



GOOD NEWS



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Fresno Gets Ready For Spring-1991

It may not seem much like spring around here yet, but the Fresno Conference Committee thinks it already is. They have met twice and have chosen committee chairpeople and are recruiting volunteers to do the various tasks that are necessary to conduct a successful conference. This will be the 44th Annual Spring Conference of the N.C.C.A.A. and will be held on March 8, 9, and 10, 1991 at the Fresno Convention Center - 700 "M" Street. Many fine motels and hotels will be available but the Holiday Inn Center Plaza will be the host hotel. They will hold a block of rooms for us until February 8, 1991. Please mention N.C.C.A.A. when you register at your favorite hotel as we get credit for hotel rooms occupied anywhere in town.

Flyers are available that list the speakers and events of the fun-filled weekend. Please pre-register for the conference by sending \$5.00 to the N.C.C.A.A. Treasurer at 1046 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-2290. Your badge will be waiting when you arrive at the conference. Hope to see you there.

We will be electing a Council Treasurer at this Conference. Nominations will be accepted at the Steering Committee Meeting on Saturday morning, and the election will take place at the Open Delegates Meeting on Saturday afternoon. Qualifications for the position will be found on Page 2.

The Familiar A.A. Symbol: How, When, Where and If To Use-or Not to Use

Recognized worldwide, A.A. symbols and trademarks in various forms are sought by many for reproduction on everything from scholarly works and reprints of A.A. literature to ballpoint pens, jewelry, puzzles and games. Some years ago, there was even a request to reproduce the Twelve Steps on bedsheets. In these and similar situations, what logos and trademarks are involved? How can they be used and who decides where, when and if to give the green light? What is the philosophy governing these decisions?

The earliest A.A. symbol, a circle enclosing a triangle, was introduced at the Fellowship's Twentieth Anniversary Convention in St. Louis in 1955. The circle stands for the entire world of A.A., and the triangle stands for our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. Over the years, other versions have been added. One replicates the original logo, except for addition of the letters "A.A." inside the triangle. Another contains the "A.A." initials inside the triangle plus the words "Unity," "Service" and "Recovery" placed inside the circle but outside the lines forming the triangle. Any group, district or other entity of the Fellowship is free to use these logos (with addition of the symbol signifying a registered trademark—®) on its newsletters, meeting schedules and other A.A. material.

There is yet a fourth symbol—this one contains the "A.A." letters inside the triangle and the words "General Service Conference" outside it. Use of this logo is confined to A.A. Conference-approved literature.

Then there are the A.A. trademarks, including: "A.A.," "Alcoholics Anonymous," and "Big Book." Casual or commercial use of these (and any of the circle-triangle logos) on apparel, trinkets, bumper stickers or other novelty items is discouraged. It would dilute our legal rights to exclusive "ownership" of these symbols that identify and represent our Fellowship. Moreover, there would be no means of assuring the integrity or quality of such products, which would appear to have emanated from A.A.

Responsibility for the use of A.A. logos and trademarks rests with the Board of Directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. Generally, the board considers each request on its own merits, and does not license or permit the logos to be used commercially (as mentioned above, each A.A. entity—groups, districts, areas, local service committees, central offices, and so on—is free to use most logos without requesting permission).

The A.A.W.S. Board also considers requests, both from A.A.s and non-A.A.s, to use material copyrighted by A.A.W.S. Here too, (See A.A.SYMBOLS, Page 3)

FLETCH SEZ

FLETCH SEZ. . . (Gasp - Now they've got me doing it.)

Well gang, the Sacramento Conference is over and it looks like the final results are in. You know, that's the one the doomsayers said we could never pull off. The one they said would break the NCC, and, of course, the one that nobody would go to. . . etc.

Well alkie, they did pull it off, the message got carried and not only did a few people go, but it looks like the Sacramento Conference even made a little money for the NCC.

What about the doomsayers? Well now they're all saying, "I told you so" and "I knew Sacramento would come through." But there's something they don't know and that's just what did pull this thing off. It would be easy to say that the folks from the NCC worked hard, but you know alkie, Alex, Dianne, Linda, Paula, and the rest always do work hard to give us great conferences. Also the host committee in the smoke-filled rooms that did it. Naa, they knew when they volunteered they were going to work hard and miss all the speakers, etc. Ha. . . I'm still looking for that lady that sold me five dollars worth of raffle tickets and promised me a dance. I never heard any of the raffle num-

bers or got near the dance. I was still counting those rolled up one dollar bills - I never want to see another one dollar bill as long as I live! Wife #1 takes 'em all anyway. . .

OK, so then what made this such a successful conference anyway? Well, I'm going to tell ya (You knew that, now didn't ya, alkie?) The one thing that made this successful was the fact that we asked for 250 volunteers and we got more than 400. Right - those folks that sat at the registration desks, and those on the host committee, and the clean-up committee, and yep, even those raffle ticket sellers that promise to dance with ya. Those folks worked when they would rather been doing something else. That's what made your Sacramento Conference a success! And you can take that to the bank - no, not the bank. That's where they keep those one dollar bills.

Love in service,
Fletcher

Treasurer's Qualifications

The Council Treasurer is elected at the Spring Conference of the ODD number years, and serves a two (2) year term. This Office is restricted to no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

It is recommended that the Council Treasurer have a minimum of 5 years continuous sobriety, a service background, and experience in accounting or bookkeeping.

The Treasurer should have the time available to be responsible for all Council Funds and to work very closely with the Council Chairperson. A financial report of each Conference is to be prepared and presented at the Pre-Conference meeting following the Conference.

A financial statement as of June 30 and December 31, of each year is to be prepared.

ACCEPTANCE

Not every negative is without value. Thus we say, Don't take the first drink. Don't get too tired, too lonely or too hungry. Thus our Book says: "The grouch and the brainstorm were not for us." Thus we pray to accept the things we cannot change. (Maybe we also should pray to accept what we can but should not change.)

Speaking of negatives, a friend of AA once declared: "I doubt if there is anyone in this hall who really ever sought sobriety. I think we were trying to get away from drunkenness. I don't think we should despise the negative. I have a feeling that if I ever find myself in Heaven, it will be from backing away from Hell. At this point, Heaven seems as boring as sobriety does to an alcoholic ten minutes before he quits." (Reprinted from AA Comes of Age, Page 256, with permission of AA WS, Inc.)

Acceptance is vital insofar as our Legacies are gifts which we may accept or reject. Recall our slogan: "There but for the grace of God..." On beholding a practicing alky, it might well behoove me to realize that there but for the grace of God go I. One meaning of grace is gift. In its Latin root (*gracia*) it can also mean thanks, as in the expression, "Deo gratias (Thanks be to God)".

It can be difficult to accept personal powerlessness. This brings to mind the AA who said he wasn't able to take Step One until he had taken Step Three. Our literature doesn't frown on our use of reflections from spiritual bodies of our choice as long as we are simultaneously conforming to the Traditions. The following such reflection has attracted me:

"The merit of the will lies in consent. However, this very consent itself is a gift. But it won't occur without the will's cooperation. That

(See ACCEPTANCE, Page 4)

GOOD NEWS

Newsletter of the

Northern California Council
of Alcoholics Anonymous

Articles of interest to our readers are welcomed and may be mailed to the editor at:

Post Office Box 64090,
Sunnyvale CA 94088-4090

Deadlines for Material

December 10 for January-February
February 10 for March-April
April 10 for May-June
June 10 for July-August
August 10 for September-October
October 10 for November-December

A.A. Symbols . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
 the board has discouraged strictly commercialized use. However, the board has recognized an exception to its general policy, when, for instance, a request is received from a governmental or nonprofit agency, serving a limited group of persons—e.g., the blind or hearing-impaired—seeking permission to publish copyrighted material in Braille or on tape as a free service to the people served by the agency. Even in these cases, a need for the material must have been established.

While many reprint requests and requests to use our trademarks come from non-A.A.s, members account for a fair share. Understandably, a large number of these requests derive from the A.A.s' enormous pride of membership. Thus, many such requests involve the taping of A.A. literature which has not been published, taped or filmed by A.A.W.S.; the use of copyrighted material and/or A.A. logos for imprint on greeting cards created by members; and the use of A.A. logos on coffee mugs, jewelry and similar commemorative items for sale at A.A. conventions, assemblies, forums and roundups.

While appreciating the creativity shown, the board generally turns thumbs down on such ideas. Were our logos and trademarks to be associated with items willy-nilly, it could confuse the public—and A.A. newcomers as well. If we are self-supporting through our own contributions, they might wonder, then why would we lend our name to products-for-sale?

Some requests are not easy to handle. What happens, for instance, when A.A. is asked to lend its emblem for use on information that contains the logo of another twelve-step organization? For example: A.A. enjoys a special relationship with Al-Anon; yet the A.A.W.S.

Board recognizes that any suggestion of affiliation would be in conflict with the Traditions of both societies and therefore should be avoided.

The board finds it personally difficult to turn down requests from fellow A.A.s, identifying as it does

with their enthusiasm for the Fellowship. It is hoped that these people will appreciate the need for A.A. to cleave to its primary purpose and focus on suitable ways to "pass it on."

(Reprinted from Box 459, 1989, with permission of A.A.W.S., Inc.)

NOTE: The N.C.C.A.A. does not sell nor permit the sale of A.A. "Trinkets" at its Conferences.

| NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS | |
|---|--------------------|
| Financial Statement - Sacramento Conference - 1990 | |
| INCOME | |
| Pre-Registration | \$3,440.00 (688) |
| Registration | \$8,831.12 (1766) |
| TOTAL REGISTRATION | \$12,271.12 |
| Raffle | \$2,402.60 |
| Literature | \$0.00 |
| English Marathon Meetings | \$287.37 |
| Spanish Marathon Meetings | \$192.93 |
| General Service Meetings | \$152.82 |
| NCCAA Workshop | \$38.85 |
| H&I Meeting | \$79.02 |
| Early Bird Meeting | \$79.61 |
| Friday Night Speaker Meeting | \$857.22 |
| Young People's Speaker Meeting | \$416.55 |
| Saturday Night Speaker Meeting | \$1,748.76 |
| Sunday Morning Speaker Meeting | \$573.98 |
| | <u>\$6,829.71</u> |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$19,100.83 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Printing | \$1,551.34 |
| Mailings | \$369.96 |
| Speaker/Committee Travel | \$1,926.00 |
| Speaker/Committee Dinner | \$647.91 |
| Speaker/Committee Lodging | \$1,696.91 |
| Insurance | \$1,541.85 |
| Convention Center | \$9,511.38 |
| Raffle | \$384.09 |
| Flowers & Decorations | \$99.84 |
| Band | \$250.00 |
| Registration | \$585.64 |
| Miscellaneous | \$60.69 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$18,625.61 |
| REVENUE LESS EXPENSES | \$475.22 |

COMPLACENCY - *The Enemy Within*

September 1961

I'm in my eleventh year of sobriety in AA and it's not at all like I thought it would be in those first few tremulous months. How did I think it would be?

Well, the old hands in our area were dry five to six years when I went shyly through a meeting hall door for the first time. As I became aware of them as people, there developed in me a sense of awe for the old-timer of the day.

From my own insecure stance, I thought: "How wonderful to have a platform of sober years to work from. Surely, these men and women who have been dry for so long have a security from the horrors of alcoholic drinking."

I longed for that security.

Then a decade whirled and I became conscious that in some eyes I, too, had become an old-timer. A friend who was to be chairman of a special "big meeting" asked me to dig up a speaker for him.

"I want all the speakers to be in the six to eighteen month group," he said. "They are the ones who pack the real punch."

I pondered this.

I pondered it even harder after attending that meeting. The speakers had great power. All talked out of the remembrance of recent agony and great gratitude for their release.

Freedom! Freedom from alcoholism was the theme. How purposeful they made the AA life seem!

For the last couple of years I have been uneasily aware of once-active members who have disappeared from meetings, and disturbed by reports of slips suffered by people with years of sobriety. Where was their platform of security? Where was my own? Recently, a bouncy twelve-stepper, just over a year dry, brought a slippee to my door. Both were in varying degrees of desperation. The AA man wanted my help

in solving a difficult hospitalization problem. The sick man, it appeared, had made himself unwelcome at almost every institution in the area.

The sick one was babbling and arrogant, I became resentful and irritated. A couple of phone calls solved the problem and I made a half-hearted offer to accompany them to the sanitarium. The offer was politely turned down.

When they left, I was overwhelmed with shame. True, I had given my past Twelve Step experience but nothing else; no compassion, none of the essential friendship of AA. A chore had been accomplished and my friend knew that for me it had been nothing more.

Is this a common problem of the older AA member - remoteness in time and feeling from the sick alcoholic stumbling in his search for recovery?

One does not, I think, become suddenly remote. It creeps up, as smugness and security displace concern for our own sobriety and that of others.

How secure is my eleven-year sobriety today? As secure, I am forced to admit, as that of any other self-deceived older member who, to the dismay of his friends, has returned to drink. As secure, insight tells me, as that of the newest member, because my sobriety and his are attached to the same branch of earnest desire for freedom and to the same root of spiritual principles.

I am facing the truth that there are no platforms of security in AA. Because if one carries on a platform, he leaves the living stream of AA life. He becomes alone.

And I am remembering that when an alcoholic tries to stay sober alone, he returns to drink. At least I always did.

J.M., Vancouver, B.C.
(From THE BEST OF THE GRAPEVINE--With Permission)

ACCEPTANCE . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

is why God attributes it to the will as merit."

At this point I find myself recalling the distinction between willpower and willingness; and the mutuality between giving and receiving (give and take). Perhaps, to a great extent, the phenomenon of taking the Steps is a trusting acceptance of (consenting to; cooperating with) grace mercifully and lovingly given.

This reminds me of the speaker who said: "I never took the Steps, the Steps took me." The tyrant, Fear, would paralyze acceptance, consent, and cooperation; would make one flee from grace. Perhaps the narrator had this in mind who quoted from The Hound of Heaven as follows:

"I fled Him down the arches of the years; I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways of my own mind; and in the midst of tears I hid from Him and under running laughter. Up vistaed hopes I sped; and shot, precipitated adown titanic glooms of chasmed fears, from those strong Feet that followed after...Halts by me that footfall: Is my gloom, after all, shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?" (Reprinted from AA COMES OF AGE, PAGES 259-261 with permission of AAWS, Inc.)

Frank B. Napa, CA



HUMOR

A stranger wandered into the bar one afternoon, writes A.V. from Hamden, Connecticut, and ordered a Manhattan for himself and a round for the house. Upon being presented with the tab, he realized he'd skipped the pool players and several card players in the game room, and insisted that they have one also. The barman said, "That'll be \$37.80." "Have one yourself," the stranger said. So he did and made it "\$40 even."

The stranger then assured the barman that he didn't have a red cent, whereupon he was dispatched from the bar by the seat of his pants.

Sure enough, the next day he showed up again, ordered a double Scotch and drinks for the house. The same barman replied, "Sure pal, and I suppose you'd like to buy me one, too!" To which the stranger said, "Not on your life, my friend. You get violent when you drink!"

Then there's the story about a grandfather who drank too much, and his family was getting tired of him. While visiting his daughter and grandson, the six-year-old boy begged the old man to talk like a frog. Perplexed, the grandfather asked the kid, "Why do you want me to talk like a frog?"

The answer: "Because Mommy and Grandma said as soon as you croak we'll all go to Disneyland!"

(From THE GRAPEVINE, with permission)

**COMING EVENTS FOR
N. C. C. A A**

FRESNO-March 8, 9, 10, 1991
OAKLAND-June 28, 29, 30, 91
REDDING-Oct. 18, 19, 20, 91
MONTEREY-March 1992
SANTA ROSA-June 1992
SAN JOSE-October 1992

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Good News "Running On Empty"

Well, not quite on empty. It has become apparent that the GOOD NEWS has been carrying a lot of expired subscriptions for some time now. This will be corrected with this issue as we are dropping those expired in 1989 now, and those in 1990 soon. These have been carried this long to maintain our mailing list at a level to qualify for the bulk rate. Please check the expiration date on your mailing label and renew if necessary to insure the existence of the GOOD NEWS as YOUR newsletter and to help make the GOOD NEWS self-supporting as our Traditions suggest.

We do need new subscriptions, too. Please ask your friends to sub-

scribe and maybe buy one or two for your group. We also need articles of interest and suggestions from you. It's YOUR newsletter and we need your support.

**Time
is God's way
of preventing
everything
from
happening
all at once!!!**

| FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR GOOD NEWS FROM 4/23/90 TO 11/30/90 | | |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| BALANCE IN BANK APRIL, 23, 1990 | | \$118.60 |
| Deposits from subscriptions | 193.50 | |
| Subsidy from NCCAA | 225.00 | 418.50 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | \$537.10 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Post Office Box Rent | 39.00 | |
| Permit Bulk Rate | 60.00 | |
| Printing | 301.09 | |
| Mailing costs | 72.07 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | 472.16 |
| BALANCE IN BANK NOVEMBER 30, 1990 | | \$ 64.94 |
| COSTS TO PRINT AND MAIL AN ISSUE: | | |
| Printing | \$108.00 | |
| Bulk Rate Mailing Costs | 25.00 | |
| Portion of P.O. Box Rent | 6.50 | |
| Portion: Cost Bulk Rate Permit | 10.00 | |
| Cost: Remailing Address Changes | 5.00 | |
| Laser Prints for Reproduction | 7.00 | |
| | | \$161.50 X 6 Issues=\$969/yr. |
| TOTAL COPIES MAILED EACH MONTH | | 285 |
| NO. OF COPIES SENT WITH EXPIRATION OF 1989 | | 85 |
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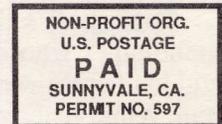
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