



# GOOD NEWS



Est.  
1948

Published Quarterly in Sunnyvale, California  
By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

SEPTEMBER  
1994

## In More Ways Than One

# Modesto--A First Ever Experience

Looking back over the past year, it is hard to believe we are fast approaching the NCCAA 47th Annual Fall Conference, the first in Modesto! Granted, we had a terrific H&I Conference in Modesto a few years back, and, according to one of our old-timers, there was a Conference in Turlock a few decades ago.

However, this is the first NCCAA Conference here! It is evident, too, in the enthusiastic

attitude demonstrated by our local conference committee. If you want to see for yourself, you are most welcome to join us at any of our Planning Committee Meetings. You can observe but we would much rather have you join one of the numerous committees. It's a great way to make new friends or meet up with old ones.

This conference will be remembered for many "first-ers." Besides being the first in Modesto,

we have a Spanish Speaker Meeting and Dance slated (not to mention the Spanish speaking marathon meetings.) If that isn't enough, they are bringing in a Mariachi Band! Conference flyers have been printed in Spanish as well. The Hispanic community has been absolutely tremendous in their response.

The facility is very new, not to mention beautiful. The staff of the Modesto Centre Plaza/Red Lion Hotel are really going the extra mile to make the conference comfortable and affordable. If you haven't made your reservations, you should consider doing so as soon as possible. Of course, you should also take advantage of pre-registration.

The Local Conference Committee is looking forward to this conference with the same excitement as a child on Christmas Eve. We want to make this a wonderful experience for all who attend and the first of many future conferences in Modesto.

In case you haven't seen one of the flyers the conference is on October 7, 8, and 9 at the Modesto Centre Plaza. The Local Conference Planning Committee meetings are on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm in Modesto at 1800 Coffee Road. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact Bob O. at 578-1017 or Norene A. at 529-3791.

**Submitted by BOB O., Conference Chairman, Modesto, CA**

## News From The Chairperson

Everything about the Monterey Conference was first class. The weather was gorgeous, the speakers were wonderful, the panels and workshops were inspired, and the incredible Monterey Host Committee out did themselves in every way. My insides were smiling continually as I experienced another perfect weekend with my NCCAA family. Thank you, again, Jerry, Todd and friends.

Our Steering Committee and Open Delegates' Meetings were eventful and productive. We welcomed the new zone chairpeople who attended, most of whom participated as readers at our main speaker meetings. It is exciting to finally have all our county/zones represented. We selected Oakland as the site for our Summer 1997 Conference and heard an update from Dianne J. on the book of motions acted upon by the

Steering Committee that she plans to compile as a guideline for future NCCAA committees. John G. reported on the effort to update the current delegates' roster, and we all talked about ways that zone/county chairpeople can reach out to their local groups for new delegates and also utilize the information gathered from the house cleaning of the current delegates' roster. It was an excellent discussion.

The Modesto Host Committee continues to inspire the NCCAA officers who attend their planning meetings. Superbly lead by one of my early beacons of light on the AA sobriety path, Bob O., their energy, enthusiasm and organization are amazing. Their first, and definitely not last, conference is truly going to be one to remember. Thank you, Bob and friends.  
*(See MORE FROM, Page Four)*

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

After attending the last NCCAA Conference in Monterey this past June, I would like to express my dissatisfaction with the way the publicity was handled. I take exception to the fact that the local TV station had sent over a camera man to video tape the meeting while it was in progress. What has happened to our Tradition 11? Why is it alright for TV news cameras to view our speakers? What has happened to anonymity? I am thinking of the newcomer viewing this on the 6 o'clock news and thinking that they sure wouldn't go there because someone might see them and would cause them some embarrassment.

I happened to be one of the panelists on Saturday afternoon and saw the camera man setting up his camera. Thank goodness someone saw him and explained that we don't take pictures at AA functions. I feel that this should not have happened in the first place. The success of the Conference in the past has been the message of recovery to the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and to the newcomers, not to see how much coverage we can get at the local TV station.

## 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

### Tentative Deadline Guidelines (Not Set in Stone)

First week in January for January Issue  
April 1 for Spring Issue  
July 1 for Summer Issue  
First week in October for Winter Issue

While I'm in the mood, I would like also to register a complaint about the hospitality room. Yes, it was open, but no coffee or food was being served. When we arrived, it was around noon and we wanted a quick cup of coffee and a sandwich. I had hoped that the hospitality room would have supplied us with this simple request. Hopefully this omission will be heard by the powers to be and will be corrected in the future Conferences.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Sincerely yours in service,  
MARY J., *San Jose, CA*

### Quarterly Publication for GOOD NEWS Approved By Steering Committee

When the GOOD NEWS Editor, Ron J. suggested to the steering committee in Stockton that the GOOD NEWS be published four times a year instead of the usual six times they agreed that four times would be enough to carry the news of the Council.

Present plans call for publishing a year-end issue in early January containing the financial statements for the previous business year.

An issue is planned for the months around each conference. That is, a Spring issue in April, a Summer issue in July, and a Fall Wrap up in October. It is hoped that this reduced schedule will entice more of you to participate in sending articles of interest for publication.

**Good News Policy** The Good News is the newspaper of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous and therefore is a vehicle for you, the members and supporters of the Council to express your views. The views expressed here are those of the writers, and are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous or NCCAA as a whole, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Good News.

If you would like to contribute articles to the Good News, we welcome your participation. The guidelines are as follows: "It (Good News) reports the activities of the Council, Hospital and Institution Committee, General Service, and other articles of interest to AA members. News is written about the conferences for the benefit of members unable to attend. News of activities of the Groups in Northern California may also be included."

# Concepts

The term "trusted servant" is treated in the 12 Concepts under the Rights of Decision, Participation, Appeal, Petition, and the principle that service authority should equal service responsibility. The authority in question is an authority to serve, never to govern. As long as our leaders uphold and practice the 12 Traditions, the groups grant them an authority to execute in freedom from duress. Tradition 2 substantiates this grant for "trust" assumes the suffix "worthiness."

Traditions, Concepts, Charter synchronize in confluence and reciprocity, as like with like are wont to harmonize, when common cause informs each entity. AA's common cause consists of our common illness and our recovery there from. Our three legacies work together. Ours is a Society of mutually supporting principles, and, ideally, of mutually supporting members.

Tradition 9 (long form) recommends rotating leadership. As non-alcoholic Bernard Smith once said: "While AA is important to the existence of the individual, no individual must be vital to the existence of AA."

FRANK B., *Napa, CA*

**Check the expiration date  
on the bottom right of your  
mailing label - Please  
renew promptly if  
necessary. Thank You**

# God and Plumbing Fixtures

Opinions. We all have them.

There's a fellow I know who loves it when someone voices a personal "opinion" regarding how they "see" the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. You've heard them—Step such and such is not important, AA and the other 12 Step Programs are the same, alcoholics and drug addicts are the same, and on and on. This fellow, on hearing these "opinions," will jump up and proclaim:

"There is only one opinion in AA and that is Dr. Silkworth's. You'll find it in the preface of our Big Book. Other "opinions" are outside issues and not worthy of discussion at an AA meeting."

And then we have the gender of God "opinion." Many folks, when reading "How it Works" will go to any length to let it be known that they have their own opinion, and force that opinion on the entire group. My home group has strived to respect AA and its traditions. A few weeks ago a member read "How it Works" painstakingly changing the Hims and Hes to God. I just cringe and find it impossible to listen further, knowing that the reader will further change the Book to reflect their own thoughts. On this particular occasion the reader went on to say that HE could not read the subject material as written because HE didn't agree with the wording. HE went on, stating that in HIS opinion, God doesn't care if the toilet seat is up or down! Wow!

God can be anything and everything. I don't care, and I doubt that many do give much thought as to the gender of our Higher Power. But this issue does raise questions:

1. The Big Book is copywritten material, owned by AAWS in New York. NO ONE OF US has the

right to change even the tiniest of things to make OUR Book fit the individual "opinion" of any of us. We simply don't have permission to do so. That's what the law says, isn't it?

2. AA exists in dozens of countries around the globe. Isn't it somewhat self-centered to change written materials that are now familiar to some two million recovering alcoholics worldwide? Let us not forget that we are members of Alcoholics Anonymous, not Leroy's alcoholics or AA as Mary sees it.

3. Lastly, it amazes me that so many of us, myself included, hit a bottom in our lives that was miserable beyond description. We were hopeless and often helpless. We had become living tragedies, lonely, sad and in an ocean of pain and sorrow that not many, other than a raging, full-blown alcoholic can reach. And then, through Gods' love we are given the gift of AA, by far the most successful means for the recovery of the sick and disgusting practicing alcoholic. And then, lo and behold, we start changing, or want to change, and fix, the ONLY thing that will work in our lives, the only source of love and help that most of us have ever been

## JOE M.

*He lived by AA principles and was a shining example to those of us who were privileged to know and work with him. Accepting the challenge to organize Oakland's 1994 NCCAA Spring Conference and in the face of monumental health problems, he supervised the development of a stellar committee and a conference which assures the future of NCCAA in the East Bay. His last message, published here in the GOOD NEWS, hinges on keeping it simple and not letting AA's message be altered, remembering, with gratitude, our primary purpose and basing our programs on the steps, meetings, the Fellowship and our Higher Powers. We'll miss Joe.*

PERRY O., Cupertino, CA

exposed to! How dare we! The lack of gratitude is appalling. I'm also guilty. Changing and fixing what works is not the way to recovery. The Steps, sponsors, service and meetings are. That's what the "Old Timers" say.

Getting back to the plumbing theory, it's true, I would suppose, that SHE doesn't care about the toilet seat. Is it possible that HE may not even have a toilet? Further yet, if IT does have a toilet, can you imagine the size of it? WOW! Just picture it! Probably bigger than Texas. Holey Moley! Maybe as big as Jupiter. Absolutely mind boggling! Whoops. I think reality is slipping away from me.

JOE M., Oakland, CA

## The GOOD NEWS and Eulogies and Obituaries

Lately we have received several "Obies" for departed friends of NCCAA who have gone on to the big meeting in the sky. As much as we would like to include these in the GOOD NEWS, we feel that we should not start this practice or we will surely find ourselves deluged, and something other than the bearer of GOOD NEWS. Hope you lovingly understand our position.

# More From

*Continued from Page Four*  
 number of coffee houses and eateries in the vicinity of the Conference Center. As with the Hyatt Regency caterers, we will continue to carefully examine the hours that food and drink will be sold at each conference.

I must confess that I am always fascinated by our long time members who "view with alarm the state of the nation" in Alcoholics Anonymous, rarely in possession of all the facts and always sure that we are falling apart. Sometimes we lovingly call them "bleeding deacons" because they occasionally hemorrhage all over our meeting room floors, certain that they are always right and ever ready to remind us that we need not confuse them with the facts because their minds are made up. They always provide me with wonderful opportunities for growth in love and tolerance of others, and I am especially grateful for them.

Yours in love and service,

DIANE ☺, *Chairperson,*  
*Cupertino, CA*

| NCCAA<br>CONFERENCE DATES    |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>1994 CONFERENCES</b>      |  |
| MODESTO - October 7, 8, 9    |  |
| <b>1995 CONFERENCES</b>      |  |
| FRESNO - March 10, 11, 12    |  |
| SAN MATEO - June 2, 3, 4     |  |
| SACRAMENTO - Oct. 6, 7, 8    |  |
| <b>1996 CONFERENCES</b>      |  |
| MONTEREY - March 8, 9, 10    |  |
| SAN JOSE - May 31, June 1, 2 |  |
| REDDING - Oct. 11, 12, 13    |  |
| <b>1997 CONFERENCES</b>      |  |
| FRESNO - March 14, 15, 16    |  |

**Please Pre-Register  
 Early & Mention NCCAA  
 To Your Hotel**

## Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

# Financial Statement 1994 Monterey Conference

| REVENUE                                | AMOUNT            |                           |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Pre-Registration (339)                 | \$1,695.00        |                           |
| Registration (1,010)                   | <u>\$5,050.00</u> |                           |
| <b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b> <u>1,349</u> |                   | <b>\$6,745.00</b>         |
| Drawing                                | \$1,364.00        |                           |
| Central Office Literature              | 139.26            |                           |
| Marathon Meetings                      | 248.01            |                           |
| Early Bird Speaker Meeting             | 73.50             |                           |
| Friday Night Speaker Meeting           | 622.21            |                           |
| Young Peoples' Speaker Meeting         | 331.39            |                           |
| Saturday Night Speaker Meeting         | 1,147.83          |                           |
| Sunday Morning Speaker Meeting         | 472.78            |                           |
| Seventh Tradition - All Other Meetings | <u>352.72</u>     |                           |
|  |                   | <u>\$4,751.70</u>         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   |                   | <b><u>\$11,496.70</u></b> |

| EXPENSES  | AMOUNT       |                           |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|
| Band  | \$425.00     |                           |
| Convention Center (Includes Permits,<br>Security) | 2,380.00     |                           |
| Central Office Literature                         | 139.26       |                           |
| Flowers & Decorations                             | 222.71       |                           |
| Free Drawing                                      | 449.98       |                           |
| Insurance   | 1,192.00     |                           |
| Mailings  | 30.00        |                           |
| Printing  | 1,116.29     |                           |
| Registration Supplies                             | 15.18        |                           |
| Sound & Lighting Labor                            | 837.50       |                           |
| Sign Language Interpreter                         | 240.00       |                           |
| Speaker/Committee Dinner                          | 462.00       |                           |
| Speaker/Committee Lodging                         | 2,200.06     |                           |
| Speaker/Committee Travel                          | 2,380.56     |                           |
| Security Services                                 | <u>40.00</u> |                           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                             |              | <b><u>\$12,130.54</u></b> |
| <b>EXPENSE IN EXCESS OF REVENUE</b>               |              | <b><u>\$(633.84)</u></b>  |

**Note: Expenses include advance payments made in 1993 of \$1,192.00)**



Subscribe to  
**GOOD NEWS**

Mail subscriptions to:

GOOD NEWS  
P.O. Box 64090  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-4090

Individual Subscriptions

In U.S. - \$3.50/year

Outside U.S. - \$5.00/year

Enclosed find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for  New  Renew  Gift

Mail to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**MOVING? Please let us know so we can keep  
your GOOD NEWS coming without interruption!**

**NCCAA**  
**GOOD NEWS**

P.O. Box 64090  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-4090

**Address Correction Requested**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SUNNYVALE, CA.  
PERMIT NO. 597