



Good News



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THE THIRD LEGACY (continued)

When first published the Traditions got a mixed reaction. In some quarters there was a violent reaction against them. At the other extreme there was much apathetic indifference. Still others said "Let's keep AA simple". To them the Twelve Traditions seemed only a needless expression of the fears of headquarters for AA's future. Time has changed all that. Several years later it was recognized that the Twelve Traditions were going to be just as necessary to the life of our Society as the Twelve Steps were to the life of each member.

The period 1945 to 1950 was one of immense strain and test. AA was confronted by three grave issues (1) Money; (2) Anonymity; and (3), the most dangerous of all, what was to become of Alcoholics Anonymous when its old-timers and founders were gone? In 1947 Dr. Bob was stricken by an ailment which might prove fatal. Up to this time the main links between world services and AA itself had been Bill W, Dr. Bob and the secretarial staff. The Board of Trustees and the Alcoholic Foundation were scarcely known to the members at all. It was evident that here was a movement, which had grown to world-wide proportions, that had no direct access to its own principal service affairs. The Trustees had authority over our services; AA, itself, had no authority.

This situation had been a matter of great concern to Bill since publication of the Traditions in 1946, and there had been considerable discussion with the Trustees. At first the talk was vaguely about a hand-picked advisory council, or an elected conference of some sort. When Dr. Bob became ill, Bill began to feel the serious urgency of the problem, as did Bernard Smith, one of AA's great non-alcoholic friends, and chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years. However, the majority of the Board did not share this apprehension, and the resulting dissension almost blew the Foundation apart.

In 1948 Bill went on the road to sound out the Groups about the possibility of an elected conference, to which the Board of Trustees eventually could become accountable. He returned with the conviction

that the Groups would like to have full access to their own affairs through an elected conference. By 1949 Dr. Bob was definitely failing. This was a low ebb. By 1950 this conflict had been going on almost five years. The two men who ultimately saved the situation were non-alcoholic members of the Board of Trustees. At this critical juncture Bernard Smith was appointed chairman of the trustees committee on the proposed conference. Through his gifts for persuasion and negotiation the committee unanimously said "Let's give the conference a try". Soon after the Board of Trustees approved the Conference plan and gave Bill the authority to proceed.

With many misgivings Bill began to work on the draft of a detailed plan. Headquarters people and Trustees both made many fine suggestions. It was detailed to limit the Conference, at least in the beginning, to the United States and Canada only. Each state (province) might have one delegate each, with the provision that those containing heavy AA population could have additional representation. To give the Conference continuity, the delegates would be divided into two panels: Panel One to be elected in 1951, and Panel Two the following year; hence only half of the delegates would drop out at one time, and Conference membership would rotate.

As veterans of many a group hassle and intergroup brawl, Bill and his helpers worried about how elections could take place in each state without terrific political friction. They knew many election troubles were caused by personal nominations, whether from the floor or by a self-appointed committee in the back room. A scheme therefore was devised of choosing committeemen by written ballot, with no personal nominations at all. It was stipulated that each delegate must receive a two-thirds vote of his assembly for election; and if no two-thirds majority were obtainable, the trick was invented to place the name of the lead man, and maybe one or two runners-up, in a hat and take their chance at a drawing. Since the high persons in the running would almost always be good ones, we could not miss getting a fine panel of delegates.

(To Be Continued)

TRUSTEE NOMINEES FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

Announcement was made at the Pacific Region Service Assembly in Hawaii of the nominees proposed for election as Pacific Region Trustee at the General Service Conference in April. Nominees by Area are Charles D, Arizona; Jim S, California (Southern Area); Bill B, Calif. (San Diego Area); Ellery S, Calif. (Mid-Southern); Jack B, Calif. (Northern Interior); George D, Calif. (North Coastal); Bill G, Oregon; Shorty H, Washington; Ted B, Idaho; Ike B, Utah; Dick T, Nevada; and Pete P, Hawaii. No nominee was proposed from Alaska. This election is to replace Stan W, Fairfax, CA, who will rotate out at the General Service Conference. The term of the new Trustee will be four years, to commence serving at the conclusion of the Conference.

At the Conference meeting in New York in April a nominating session chooses one regional trustee nominee from the candidates. The session is chaired by the chairman of the Trustees' Nominating Committee. It meets in a roped-off section and may be observed by the Conference members.

Voting members of the nominating session are (1) delegates from each of the areas in the region involved; and (2) an equal number of voters — one-half to come from the Conference Committee on Trustees and one-half to come from the Trustees' Nominating Committee.

The slate of candidates is posted on a blackboard, and the session follows the Third Legacy procedure as outlined in the AA Service Manual. This procedure provides for automatic, rather than optional withdrawal of candidates, as approved by the 19th General Service Conference.

The trustee nominee chosen by this session at the Conference then is elected to the board of trustees at their annual meeting of members immediately following the Conference.

THE PITCH

The Northern Interior Area, among other things, is making a concerted effort to register all Group Service Representatives (GSR's) correctly and to educate more groups as to the importance of having a GSR. Each group who has a GSR, and who insists that the GSR be active in Assembly activities, is helping make informed decisions which not only could affect the local groups, but AA as a whole. Those groups who do not have a GSR are leaving the decision making up to someone else.

Once again, here is how you register your GSR. When your group has elected a GSR, send the name to the secretary, NIAGS, (that's short for Northern

Interior Area of General Service), 1117 El Terino, Modesto, CA 95350. Be sure to mention who the new GSR replaces so that the records are kept straight. The GSR who is rotating out should pass along to the new GSR, the Group Handbook which he has been using. (Oh, you say, yours got lost in the shuffle, or you've never had one? In that case, your group might wish to purchase one for the exclusive use of the GSR. This should be a big help in learning the responsibilities that go along with the name helps make the GSR a real trusted servant.

If the GSR is representing a brand new group, one which has never been registered, a Group Handbook will be sent to him/her. So if this is the case be sure to mention it when you send the name to the secretary.

As the result of Conference action last April, all GSR's now will receive a Service Manual. So, send the name to the secretary (address above) who will add it to the Interior Area Roster and then forward the information to Genreal Service Office in New York, and in a few weeks you will receive your Service Manual and other mailings from GSO.

In the next "Pitch" we'll talk about how to elect a District Committee Member, and what is expected from that trusted servant.

Marge K

To me an AA meeting is a place where I walk into a room and I know everybody is for me.

The San Francisco Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous now has a Speakers Bureau. These AA members are "READY, WILLING, AND ABLE" to speak to non-AA groups that want to know more about the AA approach to alcoholism.

Our Public Information Committee urges you to contact the Central Office if you know about any non-AA groups — such as schools, PTA's, churches, service or civic clubs — that are interested in arranging these talks.

In the event that you are invited by any outside group to make a public appearance for AA, please check with the Public Information Committee, via the Central Office. In this way you can help our Speakers Bureau to carry the message more effectively.

"In all public relationships AA's sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest."

H & I BROADSIDE

My name is John and I am an alcoholic. Since this is my first column in the Good News, I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself. I joined Alcoholics Anonymous March 1, 1973. That's when I really started living — comfortably — without alcohol. This is sobriety. I had many dry periods during my drinking years. I would resolve to quit drinking, torque my jaws and dry out. I would be thirsty but refusing to drink — fighting the booze. Sooner or later — I was bound to get drunk. Today, thanks to AA, I have serene, tranquil sobriety without emotional extremes. I have learned even justifiable anger is an emotion I cannot afford.

After I had been in AA about ninety days, my sponsor urged me to participate in H&I work. I started going to the Detox Ward at the Valley Medical Center in San Jose. The Detox unit subsequently moved to Park Alameda Hospital and I moved with it. I'm still there — the first Monday of every month.

Three months after starting at the hospital, when I'd been in AA about six months — I started going to the Santa Clara County Jail. I still go there, the third Monday of every month. I attend many regular meetings in the Santa Clara Valley but these two — the Hospital and the Jail mean the most to me. They are where I get my spiritual batteries recharged.

The regular meetings are beautiful. I go to them to enjoy the fruits of my sobriety, to bask in the warmth of love and good will that radiates from the fellowship — to see old friends and make new ones. Never-the-less the Jail and the Hospital are number one and two in my book. Sometimes, after a meeting at the Jail, I sing — real loud — all the way home.

"H & I BROADSIDE" — A beautiful, brand new conference center in Monterey, CA was the setting for the Annual Spring Conference, March 10, 11, 12. The H & I open meeting, Saturday afternoon was very well attended and the speaker, Paul M, from Modesto, CA was fantastic! Paul is a very warm sensitive young man and certainly "carries the message" very well. The topic for Sunday morning's H & I panel meeting was: "How H&I work has helped me to stay sober". The four panelists (all women) shared the experience of their work in different hospitals and institutions, from a young Girls' Ranch in Southern California to a local jail in Northern California. The

four ladies on the panel, Jerry, Marie, Pamela and Vivian were very good examples of how H&I work can not only help one to stay sober, but certainly enhance the quality of one's sobriety! Louise C, (Castro Valley):

SOUTH OF MARKET GROUP CELEBRATES 32ND ANNIVERSARY

History lived Sunday afternoon, January 22nd, as some 250 alcoholics from San Francisco and the Bay Area gathered at 1175 Howard Street to pay tribute to the South of Market Group of Alcoholics Anonymous on the occasion of its 32nd Anniversary. Members and visitors listened while Juanita recalled founding the Group, the first in San Francisco's skid row area, back in 1946.

Working at the coffee bar at the old Alano Club at 143 Bush, Juanita observed two men come into the club, recently released from jail. They were tattered and downcast, and were shunned by fellow alcoholics who were well. Juanita turned to her sponsor, the late O.K., and said "My God, these men will never make it here. They need a place south of Market where they can feel comfortable." From this idea and with much hard work, the South of Market Group was born. One of the early helpers, an ex-Folsom inmate, absconded with the funds gathered to start the Group. There were no chairs and there was no coffee. However, some members reached into their pockets and the Group was kept alive.

First housed at the Salvation Army Hunt Street Chapel, early on the Group moved to the Day Center for Men at 235 Minna Street. In April of 1971 it moved to the present Ozanam Center at 1175 Howard Street.

In the early days the meeting was held on Saturday night, and often as many as 200 attended. Co-founder Bill W. visited the Group in 1951, when he was out here to receive the Lasker Award on behalf of AA. His comment, as related by Juanita, was "This is marvellous — we ought to have this on the Bowery", leading some to believe this was AA's first skid row group anywhere.

Many members, mostly old timers, shared in the course of the day — a participation meeting followed by a lavish buffet — and their memories of experience, strength, and hope at South of Market reveal that the Group was then what it is today, a leveler, a synthesis of our Twelfth Tradition and the spiritual essence of anonymity. Personalities give way to principles at South of Market, and one immediately knows and feels that the highest we can go in AA is sober.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

SPEAKER MEETINGS

IN-BETWEEN FELLOWSHIP - 4710 East 14th St., Oakland - Friday - 8:15 - April 7 - D.D. Trudie (Oakland) - April 21 - Karen D (San Lorenzo) - April 28 - A.D., (Hayward) (Every 4th Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Potluck Buffet followed by films).

EL CERRITO FELLOWSHIP - 11231 San Pablo Ave. - El Cerrito - 8:30 p.m. - April 29 - Jane O'T, (San Francisco) (Birthday Night).

ISLAND FELLOWSHIP - 1828 Lincoln Ave. - Alameda - Saturday - 8:30 p.m. - April 1 - Discussion Meeting - Pre Conference - April 8 - AA, Shirley L, (Lafayette), - Al-Anon, Mary M, (S.F.) - April 15 - Jack B, (Walnut Creek) - April 22 - Rachael S, (Benecia) - April 29 - Tom C, (Alameda) (Birthday Night).

MOUNTAIN VISTA FARM - 3020 Warm Springs Rd. - Glen Ellen - Friday - 8:30 p.m. - April 7 - Jim S, (Sonoma) - April 14 - To be Announced - April 21 - Frank S, (San Francisco) - April 28 - To be Announced.

RAP AT NOON - 319 14th St. - Oakland - Monday 12:00 Noon - April 10 - Father Brennan.

WEST OAKLAND - 920 Campbell St. (Prescott School Audit.) - Oakland, 7:00 p.m. - April 28 - Allen R. (Oakland).

SAN LORENZO ALATEENS present "The Garbage Game", a skit, on April 16, 7:00 p.m., Weekes Park Community Center, Patrick Ave., Hayward (Nimitz Fry. to E. Tennyson turnoff - left at first signal lit onto Patrick). Experience, strength and hope shared in panel discussions - AA - Al-Anon - Alateen, Alateen speaker - Tammy (San Jose).

FIRST ANNIVERSARY - Cliffhangers - April 22 - Saturday, 8:00 p.m. - Westlake Lutheran Church - 222 Avalon Dr - Daly City - speaker Gene D, (Calistoga)

PENINSULA ALL GROUPS - St. Matthews Church - Baldwin & El Camino - San Mateo - April 1, - Bill G, (San Bruno Mon.) - April 8 - Ed K, (Santa Cruz) - April 15 - Silas P. (Telegraph Hill) - April 22 - Harry R, (Downtown) - April 29 - Linda I, (Half Moon Bay).

FRIDAY ALL GROUPS - Alano Club - 8:30 p.m. - 414 Grant Ave. - San Francisco - April 7 - Bobbi P, (Daly City) - April 14 - Herman B, (Fillmore Fellowship) - April 21 - Vern S, (Compass Group) - April 28 - Nadine S, (Martinez).

THURSDAY BEGINNERS - 8:30 p.m. - 1755 Clay St. - San Francisco - April 6 - Cecil C. (Brisbane) - April 13 - Marilyn D, (San Rafael) - April 20 - Meek M (Redwood City) - April 27 - "Bus" D, (Colma).

BLOOD BANK - EAST BY INTERGROUP -

Blood is available to members of AA, but we must build up our credit. Call today for information. BLOOD BANK of Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Assn. - 654-2929 (Oak) or Oakland Central Office 653-4300.

502 OBSERVATION: Petaluma Alcoholism Ctr. - 501 Petaluma Blvd., South - Wednesday eves. - 8:30 - 9:30. For more info. contact Jon (707) 795-7135, Rita (707) 763-6269. Many Alateen groups have failed but this is going to make it!

Planning a vacation in Maine? How about attending the First Main Area AA Round-up, July 21-23, 1978. Contact: Maine Area Round-up - P.O. Box 41 - New Sharon, Maine 04955.

Plans are underway for the **San Francisco's Inter-county Fellowship Annual AA Banquet** - Saturday, October 14, 1978 - 6:30 p.m. - Marines' Memorial Club - 609 Sutter St. at Mason - S.F. - Tickets \$12 - Contact: Banquet Committee - Suite 804 - 166 Geary St., S.F. 94108.

The 12 Step Play takes off again beginning their 13th year of Service of Carrying the Message of the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

See how Chapter five and the 12 steps were first written in the Later Part of the year 1938. Live by Homer D, and his 12 Step Players. Their 67th presentation will be at the Contra Costa Alano Club in Richmond, CA 84 Broadway at 2:00 p.m. Sunday April the 16th, 1978. For information about the 12 Step Play Call Homer D, (415-357-8220). in San Leandro, CA.

CALENDAR

- Apr. 7-9** 21st Annual AA Irish Convention - Limerick, Ireland
- May 5-7** 6th Annual H&I Conf. - Sheraton Inn Fresno (See March G.N.)
- May 5-7** CNCA Post Conf. Assembly - Town House, Salinas
- May 12-14** 7th Annual Reno Spring Festival - Sparks, NV Write Festival Cnm., PO Box 82, Reno, NV 89504
- June 23-25** Founders Day 1978 - Akron, Ohio

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRAPEVINE

Circulation Goal Reached: 100,000

Well, you did it! With the enthusiasm and support of all our dedicated GvR's, area committees, area newsletters, and Conference committees, we've reached a milestone in the history of the Grapevine. With this March 1978 issue — 100,000 circulation! Your friends at your Grapevine office are most grateful and appreciative. Thanks for the wonderful job you've done — not so much because of the circulation itself, but because more AA members now have the opportunity to read the Grapevine and benefit from the message it carries.

You'll be especially interested in the centerfold, "Through the Years With the Grapevine," which points out and illustrates some significant issues, articles, and events since the first Grapevine came off press in June, 1944.

All of us here at the Grapevine think of the circulation figure not only as the achievement of a goal but also as an opportunity for a new beginning, as the Grapevine reaches out to more and more people. It's appropriate, therefore, that the March issue is a special issue for newcomers. It's dedicated to "how it was" when we first came to the AA program — a sharing of experience and a reminder of basic principles we should never forget.

The experiences of both newcomers and longer-time members enrich the pages of the Grapevine this month. You'll go with a brand new man to his first meeting and watch him go from cynical despair to budding hope. You'll benefit from the insights of a long-time member, who describes how he works with newcomers as a sponsor, leading them through the Twelve Steps to a solid, happy sobriety. You'll share in the magic of a new person's coming alive in the program, and in the joy of seeing our new, sober selves mirrored in the eyes of loved ones. And you'll be reminded that the beginner of today will become one of the guardians of AA's future.

There's heavy emphasis, of course, on fundamentals; keep coming around; identify — don't compare; get to meetings; stick with the basics; use the tools of the program, including the Serenity Prayer. Members share their experience of dealing with resentment and of learning to live by spiritual principles. One writer tells: "how it is" after thirty days; and we're reminded that when we get sober, we're not giving anything up — we're getting rid of the monkey on our back!

The Sacramento Area PI-CPC Committee (Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community) meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., at the Woodlake Inn. This committee has operated for some time as the Public Information Committee. It is in the process of weighing what is public information and what is cooperation with the professional community. In this light, the members will reach a group conscience as to whether they will accomplish more if they divide into two arms.

Of course there would be some mutual areas of responsibility — and each would cooperate with the other when needed.

Anyone wishing to join this important venture is invited to do so. More information can be obtained by calling the Sacramento Central Office, 916-443-8138. Carl M, from Sacramento is PI chairman and Marge K, from Broderick is CPC chairman.

The Service Districts in and around Sacramento meet each first Thursday of the month in Suite C-1, 1040 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, starting at 8:00 p.m.

These meetings are held for the purpose of studying the Service Manual, discussing local group problems, searching for better ways to carry the service message, learning of all the possible service committee work a member may participate in, and any other subject which arises when we work with one another in carrying out our primary purpose.

The districts now participating include 117, 223, 225, 227, 227-A and 229. Other neighboring districts are cordially invited to attend.

UNITY DAY IN SANTA CRUZ

A "Unity Day" conference will be held at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium on Saturday, May 20. Speakers include Dean K, Oakland, Jim M, Sacramento and Johnny H, from Lakewood.

The one day conference, sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Intergroup, takes its theme from the second of AA's three legacies, and registration (no charge) opens at 9:30 a.m. The program, starting at 10:30 a.m. includes a panel, four workshops, and two speakers in the morning and afternoon, followed by a showing of the GSO filmstrips "P.O. Box 459" and "Circles of Love and Service". There will be breaks for lunch and dinner. The evening speaker at 8:30 p.m. will be Johnny H, from Lakewood, and a dance will follow from 10:30 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. Come spend the weekend in Santa Cruz. — Ed E

PRSA AT HAWAII A SUCCESS

Members from the nine western states gathered at the Kuilima Hotel, Kajuku Point, at the northernmost point of the Island of Oahu, Hawaii the weekend of March 3,4,5, 1978 at the Eleventh Pacific Regional Service Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous. Total registration was 357, including about 25 AA's from Northern California. In attendance were Conference Delegates from all thirteen areas of the Pacific Region, with the exception of the State of Oregon.

Registration commenced at 10 AM Friday, March 3. The program included panels and discussion from the floor on the subjects "AA in Hawaii", "AA Policy in Action", "AA's Responsibility," "Working with Others", "AA Trusted Servants", "AA Traditions and Concepts", and an "Ask-It-Basket" (Ask-It-Calabash in Hawaiian terms) which comprised a panel of all twelve delegates in attendance. The banquet Saturday night featured as speakers, Stan W, Trustee from Fairfax, CA, who is rotating out at the General Service Conference in April, and Betty W, past-AlAnon Delegate from Oregon.

For early comers and those who stayed over an AA Group was formed Thursday night, March 2, called the Kuilima Group 1. It held two AA meetings and disbanded Sunday night, March 5. AlAnon meetings were held simultaneously with the PRSA panels, but in separate facilities. Because of the remoteness of the Kuilima Hotes (some forty miles from Honolulu), there was a strong feeling of togetherness at this Assembly.

The Twelfth Pacific Regional Service Assembly will be held in the Reno-Sparks community in Nevada the weekend of March 9-10-11, 1979.

CIRCULATION FOR JANUARY

1977 - 90,318

Number of GvR's:

1978 - 98,350

January 11, 1978 - 1607

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 5th Annual "Myrtledale Classic" Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, May 20 at the golf course at the Calistoga Fair Grounds. Come and have a whole day of good AA Fellowship. Starting time from 7:00 am until 1:00 am. Ladies are more than welcome.

\$15.00 per person includes a buffet lunch at Myrtledale, green fees, golf cap and a lavish gourmet dinner. If you just want to have a fun day, \$7.00 for Gallery Watchers includes the buffet lunch and dinner. Trophies and prizes for winners including worst score. There will be a special AA meeting at 8:00 p.m. following the banquet and trophy presentations with guest speaker Don M, from Long Beach.

Mail reservations to "Myrtledale Classic", 4225 Army St., Apt. 1, San Francisco 94131 or for further information call Kenny at (707) 942-5367 or Rich at (415) 992-0822 or (415) 756-6825.

No need to be a "Pro" - the only qualification is the desire to stay sober. Hope to see you there.

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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SONORA MOTHERLODE AREA: Good snow packs in the Sierra Nevadas is generating a heavy influx of winter sport enthusiasts heading East on Hiway 108 for the Dodge Ridge and Pinecrest Lake areas. Recovering and new members frolicking in the snow are also responsible for increased attendance at recent Sonora (29) and Twain Harte (24) meetings.

MOTHERLODE MINI-CONFERENCE: Planning sessions are in process — Group Conscience, so far, indicates a Saturday later part of April to be more favorable and this will allow time for all interested members and service identities to conclude final agenda for this all-day conference. (more later).

COOPERATION NOT AFFILIATION: The doors of State Funded Alcohol Drop-In Centers in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties actively swing both ways providing information and assistance to recovering alcoholics, newcomers and friends interested in our disease. Recovering members acting in a professional capacity manage the following drop-in centers:

Sonora (Tuolumne Co.) Alcohol Info. Ctr. — 635 S. Stewart St., Sonora, CA (209-532-3712) Bob and Jean K.

Alcohol Program Office of Calaveras Co. — 109 St. Charles St., San Andreas, CA 95249 (209-754-4390) Lafray S.

Alano Club of Contra Costa

April 2, 1978, the first Sunday of the month, we serve Pot Luck. A warm invitation is extended to all who would like to join us for good fellowship and fun.
4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

April 16, 1978 at 2:00 p.m., we are having the 12 Step play. We welcome all visitors who have not seen it, and those we know would enjoy it again.

A May day dance and buffet is planned for Friday night, the 28th of April. Live Music and a good time promised for all.

Bingo is played every Saturday night, starting at 8:00 p.m. Join us for a fun filled evening.

GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS, and more girls are needed at the new "WOMEN'S AA" group that meets on Monday mornings, 10:00 am at the Central Office. Come and share these things you feel you cannot share at the regular, sometimes chauvinistic male type meetings. Your support is needed! It's a great way to start the week. Further into the week, and looking forward to

more "girl talk", the LADY A group invites all AA women (and girls) to attend their meetings on Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. at 319 — 14th St., in beautiful downtown Oakland! . . . If you are on the lookout for new vistas check out the new meeting announced for **TROUBLE HOUSE** on Wednesdays at 8:15 p.m. (open) at 3212 San Pablo Ave., in Oakland.

PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM IN SEPTEMBER

The most recent Regional Forum, the Southwest AA Regional, was held in Amarillo, Texas the week-end of December 2-3-4, 1977. Those in attendance included 74 AA group members, 57 GSR's, 23 DCM's, 24 Committee Officers, 43 Past/present delegates, 8 Past/present trustees, and 2 Central Office staff members.

It is important to remember that these forums are intended simply as a way of providing better communication between AA service workers and the General Service Board and General Service Office. These meetings are really sharing sessions, and any reports simply cover that sharing; they do not constitute actions or recommendations to the Genreal Service Board or Conference. Such actions and recommendations are made solely through the General Service Conference, which is AA's policy and decision-making body. The forums are informal and unstructured and present an opportunity for all AA's in attendance to air their views and receive answers to their questions.

At the 1977 General Service Conference the Pacific Region delegates requested that the California delegates pursue the possibility of hosting a Regional Forum in a central location during 1978. By agreement of the Pacific Region delegates, Sacramento has been chosen as that central point.

Therefore, under the aegis of Marge K, Carmichael (past-delegate), plans have been made finally for the Pacific Regional Forum to be held at the Woodlake Inn, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, CA 95815 for the weekend of September 15-16-17, 1978. Reservation forms and other pertinent material will be forthcoming in the not too distant future from General Service Office, New York, so that personal planning can begin.

For most AA's this Regional Forum in Sacramento will be the closest thing to actually attending the annual meeting of the General Service Conference that can be experienced. Mark your calendars.

(To Be Continued)

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