



Good News



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August 1978

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A.A. - WHERE FRIENDS MEET



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A DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA's future: To place our common welfare first;
to keep our fellowship united.
For on AA unity depends our lives,
and the lives of those to come.

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AA'S USE OF FILMS AND TELEVISION

Because of the vocal minority complaints about the filming done at the NCC Spring Conference at Monterey in March 1978, the Northern Coastal Area's delegate researched the Archives at the General Service Office, and found letters written by Bill W in 1955 and 1956, in which he commented on the use of television and films in carrying the AA message. Excerpts from these letters are quoted:

"I think the real question turns on whether these media (TV and films) will, in the long run, do us more harm than good if we, as a society...use them. Is it better to leave the presentation of AA to commercial interests and irresponsible members, or shall we...try to give better information to all those who don't know, sometimes marking it 'This is AA'. After all, we do this very thing on each piece of standard literature that is 'Conference approved'.

"I don't see that this necessarily involves us in 'competition' with anybody in particular or in 'being out of our field'. As I see it, the real question is whether television and movies are a safe and profitable means of informing about four million alcoholics 'who still don't know'. In a sense,

I suppose good information about AA does compete with the bad - truth displaces error.

"In that sense AA has always been extremely competitive - with very good results so far.

"The whole growth of AA has always been keyed to good communication and good publicity. This seems hardly debatable, yet people do debate it. Comfortably inside AA, they seem to forget how mighty dark things were before they heard from us.

"What real evidence have we so far got that television is going to be bad for AA; that a precedent is being set which will lead us to calamity on a dead-end road? All I'm sure of is that the road may be slippery and that many of us don't like ice. But in this case we have sharp skates - a list of legal controls as long as your arm.

"Under no conditions do I think we can lightly wave off communication mediums of such vast size and power. We cannot proceed in good conscience on the comfortable assumption that God - or anybody at all - is going to work full time on AA's public relations, thereby relieving the AA groups of their responsibility.

"Also we have to face another fact already well established; namely, that television and pictures are going to be produced about AA whether we like it or not. Our objections (to films) have amounted to nothing...This kind of experience suggests that our problem is not whether there will be pictures and video about AA; it is whether we of AA are going to take any creative responsibility in this field at all. Are we going to leave our public relations in television and pictures...to anybody at all? Or shall we try to offset these uncontrollable productions with the best we can do ourselves? Maybe this is the real question.

"Personally, I want to go on exploring this deal because:

1. It could avert suffering and save lives, perhaps many;
2. It could give the public an inside attractive view of AA;
3. It would dramatically show the public why we are anonymous and why we don't beg money - a further offset to exploitation; and
4. It could show our own membership a picture of AA as a whole, so increasing our unity and improving our finances.

"When it comes to the use of pictures and television as carriers of AA's message, I find I can't make a sound estimate that 'No' should be our answer."

H & I BROADSIDE by Ingrid V

Sue's Story - Sue came to her first AA meeting in a Federal Institution almost two years ago. Barely 23 years old, she was confused, bewildered and continuously disturbed the meetings. To watch her grow through the help of the program has been a very rewarding experience.

After not missing a meeting for four months, she announced one night that she was trying to change, that she wanted to be free from alcohol and pills and was doing it a day at a time, successfully. It was her turning point.

From then on she would wait for the AA members to arrive, set up the meeting and roundup the other prisoners. She became active in the meetings and instead of being the disturbing influence, would have a subject ready for discussion and got very good at sharing. Up to now, she had been very good at writing her feelings on paper and talking about her plans for the future with me but now she began sharing with the group. You see, she found hope. She learned to trust and have faith and because of her outlook on life, got permission to go to outside AA meetings.

Then there were the nerve racking "count down" days when she was sure something was going to happen (dooms day) to keep her there but then finally the great day arrived. She came walking through those gates looking pretty as a picture, crying and hugging the people who had come to greet her and kept saying "I made it, I made it!!!"

She left for Seattle and it took three months to hear from her again, three months of prayers for her. Finally that phone call came when I heard "Hi, this is Sue. Just got my own phone 10 minutes ago and wanted to call you first to tell you I am all right." It was a very happy sounding Sue who had gotten a job, an old car and that precious phone.

She had already carried the message of AA to her sister and had gotten her to go to meetings. Most of all, she said "I'll never forget you people who took the time to come to an institution and talk to us and never gave up."

We love you, Sue, and all of you in the hospitals and institutions who are trying to make it, a day at a time, just like those of us on the outside.

* * * * *

Larry O of El Cerrito - We thank you for your tireless efforts in carrying the message to all those confined and for being such a fine example for those of us who found the program much later. Truly, your presence at San Quentin, especially, will be missed but each one of us have our happy memories of sharing with you.

PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM by Dean K

Registrations are pouring in for the Pacific Regional Forum, to be held at the Woodlake Inn, Sacramento, CA, September 15-16-17, 1978. It is always difficult to estimate attendance at such events, but the projection is from 700 to 1,000. This is a first for the West Coast, and we are fortunate to have this event staged in our immediate community. This is an opportunity for the "grass roots" AA members to meet members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and employees of the General Service Office.

Since this Forum is completely informal and unstructured, there will be no formal program as such. However, a tentative agenda has been worked out. This will provide brief presentations by Board and GSO members Friday night, followed by an informal reception. Saturday morning will feature brief presentations by each of the thirteen Conference Delegates of the Pacific Region, followed by an extensive Ask-It-Basket and floor discussion, at which any subject may be brought up. There will be several workshops Saturday afternoon, once again not limited to any particular subject. Saturday night will be devoted primarily to an open floor discussion and further Ask-It-Basket questions. Sunday morning will close with brief remarks by past trustees and past delegates, and a final address by the Chairman of the General Service Board.

There will be no social events planned during this Forum, as this event is strictly an informal sharing session and the time allotted will be devoted to answering questions from AA members in service.

Although there is no registration fee, registrations are requested, so that GSO can have some idea of how many AA's will be in attendance. Registration forms can be obtained from your group's GSR, and should be submitted not later than August 14, 1978.

EL CERRITO FELLOWSHIP

Regular meetings are being held at 5:50 and 8:30 Monday thru Sunday in the kitchen of their regular meeting place. Because of extensive fire damage, all other meetings are being held elsewhere. For further information, call: 232-9743 or 653-4300.

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Forget your hurry, pause awhile, lose your frown and wear a smile. Spare time to give a word of praise, think in minutes, not in days. Do it now, for time won't wait, tomorrow it may be too late.

* * * * *

A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF AA - ZONE K by Catherine S

Zone K delegates will hold a meeting Saturday, August 26, at the 12 x 12 Fellowship, 1807 G St., Modesto at 1 pm. These meetings are held to give members a better picture of the workings of the NCC of AA. There will be a discussion of happenings at the Pre-Conference meeting held in Stockton July 9 in preparation for the Fall Conference in Sacramento. As with all service activities, this meeting is open to any and all interested members.

THE GREAT DANGER - Author Unknown - Via Akron Intergroup News

The great danger facing all of us is not that we shall make an absolute failure of life, nor that we shall fall into outright viciousness, nor that we shall be terribly unhappy, nor that we shall feel life has no meaning at all --- no, not these things.

The danger is that we fail to perceive life's greatest meaning, fall short of its highest good, miss its deepest and abiding happiness, be unable to render the most needed service, be unconscious of life ablaze with light of the presence of God --- and be content to have it so --- that is the danger.

That some day we may wake up and find that always we have been busy with the husks and trappings of life and have really missed life itself.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAIL BAG

"Thank you for surviving" - Lila W, Moss Beach

"We like meeting new friends as well as old ones in Oakley. Am looking for a GOOD NEWS reporter from our area." - Becky

"I always enjoy the GOOD NEWS" - Elise W, San Jose

"Miles really do not separate us" - Jean O, LaMesa

"Every three months we can get together at our NCC Conferences but the GOOD NEWS keeps us in touch each month" - Homer D, San Leandro

Plus best wishes and words of encouragement were received from:
Hop of Meadow Vista, Paul G, San Francisco and Pat S, Modesto.

My sincere thanks to each of you who contributed to this issue.

JoAnne

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We do not go on a 12th step call to fatten our egos, but to leave the suffering one with the feeling that they have been helped and that there is more help available and that they are LOVED.

SOBRIETY NEWS - Mitchell, Ontario

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Aug. 4-6 1st Annual Sierra Nevada Young at Heart Roundup, MGM Grand Hotel,
Reno - Send inquiries to: 1795 Vassar, Reno, Nevada 89502
- Aug. 12 Central Valley Information Assembly, Alano Club, 1350 N. 11th St.
1 to 4 pm Fresno, CA
- Aug. 18- 11th Annual 22nd District Convention, California Polytechnic
20 University, San Luis Obispo, CA - Inquiries: 1317½ Palm,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
- Aug. 20 29th Anniversary Dinner for Tracy Fellowship, Elks Lodge, Tracy,
3 pm CA - Speakers: Paul & Max O of Santa Ana
- Aug. 26 33rd Anniversary for Vallejo Fellowship, 445 Georgia St., Vallejo,
7 pm CA - Buffet followed at 8:30 by speaker Dossie P of Aptos
- Sep. 1-3 28th Annual Oregon State Conference, Linn-Benton Community College,
Highway 99E, Albany, Oregon
- Sep. 15-17 Pacific REgional Forum - See article on page 4
- Sep. 22 33rd Anniversary for Dry Diggins Group, Auburn District Fairgrounds,
8 pm Sierra Bldg., 1273 High St., Auburn, CA - Speaker: Clancy I from
Venice, CA
- Sep. 29- Annual Fall Conference, Northern California Council, Sacramento, CA
Oct. 1 (See September Issue for details)
- Oct. 4-7 5th World Service Meeting, Helsinki, Finland) Contact your GSR for
7-8 30th Anniversary Convention, " ") information
- Oct. 6-9 3rd Annual AA Cruise, Miami to Nassau - Write Bob H, 11550 W.
8 Mile Rd., Stockton, CA 95209
- Oct. 26- 17th Annual Hawaii AA Conference, Ilikai Hotel, Waikiki
29 Inquiries: P.O. Box 22613, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
- Nov. 3-5 "Sober Fun in the Sun", 12th Annual Roundup, Las Vegas
Inquiries: P.O. Box 269, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

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Sitting in a chicken coop does not make you a chicken. Sitting in an AA meeting does not mean you are practicing the AA program.

SPECIALS OF THE MONTH

Sun. A neat little group needs support at St. Benedicts Church (rear),
Noon 82nd & Bancroft, East Oakland

Mon. New location of "Old Timers and New Comers Group" - Our Savior
8 pm Lutheran Church, 4400 Cabrillo Highway, Pacifica

Mon. & Thurs. Beginners Meetings at 8:30 p.m., 1755 Clay St., S.F.

Thurs. Living Sober Meeting, Vallejo Fellowship, 445 Georgia St., Vallejo
1 pm

Thurs. New Gay Women's Group - Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Parish House),
8:30 pm 3102 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley (Open Meeting)

Thurs. Terra Linda Group, Parish Hall of St. Isabella's Church on Manuel
8:30 pm Freitas Parkway in Terra Linda, Gene D of Calistoga will talk on:
Aug. 3 How I Got There! Aug. 17 How I Did It!
Aug. 10 How I Got Out! Aug. 24 How I Keep It!

Last Friday of each month, birthday night and candlelight meeting at
Immaculate Heart Church, 1st & Dainty Sts., (1 block from Hwy. 4) Brentwood

Last Saturday of each month, pot luck, speaker and birthday night at
Crossroads Fellowship, 1842 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA, Phone: 415-449-9796

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.

Friends - The July issue was mailed from the Rincon Annex in S.F. June 28. Some were received in San Leandro as late as July 18. A complaint has been filed with the P.O. If you received yours late, please tell your P.O. about it. This issue is being mailed July 25.

JoAnne

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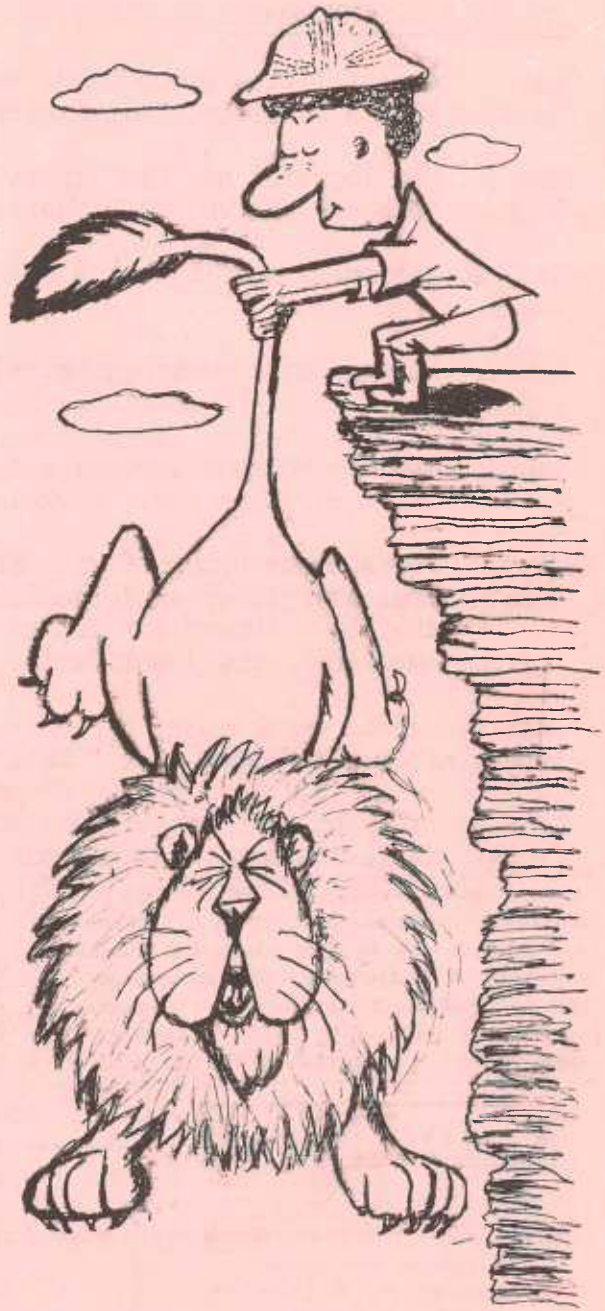
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