



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Fresno Does It Again

The Fresno Conference came off successfully despite our Chairman's trip to the hospital early Friday night. Alex McE. was rushed to the emergency ward with a mild heart attack. He was released several days later after lots of caring, loving prayers by all and great work by the Fresno doctors. He's on his feet again and ready to take on Oakland. Welcome back, Alex!

In his absence, the committee, under the superb direction of Paula DiM., held the Steering Committee meeting and the Open Delegates meeting, re-elected Dianne J. as the N.C.C.A.A. Treasurer, and took

care of all council business. This shows once again that A.A. works, no matter what. Having served as Interior Secretary, John G's. help with Conference matters was invaluable.

Dennis T. and his gang did their usual wonderful stuff and put on a better than usual conference. Our heartfelt thanks to all involved. The group of coffee makers did a magnificent job of keeping the "Black Plasma" flowing as the Hospitality Room and Snack Bar were well attended. Literature sales were higher than usual. Our thanks again to all. See Statement on Page Three.

N.C.C.A.A. History Continues—

(This article is continued from the March - April issue and was found in the archives of the N.C.C.A.A. and has probably been seen in the GOOD NEWS before. It is being rerun now as a service to those newcomers who may not have seen it.)

When plans for the finalizing of the General Service Conference were made available in late 1950, Bill W. asked that each Area named elect a Conference Delegate for Panel No.1, to meet in New York City in April 1951. Members of the Council decided that its organization was the proper forum in which to elect such a Delegate, and planned its 1951 Conference to include this business. Bill W. had announced he would visit the West Coast in early 1951 to attend the election procedures at least in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and the Council requested him to be its keynote speaker on this occasion. Bill accepted, and plans were laid for the 1951 NC&NCAA Conference to be held in San Francisco March 20-21, 1951, at California Hall. This was publicized in the first issue of GOOD NEWS in January 1951. Because of the AA population in Northern California, it was determined there would be two Panels - one consisting of the western half, and one consisting of the eastern half of Northern California. This was the first NCC Conference

(See HISTORY, Page Three)

Oakland Gets Ready

The 44th Annual Summer Conference will be held at the Oakland Convention Center on June 28, 29, and 30. First on the agenda is an Early Bird meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Friday to be followed by an Open Speaker Meeting at 8:30 p.m. The person selected to speak is Ed L., Mount Holy, New Jersey.

Saturday's events begin at 9:30 a.m. and include an H & I workshop, a General Service meeting at 1:00, the N.C.C.A.A. Open Delegates meeting followed by a Young Peoples Speaker meeting at 3:30 p.m. featuring Sheryl Mc., Lake Wood, California as the speaker. An Open Speaker meeting will feature

Bill C., St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada at 8:30 p.m., followed by the raffle drawing, and concluding the evening with a dance hosted by a local D.J. "MD Mobile" at 10:30 p.m. Registration badges will be required for admission to the dance, so be sure to register early.

The conference resumes Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with an AA Service meeting and concludes after the 11:00 a.m. Open Speaker meeting featuring Jim D., Bessemer, Alabama.

Various other activities offered at the conference include both Spanish and English speaking marathons, workshops and lots of fellowship. RV parking will be available locally but offers no hook-ups. Plenty of parking is available nearby and the Conven-

(See OAKLAND, Page Two)

**Please Mention N.C.C.A.A.
When Registering at
Your Favorite Hotel**

Hospital & Institution Corner

The 19th Annual Hospital and Institution Conference was held in Modesto April 26, 27, and 28 at the Red Lion Inn.

Aptly titled "Share the Miracle" as the theme, it featured Gary H. from Benicia as the Friday night speaker and Don P. from Aurora, CO as Saturday nights speakers. There was a Friday night Young Peoples Dance and Saturday night a dance was held for those of all ages.

Other news from H & I General Committee - Ron C. from Santa Rosa will be completing his second term as General Chairman of H & I in June of 1991. Elections will be held in Martinez at the Veterans Hospital May 19th. Ronnie C. will be missed greatly but still will be working quietly in the background.

With California's prison population growing and new prisons being constantly opened, the need is greater than ever for those to get involved.

If you are interested in getting involved, we hope you came to the H & I Convention or please contact your local area H & I committee and attend their area meetings. Taking the message of Alcoholics Anonymous can bring personal rewards to your sobriety that cannot even be imagined.

SUBMITTED BY DAVE P.
SANTA ROSA, CA

(Dave is the new H & I representative to N.C.C.A.A. We hope to hear more from him in the future. His contributions are appreciated.)

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

*There is a warm,
small ball of faith,
always there,
never dimmed,
unexplainable,
asking nothing,
but giving much.*

GRAPEVINE, 1982

Oakland

(From Page One)

tion Center is readily accessible to BART.

N.C.C.A.A. is using the adjoining Parc Oakland Hotel, Downtown Oakland, 1007 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607. Don't forget to mention N.C.C.A.A. regardless of where you elect to camp. The Parc Oakland will be holding a block of rooms for us until May 28, 1991.

There is always a great demand for volunteer help. Those interested should contact C.J. R. or her Conference Committee. Pre-registration is greatly appreciated and of tremendous help to those who bring conferences to you. The cost is \$5.00, and can be sent to: Treasurer, NCCAA, 1046 Irving Street, S.F., California 94122-2290.

The Concepts

The Twelve Concepts follow the democratic principle which calls for checks and balances. For example, ultimate service-authority balances delegated service-authority, and delegated authority checks the overuse of ultimate authority. Thus, while Concept I acknowledges the collective group-conscience as AA's ultimate authority, Concept II recognizes that, in order to put general service into action, the groups have delegated operational, world-service authority to the Conference. Accordingly, the Fellowship has recognized the Conference as the effective conscience and voice of AA as a whole. In addition, Concept X has sealed our trust in general servants by proclaiming that properly defined service-authority should be equal to service responsibility.

Because of their ultimate authority, the groups could give orders and directives to delegates on all matters. To counterbalance such a possibility, Concept III has defined the delegates' rights to act on their own conscience in a final Conference vote. Concept IV has placed a right of participation at all responsible, Conference-structure levels. Concept V has asked for minority opinion, and, if warranted, consideration for the redress of individual grievances. In the Concepts' introduction, we read of general principles that can be placed in our entire structure, notably: the Right of Decision, of Participation, of Appeal, and of Petition. The Concepts ask us to trust our trusted servants. Under Concept X we read the following:

"Ultimate authority ... cannot be used indiscriminately ... should practically never be used in full, except in an emergency ... usually ... where delegated authority ... constantly exceeds its defined scope and purpose ... The influence

(See CONCEPTS, Page Three)

History (From Page One)

which was not held on a weekend; but because of the importance of this particular business, it was felt important to call the Conference as quickly as possible. Therefore, the Conference was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20 & 21, 1951, at a time when hundreds of AA members dropped their business affairs and traveled many miles to take part.

The principle point of discussion, chaired by Walter H. of Santa Rosa, was the future relations between AA and the growing Family Group movement. The question had been raised by Nic N., the General Service Conference Delegate. Nic also announced the need for material support for the New York Office and the AA Grapevine. He also revealed the coming visit to the San Francisco Bay Area on October 29 and 30 of Bill W. and Bernard Smith, non-alcoholic Chairman of the General Service Board to accept the Lasker Award, conferred by the American Public Health Association at its 79th Annual Convention in the San

Francisco War Memorial Opera House. Incidentally, at this September session Jack I., of San Francisco, was elected as the new chairman of the Council, and immediately named a committee to arrange for the October 29th meeting in San Francisco.

The next significant Conference of the council was September 8-9, 1951 at the Monterey County Fairgrounds Auditorium. Upwards of 400 AA's were in attendance from all of Northern California. The five Peninsula AA Groups - Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Cypress and Seaside - proved outstanding hosts.

The opening event was as Open House and Dance in the Pacific Grove Women's Club Saturday night, September 8. The regular Council sessions opened Sunday morning at the County Fairgrounds. A feature of the afternoon session was an address by Mickey A., a member of the Al-Anon Group of the East Bay, the non-alcoholic spouses of AA members in that community. Mickey was the first non-alcoholic wife to be asked to appear on a Council program.

(To Be Continued)

Taken from the "History" by Dean K., Past Delegate C.N.C.

The Concepts—

(Continued from Page Two)

of ultimate authority must always be felt, but...when delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with. Otherwise, those charged with operating responsibility will be demoralized because their authority to do their work will be subject to arbitrary invasion, and because their actual responsibility will be made greater than their real authority." (Reprinted from page 44 of Twelve Concepts for World Service with permission of AA World Services, Inc.)

BY FRANK B. —NAPA, CA

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS		
1991 Fresno Financial Statement		
INCOME		
Pre-Registration	\$1,495.00 (299)	
Registration	\$7,853.22 (1571)	
TOTAL REGISTRATION		\$9,348.22
Raffle	\$1,729.18	
Literature	\$491.42	
English Marathon Meetings	\$370.00	
Spanish Marathon Meetings	\$86.13	
General Service Meetings	\$135.71	
NCCAA Workshop	\$32.26	
H&I Meeting	\$99.26	
Early Bird Meeting	\$142.45	
Friday Night Speaker Meeting	\$711.50	
Young People's Speaker Meeting	\$274.37	
Saturday Night Speaker Meeting	\$1,147.25	
Sunday Morning Speaker Meeting	\$596.83	
Snack Bar	\$5,827.11	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$11,643.47</u> \$20,991.69
EXPENSES		
Printing	\$1,681.75	
Mailings	\$504.19	
Speaker/Committee Travel	\$1,294.20	
Speaker/Committee Dinner	\$431.47	
Speaker/Committee Lodging	\$1,300.74	
Insurance	\$1,182.00	
Convention Center	\$946.24	
Stage Hands	\$443.63	
Security Guards	\$413.25	
Raffle	\$299.31	
Flowers & Decorations	\$260.12	
Band	\$600.00	
Literature	\$562.78	
Snack Bar	\$1653.18	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$11,572.86</u>
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES		\$9,418.83

Report On PRAASA – March 1991

The 23rd annual Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) was held in Tucson, Arizona March 1, 2, & 3, 1991. Over 1,000 people from the 9 states and 13 areas of the Pacific Region were registered to participate. Of those, over 80 were from the two Northern California areas that NCCAA serves, CNIA (California Northern Interior Area) and CNCA (California Northern Coastal Area). Included were 7 past delegates, one past trustee, both present delegates, and 9 area officers from both areas. Also attending were 3 delegates from the Northeast Region to observe PRAASA in preparation for NERAASA '92 being held in Danvers, Massachusetts, February 1992. Our regional trustee, Greg M. also took part, in his first PRAASA as Pacific Region Trustee.

PRAASA is a unique event that gives the Pacific Region delegates an opportunity to go to the General Service Conference not only well-informed in regard to the topics on the agenda at the Conference, but also with a spiritual sense of the region. It's not a regional conscience nor a regional directive, yet all viewpoints are heard and considered. The only business conducted at PRAASA has to do with PRAASA itself.

Events this year opened with the welcoming that was presented in English, Spanish, Navaho, and American Sign Language. This very moving meeting set the tone for a working weekend that was filled with the "Language of the Heart". Panels explored such subjects as "Agenda Topics," "Outside Issues," "Miscellaneous," a special panel on "Minority concerns in AA" and two panels on "Sponsorship". Each of our delegates, Fred B. (CNIA) and Barbara M. (CNCA), took part in the Sponsor-

ship panels. The What's on Your Mind and Ask It Basket portions of the weekend brought intriguing, heartwarming, and hilarious moments.

Every year PRAASA is a little bit different with one aspect or another outshining the rest; this year the Round Tables brought forth the best in us all. The sharing was mixed with intensity and laughter, but always gentle and sincere, they are experiences not easily forgotten.

PRAASA is a raising of the conscience and an extension of vi-

sion, it's a time for self-examination and prayer and meditation. It's a time for old friends in a way that too seldom happens. It's a time for new friends that only profound happenings can generate. It's one of the surprise gifts from just being involved in General Service - I'm honored to serve and thrilled to participate. Thank you for letting me pass it on.

Submitted with Love Through Service,

JIM M.
FIRESIDE GROUP, EUREKA

The Paradox of the Alcoholic

The alcoholic, of course, is many things as we all know. He is the world's supreme paradox. He drinks, not because he would, but because he must. He does not drink for pleasure, he drinks to pain, yet he drinks. He will mortgage the wealth of the future to pay off debts of the past, so he can drink up the nonexistent present.

He is the only one in nature, who seeks stimulation in a sedative, only to find that it acts upon his nerves as excited misery. He seeks to inflate his puny little ego in the provocative wine of Baccus and succeeds in shriveling his soul in the bitter gall of remorse.

He escapes desperately to free himself from the facts of reality and runs headlong into the prison of fantasy. Success is just as fatal as failure to the alcoholic. He will drink with exhilaration to success and to sadness and misfortune. He drinks to get high in the evening, knowing how low he will be in the morning.

When the alcoholic smilingly gets to the first drink he can get, he is transported to hell. The alcoholic, like most people, thrills to the

beauty of life, and then how frequently he seeks the ugliness of existence. When he is sober, he craves to be drunk. When he is drunk, he prays to be sober. Such is the weird paradox of the alcoholic, that the only way in which he can feel better is to drink that which makes him feel worse.

He starts out on his drinking, no matter who he is, with all the dignity of a king, and winds up his drinking like a clown. So he goes his incredible, incomprehensible, paradoxical way, leaving in his wake his human wreckage, that which he does cherish most. Down the road of alcoholic oblivion he stumbles and staggers, until he either finds himself at the door of AA or death intervenes...

(By an anonymous priest who is in the program.)

SUBMITTED BY GUY J.
REDDING, CALIFORNIA

**Please
Pre-Register
for all
Conferences
Early!**

Twelve-Step Kit Found Helpful

I don't know about you, but when I first got sober, I heard a lot about service. More importantly 12 Step service - giving away what I had been so freely given. Well, that was a pretty tall order with the limited information that I had. Over the years I came to believe that I always had something to give away even if I only told the suffering alcoholic about my experience, strength, and hope. Even with one day of sobriety, I could tell the newcomer what it feels like to have 24 hours without a drink.

Over the years I began to understand more about the program and had to arm myself with the experience of the Big Book, 12 and 12, as well as other written material from the program in order to be prepared to reach the suffering alcoholic. That isn't a substitute for my story - it's a way to answer questions that may come up on a 12-Step call. The following is an attempt to explain how I use the materials of the program to do 12-Step work.

The kit consists of:

1. A current meeting schedule. I point out the meeting format, places for phone numbers, the 12 Steps and Traditions, and various meetings that I recommend.
2. AA's "44 Questions." This is important because it helps me cover things that relate to how AA relates to the new member.

3. "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." This helps emphasize the importance of sponsorship for the new member.

4. "A Newcomer Asks." Good questions for the person who is afraid to attend a meeting and not sure what they are getting into.

5. A yellow highlighter or pen to mark meetings and areas of particular interest to the newcomer.

I used to give a Big Book to everyone I 12-Stepped but found that many never even went to a meeting and it was too expensive. The literature is written in such a way that it's appealing, easy to read, and it's designed to answer specific questions that a newcomer may ask. It's also something that will keep popping up if I leave it in the newcomer's hands.

There are many variations for the 12-Step packet I carry:

1. Extra materials in the kit are: "Is AA for You?" - "Do you think you're different?" - "The AA Member - Medications and Other Drugs"

- "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" - "Understanding Anonymity" - "AA at a Glance."

2. If it's a young person: "Young People and AA" - "Too Young" - "A Message to Teenagers."

3. If it's an older person: "A Time to Start Living."

4. For women doing 12-Step work:

"AA For the Woman." - "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic."

These are a few ideas to help in 12-Step work that through prayer and meditation have helped me - I hope that you can use this tool. Remember, that you have to be familiar with what you are passing on, so read the material before you give it to the newcomer. That way, we all get to learn something. May the love of the fellowship and the blessings of service be with you always.

BY DARYL R. SAN JOSE, CA

N.C.C.A.A.
CONFERENCE DATES

OAKLAND·June 28, 29, 30, '91
REDDING·Oct. 18, 19, 20, '91
MONTEREY·Mar. 27, 28, 29, '92
SANTA ROSA·June 26, 27, 28
1992
SAN JOSE·Oct. 16, 17, 18, 1992

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Please Pre-Register

Coming Events-1991

<p>May 18, 1991 Saturday 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Post-Conference Assembly Antioch Fairgrounds (Flower Hall) Antioch, CA Suggested Donation \$2.00 per person</p>
<p>June 28, 29, 30 Fri., Sat. & Sun.</p>	<p>N.C.C.A.A. 44th. Annual Summer Conference Oakland Convention Center 10th. Street & Broadway, Oakland, CA Registration \$5.00- PLEASE PRE-REGISTER</p>

Humor from the Grapevine

J.S. of Melbourne Beach, Florida knows the problem many of us face when we must appear at a cocktail party during the holiday season. He suggests that when offered a drink we tell the truth and say: "No thanks, I've already had enough."

From New York comes a yarn Tom K. swears is a true story about his aunt. After a month-long bender Tom's aunt visits the doctor. She has the worst case of the shakes he has ever seen. He asks: "Madam, do you drink much?" "Heavens no, doctor," she replies. "I *spill* most of it."

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