



# Good News



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## Stockton Conference - October 11-13

Excitement is building for the 38th Annual Fall Conference to be held in Stockton, October 11th, 12th and 13th. There will be great speakers, a full Spanish-speaking program, good food, dances, raffles and fellowship for all.

Dorothy S., from Chatsworth, Ca. will be the Friday night speaker. Frank M., from Orland Park, Ill. will speak Saturday night, and Maurice Z., from Los Angeles will close on Sunday.

Registration will start at 1:00 Friday, and continue through the conference. Preregistration is encouraged. Forms are available at your group meetings.

Make plans to come to stockton and celebrate your sobriety. The joys of good fellowship and good feelings will follow all year through.

Sharon R., Tracy, Ca.

Hi Folks,

I am your 38th Annual Fall Conference Chairman and I only wish I had the words to express the excitement, love, unity and coming together of nice people like you in the true spirit of A.A. Tradition.

On October 11th, 12th and 13th you will witness for yourself what so many just dream of. I wish I had the space for mention of all the beautiful people that have come forward to put on three of the most exciting, fun-filled days of your life.

Motel accommodations will cost you less. Food, drinks (soft), cake, yogurt, ice cream, etc. will also be

priced less than imaginable. Our security, while almost invisible, is beefed up to protect you and your vehicles. And feel free to ask anyone wearing a blue and gold arm band to walk you to your car, day and evening.

Our marathon meetings will run almost 24 hours a day from Friday afternoon through Sunday's Speakers Meeting.

Not only will numerous A.A. Meetings be going on throughout the weekend, I understand the Drop-In Center and Stockton's Alano Club, who have no affiliation with A.A. or the Conference, will be open 24 hours and the Alano Club will be putting on a Party and Dance Friday evening following the Speaker's Meeting.

We've made a personal plea and it appears that the Northern Coastal Areas Archives Display will be on hand for your observations. Uncle Bobbie will have a display of our original First Edition Books, etc.

I received personal confirmation that many, many of the Ole Timers from the 1940's, 50's and 60's will be on hand to help us enjoy NCC's final Conference of A.A.'s 50th Anniversary Year.

So, if you missed Montreal or even if you didn't, bring your bods and minds to the Fall Conference in Stockton and enjoy like you never have before.

And in closing let me thank all of the prior Conference Chairpersons throughout Northern California that have assisted me personally in our attempt to put on the very best for all of us.

Ron C., Stockton

## Coastal Area Link

Ideally, the **A.A. Grapevine** records A.A. thinking on sobriety, unity and service. Unchanging in principle, it ever seeks to grow and to make use of worthwhile innovations. Although the concept of the *Grapevine* is Conference-approved, it is a practical impossibility for the Conference to review and pass on each issue. *Grapevine* articles are the expressions of individual A.A.'s and others interested in alcoholism. They don't speak for A.A. nor does their publication imply A.A. or *Grapevine* endorsement. The gray pages are not A.A. material; they are frequently contrary to A.A. philosophy and are solely for information.

The General Service Board is responsible for our magazine but the editor is Charter-endowed with the right to accept or reject material. In 1983, the editor (Ann W.) said that "When a manuscript appears to cross that invisible line between creatively thought-provoking and harmfully controversial, we take it to the Editorial Board for a wider group conscience . . . the old editorial saw prevails: 'When in doubt, leave it out' . . . 'Helpful' is the operative word. The final criterion . . . on any . . . article is: Will it help or harm the Fellowship as a whole?" (Reprinted from the **1983 Final (Conference) Report**, page 13, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

In 1983, the possible appointment of editorial representatives to furnish news from their areas was given contemplation.

The *Grapevine* staff and directors

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## Fletch's Territory

Well alkies, by now you've had time to recoup from the "Big Bingo Game" at the Central California Fellowship's picnic August 18 at Elk Grove Park and your sore muscles are better from the two big softball games (with that rigorously honest umpire) so it's time to get in gear for the NCC Fall Conference in Stockton. It's right around the corner — October 11, 12 and 13 at the Memorial Auditorium. Then up pops the 2nd Annual Yosemite Conference on November 1, 2, and 3rd — you know alkies, after last year's conference I'm sure of one thing: God lives in Yosemite Valley. He visits other places, but he definitely lives in Yosemite. I don't know how I'm going to get back to Sacramento for the important CNIA election of officers, but I will somehow — us drunks can do anything, right? Right.

Ya know, I promised wife #1 that I'd stop talking about what a good time we had in Montreal — Why I even stopped wearing my Montreal baseball cap to bed — but some of those warm feelings just won't go away. Like when Lois, that beautiful Al-Anon, came to the rostrum and she was so big that we could only see the top of her head, or when Joe from Arkansas closed his very spiritual message on service with Jesus' words, "If you love me, feed my sheep," or when 42,000 (or was it 47,000) stood up, held hands and said The Lord's Prayer or . . . , hey alkies, I know I promised but, but . . .

By the way, I've got a message from the Territory. Ray and Sharon tell me that the program works! They "Came to" and are tying the knot on September 7 — I think it's supposed to be a secret. Hey! What good's knowing a secret if you can't tell your friends?

Just one more thing alkies then you can go back to your meeting. I wanta know how come you're reading this drivel when you could be reading a good column by a classy lady named Barbara W. from Hum-

boldt County, called "North Coastal News"? Oh, you've already read it . . . well read it again! — coffee's on you at Stockton, Barb.

Luv ya,  
J. P.

## H & I BroadSides

Hi!. We are back in the Good News — after a short leave.

We now have a new General Chairman as of July 1, 1985. Bob H. of San Pablo, Calif. Also Jack L., a past General Chairman, is the Policy Chairman.

And if this reporter received the correct news, Irwin K. was appointed to the Finance Committee.

Bill S. of Stockton is now the Public Information Chairman.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be in Richmond, CA (Good Bye to Galt). Time and Place will be in the mail.

After the exciting trip to Montreal and a great workshop on Insitutions, some of our Committee came back full of Fire. Hope it spreads.

We have had quite a few changes in Area and Regional Chairmen. Check your Rosters.

H. & I. lost two Old Timers. Our beloved Hoppy and Lee J. who was Folsom contact for many years.

We plan to have the Broadside in all issues of Good News.

Bill S.

## COASTAL AREA LINK (Continued from Front Page)

are members of the General Service Conference. Accordingly, the following statement of principle falls in line with the above ideals: "Of all bodies and groups . . . the Conference should above all feel bound by the A.A. Tradition. Indeed the Conference is named 'the guardian of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous'." (Reprinted from **Twelve Concepts For World Service**, page 63, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Frank B.

## Bay Area Beat

As predicted, Montreal July 5-7, 1985, was the biggest attraction for A.A. in 50 years. This was only this reporter's 3rd International Convention of A.A. The attendance was the largest yet. No numbers from New York at this writing. There were 52 flags from all the countries represented. The meetings in the convention center were at capacity or over. The big meetings Friday and Sunday were charged with love and happiness. "WAVES" of it. The show on Saturday was spectacular.

The gentleman carrying the New Zealand flag in Friday's opening meeting was an A.A. friend I had met at the New Orleans A.A. 45th year celebration. This time he brought 20 or more A.A. friends of his representing A.A. in New Zealand. Fantastic.

Our founder's wife, Lois W., was present and she was given a tremendous standing welcome. Her words to us were to carry on. A most moving moment.

Montreal was a perfect host city. A lovely city. Very good publicity everywhere. We were welcomed by the non A.A.'s with smiles. At several excellent restaurants it was reported wine glasses were taken away when our badges were recognized. Coffee was served at no charge with dinner.

At the convention center they ran out of coffee and ice cream, but not for long. By late Friday afternoon, the memorial book by General Service on our 50th Anniversary was sold out.

The meeting this reporter enjoyed the most was where A.A. members from foreign countries spoke on how A.A. was started and thrived despite governments, language barriers and lack of literature. Winners — all of us.

The Bay Area A.A.'s were everywhere. California is always the best

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# 1985 Events

## SEPTEMBER

- 1: 11th ANNUAL A.A. INTERGROUP PICNIC, Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Hidden valley Ranch, Mission Blvd. off of 17 or 680, turn at Weibel Winery (remember?). Sponsors are the Tri-Valley, East Bay & Santa Clara Intergroups . . . Softball, Live Band, Bingo, Raffles, Horseshoe and Volleyball Tournaments . . . Adults \$5.00 . . . Children \$1.00.
- 7: THE HAND OF A.A. IN SERVICE — Sponsored by the San Francisco General Service, at the Urban Life Center, Franklin & O'Farrell, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Area delegates report, movies & Pot Lick lunch. There's no luck to it . . . Show up and check out the booths and panels of OUR service activities.
- 15: NCCAA H & I WORKSHOP . . . 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrating Happy! Joyous & "Free" at the Merritt Hospital, Oakland, Webster and 34th (Parking). Sponsored by the East Bay Region of H & I with a professional panel, Speaker Tom T., Marin, and an H & I experienced panel to tell us "How Does It Work?" Conference rooms beside the Cafeteria. Plenty of coffee and love . . .
- 22: CONTRA COSTA SERVICE CENTER 19th ANNIVERSARY, Pleasant Hill Recreation Center, Pleasant Hill, CA. Info - 415-939-5371.

## OCTOBER

- 4-6: TAHOE FALL FESTIVAL. Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Grounds. Info - P.O. Box 16009, So. Lake Tahoe, Ca. 95706.
- 4-6: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONVENTION, Bakersfield, Ca., Convention Center.
- 11-13: SANTA BARBARA 1st ANNUAL CONVENTION, Miramar Hotel, Santa Barbara. Info - P.O. Box 91731, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93190-1731.
- 11-13: N.C.C. FALL CONFERENCE, Stockton Auditorium, Stockton, Ca.
- 19: INTERGROUP SPEAKER MEETING hosted by General Service, Glenbrook Intermediate School, Concord, Ca. 8:30 p.m. Diane O., speaker.
- 25-27: YOUNG PEOPLES CONFERENCE, Monterey Convention Center, Monterey, Ca.
- 27: DUFFY'S OCTOBERFEST, Calistoga Fairgrounds, Calistoga, Ca.

## NOVEMBER

- 1-3: SECOND ANNUAL YOSEMITE A.A. SUMMIT CONFERENCE SERENITY IN YOSEMITE, with five A.A. Speakers, two Alanon Speakers, Al-Anon luncheon, Sat. Night Buffet Dinner & Live Band Dance. Last year's attendees were ecstatic about it. Info: A.A. Summit Conference, P.O. Box 1243, Mariposa, Ca. 95338.
- 2: DAY OF SOBRIETY - Campbell Community Center, Campbell, Ca. Sponsored by Sat. Nite Live Group. Two speakers.
- 2: C.N.I.A. ELECTION ASSEMBLY, Sacramento, Ca.
- 7-10: ALOHA-SOBRIETY IN ACTION, Hawaii Westin Ilikai Hotel, Honolulu, Ha. Info - 24th Annual Hawaii Conference, P.O. Box 23434, Honolulu, Ha. 96822.

## San Mateo County Report

At one o'clock Saturday, June 29th, people began trickling through the doors of a large room at St. Veronica's church. They were there to participate in a day of sharing love and service sponsored by San Mateo District 05 General Service. The Sharing Session Committee headed by Pat X. had worked hard to put together a stimulating program based on the conference idea of committees or workshops. The tables were divided into clusters of people discussing various aspects of service vital to A.A. From each workshop a reporter informed the group as a whole of what had been discussed during the hour's session. Lots of good ideas were shared and it seemed as if a sort of inventory was taken of our service. The idea of workshops and reporters worked to everyone's advantage as more ground was covered than would have been possible otherwise. It also gave everyone the feel of how our conference works each year.

The reports were followed by the showing of "Your G.S.O." and "Circles of Love". Our District has recently availed itself of our valuable video tools and everyone is enjoying it.

Then, what we were all anxious to hear, Diane O., Area Delegate, gave her conference report. Everyone had the opportunity to experience, through the report, what goes on in New York as our Delegate walked us through a week of a lot of work being done with a lot of love on A.A.'s behalf. I personally feel I have a much better idea of what the conference is all about. Following a delicious potluck dinner, there was an "ask it basket" and some great discussion evolved out of that.

Service days always impress me. This one was special because for the first time since I've been attending them in my District I saw many people from other districts attending. Some were part of the program and others just came for the exper-

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## C.N.C.A. Archives Committee

During the past two years, there has emerged from within our midst an Archives activity that could well serve as a model for those who may happen to find themselves interested in the idea of "keeping the memory green."

Throughout the year the Santa Clara County Archives Committee (04 and 40), consisting of about eight members, meets monthly in San Jose for the purpose of collecting, sorting and filing memorabilia as well as for the purposes of mounting various displays and expanding the County A.A. historical record.

Interspersed, recently, in the ongoing activity, was the second annual Heritage Banquet and Dance held on June 8th at the Marriott-Great America Hotel. The occasion honored the oldest, still functioning Santa Clara Co. A.A. group, the Palo Alto Community Center Group, founded during the year 1941. About 550 A.A.'s, family and friends gathered to foster old memories and otherwise participate in the unity celebration.

During the previous year, 1984, there was a similar get-together with about 650 people in attendance. The highlight of that occasion, amongst the many attractions, was the availability and sale of a hard cover book setting forth the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Santa Clara Valley, including, of course, Districts (04) and (40).

Substantially all, if not the entirety, of the foregoing was accom-

plished without the participation of the C.N.C.A. Archives Committee.

Back in late 1980 or early 1981, Johnny O. came up from San Jose to attend a C.N.C.A. Archives Committee bi-monthly meeting at the San Francisco Alano Club. He brought with him a large quantity of historical material that he had acquired from G.S.O. in N.Y. and from local sources. Dean K. and he discussed the contents at great length. Then Johnny took the material back home with him and, during the ensuing years, put it together with additional information, into the book form described above.

More recently, last year Dave Q. (04) and Hal G. (40) joined the C.N.C.A. Archives Committee as the first ever District Archivists from Santa Clara County. With them arrived plenty of energy, know how and memorabilia for which we say bravo.

Herb J. (06)

### BAY AREA BEAT

(Continued from Page 2)

represented state. Must be the wine glasses never left our tables.

In Reno the Sierra Nevada Round-up General Service had their 3 day A.A. weekend with panels and speakers. Very good A.A. all weekend at the Nugget.

With A.A. love,  
Merilyn Moore

## North Coastal News

Nothing anyone told me and nothing I'd experienced before could prepare me for the experience of the International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous celebrating A.A.'s 50th Birthday. I went by myself which was not my original plan (but my original plans have never been much good) and from the time I first spotted an A.A. friend from Reno in the Chicago airport to the time I said goodbye to some new friends in San Francisco six days later I wasn't alone.

The fact that Montreal is clean, beautiful, historic, friendly, and fascinating added to the joy of the celebration. The fact that the people who did the planning were practically perfect smoothed out the inevitable bumps of having tens of thousands of people in one place. But the love of Alcoholics Anonymous was the highlight.

During the day on Friday and Saturday there were at least a dozen meetings to choose from — Recovery, Service, History, Big Book, French, Spanish, German and English. The speakers were GSO staff people, trustees, delegates, past-delegates, old-timers, and just plain folks. Each one had a special message.

Seven days of trying to experience everything led to a somewhat inevitable let-down which a quick inventory revealed to be mostly exhaustion and caffeine withdrawal. It also reminded me that I have a daily reprieve, that life is to be lived one day at a time, and that neither the highs nor the lows will last forever.

When my energy returned, I discovered that as much as Montreal '85 was an ultimate experience, the exhilaration continued when two new GSR's came to our district General Service meeting, when my home group celebrated its 14th anniversary, and when I returned to the daily experiences of sobriety on my home turf. Sobriety is exciting and so long as I continue to participate in carrying the message it will get better.

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## DEADLINES FOR GOOD NEWS MATERIAL

Dec. 10	.....	Jan.-Feb. issue
Feb. 10	.....	Mar.-April issue
April 10	.....	May-June issue
June 10	.....	July-Aug. issue
Aug. 10	.....	Sept.-Oct. issue
Oct. 10	.....	Nov.-Dec. issue



## The Twelve Concepts

This is the last of six articles on the Twelve Concepts for World Service. As I said in the first article, I have not tried to give a comprehensive treatment of the Concepts, but have only tried to emphasize some of the ideas in the Concepts which I feel are sometimes misunderstood, or perhaps even ignored.

Rather than trying to summarize or recap what I have written in the previous articles, I would like to re-emphasize one point which I feel is the most often misunderstood aspect of World Service, while at the same time it is of prime importance in our fellowship. That point is the Right of Decision.

Again, I go back to Tradition II, which is the basis for all of the Concepts: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." Adherence to the Twelve Concepts assures that our leaders will not in any way have governorship over us. However, we often go too far in the other direction and forget that we do indeed need to **trust** our leaders to serve us in our own long range best interests.

At the group level, the General Service Representative is usually trusted to represent the group in the Service structure. In fact, my experience has been that groups are, probably rightfully, more concerned with the responsibilities under Tradition Five ("Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.") as it applies locally to their weekly meetings than as it applies to World Services. The group feels that in appointing a GSR and sending contributions to the New York Office, the Area, and the local Central Office they have fulfilled their obligations to Tradition Five, apart from the meeting itself and individual twelve step work. In fact the group's trusted servant — the GSR — is so trusted that the group often does not even care to hear reports

from the GSR about what is going on at the District or Area level.

On the other hand, the General Service Representatives and District Committee Members tend to spend far too much time at meetings in questioning the actions and motives of each other and of their own elected officers. All elected A.A. leaders not only have the privilege of the "Right of Decision" as described in Concept III, they have an obligation to make decisions on the basis that they are better informed on the issues than are the groups themselves. It is seldom that an issue comes up before the District or Area that is of such broad consequences that it should require a "group conscience" from a wider representation than exists at the District or Area meeting. The trusted servants should feel not only the responsibility for making decisions as necessary, but also that they have the trust of those they represent.

I am deeply grateful to Frank B. for many useful discussions, as well as for his advice, encouragement, and constructive criticism.

Don G.

### NORTH COASTAL NEWS

(Continued from Page 4)

There's been a lot going on here in the far north. Camp Kimtu in June carried the message to a lot of people who look for sobriety in the wild — many of them will be traveling to the Roughout in Trinity County over Labor Day weekend. Those of us who look for Sobriety indoors accompanied by cake and ice cream were treated to a thought-provoking and side-splitting message delivered by Maureen from Willits at the Myrtletown Survivors 14th anniversary. The following morning, CNCA delegate, Diane O. gave her Conference report to a well-fed group at a breakfast meeting at the Samoa Cookhouse. Almost nobody can resist Monk's barbecued chicken and the potluck goodies at our annual picnic in Ferndale. Volleyball, croquet, horseshoes, an A.A. speaker, and great fellowship combine to make August 17 a special day.

Beginning July 26 and thereafter

## DUES!!

How often do we hear it? That phrase:

"I paid high dues to get here!"

That is not quite true.

We did not pay dues to get to A.A. We all paid a userious initiation fee to get to this great program of recovery. Most of us were beaten to our knees and had no where left to go by the time of our surrender to the fact that we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives were unmanageable.

We pay our dues **TO STAY** here! These are not dues in the conventional sense — that is, dollars and cents.

These are dues paid by working the twelve steps, adhering to the twelve traditions, reading the Big Book, attending meetings, helping others and, in general, living the program of Recovery, Unity and Service.

It's cheap at half the price!!

Scott M., Lodi

### SAN MATEO COUNTY REPORT

(Continued from Page 3)

ience and in this I see more opportunities for better communication. I was also touched by a lady who reported for one of the workshops, a lady who represented to me the reason we hold these Sharing Sessions. She'd never been involved in General Service, came with an open mind, participated, and was enthused by what she was experiencing. I'll bet we see more of her and to me that's what the day was all about.

Thanks to all who participated.

Diana F.  
DCMC Dist. 05

on the last Friday night of each month, the Crescent City Group will be celebrating A.A. birthdays with a potluck dinner, speaker, cake, and sobriety chips. They'd love to see you there.

Barbara W.



Francis Burke  
1600 Ulloa St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94116  
3/86



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