Trustee turned actor. The oldtimers will recall Stan from his award winning performance as Side Saddle Sam in the Saga of the "4 Horsemen of San Quentin". He comes to us amid Raving Reviews (and many resentments) fresh from the new smash AA Hit Play — "The 12 Traditions of Fairfax". (Stan was the one with the Dry Pants.) Stan's performance Sat. will be entitled—"H&I: How it was — What happened — and What the H. . . went wrong." You may applaud anytime you like.---

Sunday A.M. the H&I festivities will be ramrodded by another Ex-General Chairman — George (never lost an argument) R. of Concord—Vacaville. (Arguing with George is like trying to blow out an electric light bulb. The only time he'll listen to an argument is when it's between Bill S. and Walter R.

First to speak Sunday morning will be longtimer and recent past Regional Chairman — Ernie B of San Francisco. (Someone ought to tell Ernie to stop running Big Books on his Sailboat to Alcatraz — it's

been closed for years.)

Our 2nd speaker will be recent past Co-Chairman Bud (Trombone) G. of Pinole. (Bud's secret ambition is to play the Trombone Sober before a large crowd. AA is probably the only place in the World he could get away with it.)

Next speaker to the podium will be Walter (Thrifty) R. of Alameda, our recently retired Treasurer. (Walt sez he's not retired — just Plain Tired. When he says it's not the Money but the Principle of the thing — you can be sure it's the Money. Before spending a Buck, he would consider carefully how it would affect his favorite Hobby — Hoarding Money.)

The last H&I speaker of the A.M. (and probably the most distinguished looking) is none other than His Highness — Walter McK. of "Sacramento" on the Valley". Walter is a past (way past) Executive General Chairman. Executive, Outstanding Citizen, Pillar of the Community, Advisor to Crowned Heads, Walker of Many Waters. (He wouldn't hesitate to drive up to the Gate of Heaven and Honk. As Executive General Chairman, of the committee, he Delegated all the Authority, Shifted all the Blame, and Took all the Credit.)

We are just kidding of course. Mainly poking a little fun at some dear oldtimers we all love. In H&I we never take ourselves too seriously but are serious about sobriety and our jobs. For we believe that God has been gracious to each of us on the committee with sobriety and an opportunity to serve Him. Do come to the conference and share with us and maybe even laugh a little. You are all invited.

— Jack W.

P.I. FOOTNOTES

When You Called A.A., Did You Get What You Wanted?

The number of calls from professional men and women seeking information about AA, or referring clients, seems to be rising, we are delighted to note.

In April, at the annual meeting of our General Service Conference (a representative assembly), the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "In the spirit of cooperation, we should respond to all calls for help with information about AA whether the call comes from an alcoholic or from a professional calling for his patient or client."

Although the Conference — like any other AA body — has no authority over AA members and groups, its carefully thought-out Advisory Actions are a consensus of what is probably the best AA thinking available, and they do carry some weight.

Jack G.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Eastbay Group — 5201 Park Blvd., Oakland — 8:30 pm
Sept. 27 — Ivan B. (Novato).

In-Between Fellowship — 4710 E. 14th St., Oakland
8:30 — Sept. 2, — Cliff M. (El Cerrito), Sept. 9 —
John J. (El Sobrante), Sept. 16 — Paul H. (Albany),
Sept. 23 — Cecil (Brisbane)

Islad Fellowship — 1828 Lincoln Ave., Alameda —
8:30 — Sept. 3 Harvey E. (Woodland), Sept. 10 —
Jack B. (Modesto), Sept. 17 — Bill S. (Stockton), Sept. 24
Dick K. (Palm Springs)

Mountain Vista Farm — 3020 Warm Springs Rd.,
Glen Ellen, — 8:30 — Sept. 9 — Frank B. (Glen Ellen),
Sept. 16 — Bill W. (San Diego), Sept. 23 — Tom F.
(Santa Rosa), Sept. 30 — Bruce B. (Concord)

Park St. Center — 1348½ Park St., Alameda — 8:30 —
Sept. 16 — Gene D. (Calistoga)

Grapevine Speakers Group — 1948 The Alameda, San
Jose — 8:30 — Sept. 9, Jim A. (S.F.), Sept. 16 —
Sue C. (S.F.), Sept. 23 — Bruce H. (San Jose), —
Sept. 30 — Jack C. (S.F.)

Brisbane All Groups — 250 Visitacion Ave., Brisbane —
7:30 — Sept. 4 — Joe S. (San Mateo), Sept. 11 —
Reiner K. (Moss Beach), Sept. 18 — Ray Mc (So.
S.F.), Sept. 25 — Frank P. (Belmont)

Friday All Groups — 414 Grant Ave., San Francisco
— 8:30 — Sept. 9 — Bob O'N (S.F.), Sept. 16 — Louise K;
(S.F.), Sept. 23 — Chuck Mc M. (S.F.), — Sept. 30 —
Jim A. (So. S.F.)

Thursday Beginners — 1755 Clay St., San Francisco —
8:30 — Sept. 8 — Leon M. (Stockton), Sept. 15 —
Jean H. (Sacramento), Sept. 22 — Harvey E. (Wood-
land), Sept. 29 — Hean B. (Belmont)

Vallejo Fellowship — 445 Georgia St., Vallejo —
8:30 — Sept. 10 — Napa Joe, Sept. 17 — Denise B.
(San Mateo Co. NCA), Sept. 24 — Farley (Corte
Madera)

NEW GROUPS

Oroville Feather River Fellowship
720 Montgomery St. (across from Sambo's. Open
meetings every night except Mondays at 8:00 pm.

Lathrop Fellowship
1911 E. Hwy. 120, Lathrop — Sunday at 2:00.
Monday at 8:00, Wednesday at 8:00

Auburn Fellowship
New open candlelight group now meeting at 1470
Canal St., Auburn, 10:30 to midnight every Monday.

Ebarra
2116 E. 14th St., Oakland — 7 pm, open

El Chante
425 Vernon St., Oakland, — 8 pm.

West Oakland
Peralta and 10th St., Oakland (Prescott School)
Fridays at 7 pm.

**"LIFE IS SOMETHING LIKE A TRUMPET: IF
YOU DON'T PUT ANYTHING IN IT YOU DON'T
GET ANYTHING OUT!"**

W.C; Handy

Alcohol Awareness Day — Petaluma

The Alano Club of Petaluma is sponsoring the 2nd
Annual Alcohol Awareness Day on Sept. 24 at
Kenilworth Hall, Petaluma (across from Fairgrounds
on Washington St.), between noon and 10 pm.
The Public Information day will feature guest speakers
and a panel of six professionals in the field of alcohol-
ism, discussing the topic "Alcohol — how it affects
jobs, family & pocketbooks". The panel consists
of Paul Hyman, Rue Lawrence, Rev. Dr. Gil Avotte,
Ken Grunbugh, and Gary Gardner. The films "Drink,
Drank, Drunk" and "Freedom Fest!" will also be
shown.

Hannibal W. (S.F. will be the speaker at an open AA
meeting at 8 pm. The general public is invited! Sounds
like a very interesting day! Why not plan to attend and
bring a friend!

Ellie A. and Don F.

NEVER LOSE THE MESSAGE BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE FOR THE MESSENGER

INSTEAD OF THINKING MYSELF INTO GOOD LIVING, I LIVE MYSELF INTO GOOD THINKING.

Gil A.

10th Annual Oktoberfest

The Myrtledale Groups of AA announce their 10th Annual Oktoberfest, to be held at the beautiful Calistoga Fairgrounds on Sunday, Oct. 9th at 3:30 pm. Guest speaker will be John A (Laguna Beach), followed by that famous authentic German buffet, featuring the famous Myrtledale Brown Bread & Bratwurst. Plenty of seating and parking for all!!

San Francisco General Service

On Tuesday, August 9, Lois F, outgoing Bay Area Chairperson, gave a stimulating talk on the role of the GSR in service. Lois then led a lively discussion on Agenda Topics for the April of 1978 Conference.

Lois, who will be joining the staff of GSO in New York, will be greatly missed by her many friends in this area.

General Service meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 8 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1100 Gough St. (at Geary), San Francisco.

Anne G.

"The Professionals", an AA meeting for people working in the field of alcoholism, is continuing to meet on Monday nights at 8 pm at the Oakland Alano Club, 319 E. 14th St. The meeting is growing in strength and diversity. If you work in the field and feel the need to share your frustrations and experiences with an understanding group of peers, come on up.

San Francisco Annual Banquet

The San Francisco Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will be holding their Annual Banquet on Friday, October 28, 6:30 pm, Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter St. & Mason, S.F. The speaker will be Jack B (Hollywood). "No host - soft drink - cocktail bar" and superb prime rib with all the trimmings (tickets \$2.00).

Tickets are going fast so don't miss out. Make checks payable to: AA Banquet, mail to: Banquet Committee, Room 804, 166 Geary St., San Francisco, CA 94108.

Saturday Night Movies

Double Features - 2910 Telegraph Ave., Oakland - 7:30 pm - 2nd Sat. of month for next four months.

Sept. 10 - *Chalk Talk* - Father Martin's film of alcohol and alcoholism. History and usage and the progression of alcoholism. *To Your Health* - Animated history of drinking patterns and habits.

H & I Workshop - Area 9 - Fresno

Sept. 10th - 3 to 6 pm - Alano Club - 1350 N. 11th St.

Speakers - Joe C. (General Chairman for Northern H&I) and Jerry G. (State Chairman for 1978 H & I all state conf). An open forum will follow the speaker. There will be a Dutch treat dinner at the Outpost, 6:30 pm following the meeting. Please contact Bernard G. (805) 268-2511 or Jean P., (805) 268-7725 by Sept. 3 to make reservations for dinner.

Area 9 covers Fresno and surrounding communities, Hospital and Institution committee members, coordinators, panel members, and ALL interested AA members. Please plan to attend.

HELP WANTED - SACRAMENTO

Deane, our current Central Office Secretary, has announced his desire to retire, thereby creating an opening in Sacramento for the position of Secretary of the Central California Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Qualifications include five years continuous and immediate sobriety; service as a group secretary or delegate or have equivalent AA experience; knowledge of office procedures and administration; thorough knowledge of the Traditions, and good health. Salary open.

All resumes will be treated in strict confidence and must be received prior to September 1, 1977.

The Twelve Traditions play will be live and on stage Saturday, September 10, at the Fairview School, 1st and Kentucky Streets, Fairfield, beginning at 7:30 pm. This extremely hilarious and informative production was originally written and produced by AA members in Tucson, had its premiere at the Pacific Assembly in Boise several years ago. Since that time it has been given by AA players all over the west, and always a success. This local presentation is by the Napa artists, and is presented as a part of the Inter-group Service Workshop sponsored by the Upper Solano Service Committee.

"You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere."

Chas. F. Kettering

A NEW RECIPE

Recently I was listening to a rugged Scotsman who shared part of his AA recovery with me. He was telling me (and several hundred others at an AA convention in Bournemouth, England) how he can continue in his line of work and still stay sober. He must talk with people while they are in pubs (English bars and social centers). People always want to buy him a drink — and, of course, they expect that courtesy to be returned. Well, my friend orders a "Barmaid's Nightmare" in a pint mug. A Barmaid's Nightmare is 6 to 8 oz. of orange drink and 6 oz. of ginger ale. He does this for two reasons: (1) it takes him just as long to drink this as it does for his friends to drink their pints of ale and (2) it costs about the same as one of the alcoholic drinks — so that he does not feel like he is letting them off lightly". Such a Scotsman! Such humor! Such Love!

I want to thank him because I wanted (needed?) some kind of device so that I could spend some social time with my British co-workers. We are all working on a special task that requires long hours and close communication. These men do not know about my "disease" and have no reason (at present) to be told. But I am the only non-drinker and, because of British social culture, these men make much fanfare about "Buy the next round."

It must be pointed out (to people who do not know British workers) that our company has a bar that opens at noon for 2½ hours and again at about 6 pm for 4½ hours. These are regular British pub hours. Buying a single drink at other times is quite difficult.

The Barmaid's Nightmare has been quite a shock for my co-workers, but I gave them the Scotsman's reasons as my own. One man asked me not to drink another because he was getting sick! Maybe I've found a prospect! We shall see. . .

At the Bournemouth convention, the problem of alcoholism in British industry was discussed in an open meeting. From the standpoint of how AA might get new members before they have "lost it all". Not much progress was made. One man summed it up when he pointed out that some members of the Board of Directors of his company were probably candidates for AA, but would refuse to admit it. Where I work, I personally know two very fine technical people who lost their jobs in the past six months as a direct result of alcoholism. These two are friends of mine, but they each refuse to believe that alcohol has anything to do with their troubles. "But For The Grace Of God" aid the help of a Social Worker in south Texas

who got "thru" to me about going to AA — I would still be "out there" changing jobs, lying to get a new one — or I would be in prison.

Don M. (an overseas agent)

The New Life Group at Fairmont Hospital will be having their **FIRST Birthday Friday, September 9th.** We will have an open AA speakers meeting with Bob D. (Pinole), followed by birthday cake and fellowship. All are welcome to attend. It has been a good year of two meetings a week, Fri. night 8 pm and Sun. Night 8 pm. A good blending of people from detox, people from Fairhome, and people for the community at large.

This event will be at Fairmont Hospital Auditorium, 15400 Foothill Blvd., San Leandro.

Easy-Does-It /Ron H.

LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS, YOU CAN'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM ALL YOURSELF.

Bay Area AA Picnic

Santa Clara and Alameda Counties and Valley Service Center invite you to join them for a picnic on Sunday Sept. 11, 10 am to dusk at the Hidden Valley Ranch (exclusive) in Warm Springs (between Fremont and Milpitas), Mission Blvd. (0.4 mi. East of rt. 680, south 0.3 mi. past winery on Stanford Ave). Coffee — free charcoal — free beans — games — prizes — swimming — volleyball — snackbar — Plenty of arm's length AA — an AA meeting — 12 Tradition Play.

Tickets: \$1.50 adults (\$2 at gate), 75¢ ages 6-15, under 6 free — Available from your Representative, Central Office, or at the gate.

12 Tradition Play

The Tradition Players will be performing at the Contra Costa Service Center Anniversary on Sept. 10th and at the Bay Area Picnic in the afternoon on Sept. 11th. See items in this issue for details.

If any group or Fellowship would wish to have the Tradition Players put on a performance, write or phone: The Tradition Players, 134 Nevada St., San Francisco, CA 94110 — (415) 285-4432.

Marin Alano Club

Rummage Sale — Sept 17 & 18 — 1360 Lincoln Ave. Clean a closet, drawer, basement or attic and bring your donations by the 10th.

"We succeed in enterprises which demand the positive qualities we possess, but we excel in those which can also make use of our defects".

Alexis de Tocqueville

CALENDER

Sept. 10	Annual H&I picnic — Morton Hot Springs in Kenwood
Sept. 10	* H&I Workshop — Fresno
Sept. 10	* Contra Costa Service Center 11th Anniversary
Sept. 10	12 Step Play — Tracy F'ship, 2531 Holly Dr. Tracy, 8 pm
Sept. 11	* Bay Area Picnic — Warm Springs
Sept. 15	* Santa Clara County PI
Sept 23 - 25	Tahoe Fall Festival
Sept. 24	* Alcohol Awareness Day — Petaluma
Oct. 9	* Oktoberfest — Calistoga
Oct. 21 - 23	* NCCAA Annual Fall Conf. Santa Rosa
Oct. 28	* S.F. Intercounty Annual Banquet
Oct. 28-30	Las Vegas Roundup
Nov. 12	CNCA Fall Assembly — San Mateo
Nov. 19	CNIA Election Assembly

* See write-up elsewhere in this issue.

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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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRAPEVINE

What's Coming Up in October

Everything from "how it was" (a sober AA's recollection of the morning after a blackout, and a humorous anecdote about one wife's surefire way of getting rid of her alcoholic spouse) to "how it is" (pages and pages of sharing about sobriety NOW).

The issue begins with articles on the Fourth and Fifth Steps, by AA's who know from their own experience that those two Steps are the keys to freedom in sobriety. We see the power of the program at work in articles about a member who started a new group on his own because he needed to find other AA's, and one about those "coincidences" that happen too often in AA to be anything but a greater Power at work in our lives. And a long-time member tells us about "Living the Program" at age 75 and finding that every year it *does* get better.

We deal with problems, too: Those old favorites, resentment and the desire to "run the show," along with the surprisingly common situation of divorce in sobriety.

Our Primary Purpose and the Special-Purpose Group

A section of five articles sharing experience and opinions sheds light on a subject that sometimes raises hackles in the Fellowship. Are special-purpose groups exclusive? Or do they make AA more inclusive by attracting people who might not otherwise join at all? Do we *all* pick our groups because of "special" qualities that attract us — groups whose members are in similar social and economic situations, or perhaps share our religious beliefs? What do special groups contribute to AA as a whole? The section opens with an article by "Dr. Jack" Norris, non-alcoholic chairman of AA's General Service Board, and is completed by the insights of four different AA members.

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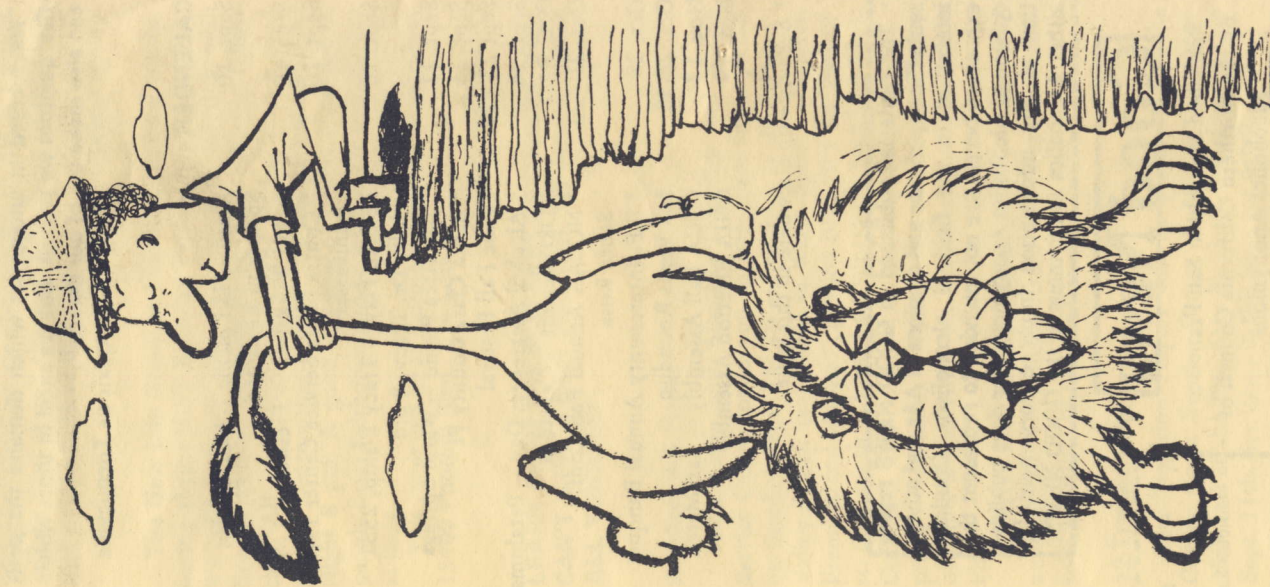
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