



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Summer Will Be Sizzling in SAN JOSE!

New NCCAA Chair Invites Northern California AA's to San Jose for our 51st Summer Conference

I want to thank you and congratulate all of you who attended and participated in the Monterey Conference. In the Original Resolution of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, they conclude, that the success of the Council *"in fulfilling its primary purpose of "Carrying the Message" will be in direct proportion to the enthusiasm and devotion of every A.A. member, Council Delegate and County Chairperson in Northern California."* We were very successful in Monterey.

The newcomers who were attending their first Conference got a new perspective of the fun, laughter and the fellowship that Alcoholics Anonymous has to offer. A few of them were able to get into service and help out. It's another reminder of the gift that's waiting when we give away what we've received.

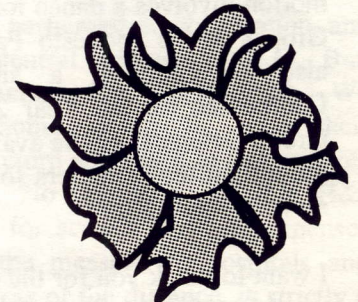
The best news is that we met our commitment with the Monterey Convention Center, so that our costs for the Convention Center were

within our budget. Originally, the room count was short. We almost had to come up with \$10,000! That would have really caused us problems. Thankfully, enough people stayed in the City of Monterey so that this charge was waived. Let's keep that in mind for the next time we go to Monterey in the year 2000. We need to stay in rooms within the City limits of Monterey. This will be a challenge for the Local Committee to secure enough rooms at reasonable rates for us. With a little footwork and God's help it will work out.

Many at the Conference got to hear Cece tease Ray about the number of farewell's that he gave. In all seriousness, Ray did a wonderful job because he loved NCCAA and spent so many hours doing his best to ensure we could have fun at the Conferences. Our sincerest thanks to you, Ray, for the two years that you devoted to NCCAA.

The San Jose Conference Local Committee is busy getting ready for the Summer Conference. We have a wonderful lineup of speakers

and we've moved to the upstairs Ballroom at the Doubletree Hotel. That gives



us more room for our Registration, Free Drawing, and other tables and displays. You'll just have to come and see for yourself what a big difference that'll make. Again, we ask that you stay at the Double tree Hotel because we need to meet a room commitment to ensure the costs for the Conference will be within budget so that the Council can remain self-supporting.

The Modesto Fall Conference Local Committee has also started getting ready for October. The amount of time and effort that go into these Conferences ensures that when we arrive on Friday afternoon, everything will be ready for us to have fun and enjoy the best fellowship in Northern California.

CHAIR ... *Continued from Front Page*

Your new Secretaries are Barbara B. from the Coastal Area and Kendra W. from the Interior Area. Carole D. continues for a short time as the *Good News* Editor, and Diane O. will continue as your Archivist. The new members of the Tape Selection Committee are Gayle D. from San Francisco and Keith H. from Guerneville. The position of Young People's Secretary is open and is in transition-- stay tuned for more information.

At the upcoming Open Delegates Meeting on Saturday, June 6, at the San Jose Conference we will be considering two motions that were made at the Steering Committee Meeting in Stockton on April 26th. The first motion concerns the funding for the Young Peoples Secretary and the second motion involves a dance for the Spanish Speaking Groups at the Modesto Fall Conference. We'll also be choosing a site for the Summer Conference for the Year 2001. Hopefully your Group Delegate will be available to represent your groups on these matters to ensure the Council is serving your needs.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chairperson for the next two years. I love NCCAA and would like to see us concentrate on spreading the word about the fellowship we enjoy at these Conferences.

The Spring Conferences are doing well, but we need to invite more people for the Summer and Fall Conferences. The work that the local committees put into these Conferences deserves our support!

Please invite a new comer to the upcoming Conferences in San Jose and Modesto and watch the miracle as they are overwhelmed by the number of people attending the meetings. Watch also as they return to their Home Groups to tell their friends what they saw and heard. They always get at least one good joke to take back. Their laughter and enthusiasm are proof of God's love. Where would any of us be without that helping hand of another alcoholic that Dr. Bob talked about in his farewell talk?

Yours in love and service,

Steve Mangold, NCCAA Chairman.

Tracy, CA

Thanks Monterey—It was GRAND!

I want to add my thanks for the grand hospitality extended to all of us from the Monterey Committee. The speakers touched all our hearts. The sharing at all of the Conferences continues to renew my hope and wonder at the continuing miracle that is the AA Program of "RECOVERY THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF THE 12 STEPS."

I apologize for this late edition. As Steve wrote, this will be my last edition as your Editor. I hope to be working with a new editor on the Summer edition as I practice AA's principle of rotation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the members of AA in Northern California and NCCAA. My deep gratitude to Frank B. who has contributed his wonderful articles on the Traditions in every edition. He stayed on to help me and all of us have benefited from his experience.

I encourage you to support your new editor with contributions and subscriptions. I hope to see you in San Jose at the *Good News* table. Keep those subscriptions coming in—it keeps your *Good News* self-supporting. With a full and thankful heart I thank you for allowing me to serve.

Lots of Love,

Carole Dorsey, Editor

Vacaville, CA

**CALENDAR OF
NCCAA
CONFERENCES**

**1998 Conferences
MODESTO – October 2, 3, 4**

**1999 Conferences
FRESNO – March 12, 13, 14
OAKLAND – June**

**SACRAMENTO – October
2000 Conferences
MONTEREY – March**

Hospital & Institution Corner

Burlingame hosted the 26th Annual Northern California Hospital and Institution Conference on May 8, 9, & 10. The theme of our conference was "Our Singleness of Purpose," and it was an opportunity for H&I volunteers throughout Northern California to get together and "charge their batteries" by sharing their experience, strength, and hope. The Conference moves around each year and Areas are encouraged to submit their requests for hosting future conferences. The Burlingame area and region put a lot of effort into making the weekend a positive experience for members of AA and the professional community who were able to attend.

On Friday night there was a panel of H&I members sharing their experiences and suggestions for "Getting Started in H&I." This was followed by the "Early Bird" speaker meeting with Gary H. of San Mateo and the main meeting with former General Chairman, Ronnie C. of Glencoe, N.M. Each day there were marathon meetings and meetings in the lobbies between old service friends. For me the feeling is always inspirational and it was encouraging to see the numbers of people doing this kind of service work--and their enthusiasm is contagious.

Saturday there were more panels - "History of H&I," "The Pink Pamphlet," and panels on "Recovery & Psychiatric Facilities and Institutions." The panels had a sprinkling of H&I volunteers with years of experience, those with shorter amounts of time, and representatives of hospitals and institutions who were overwhelmingly in favor of more volunteers and more meetings, if possible. Gratitude was expressed by hospital and prison officials which reinforces the importance of H&I 12th Step work. There were also affirmations of our effectiveness by inmates and residents who got sober by attending H&I meetings while confined. They got the message by listening at meetings and reading literature that was provided by donations from the AA Fellowship. The yearly conference confirms that the literature is going where it is intended and that the volunteer efforts of our committee members are not taken for granted.

The Hospital & Institution Committee continues to encourage members to participate in carrying the message of AA to the alcoholic who is confined. Every area and every region of H&I in Northern California can use more help. We look forward to introducing members of AA who have a minimum of 6 months sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous, to call or write P.O. Box 192490, or contact your local area for dates and times of monthly meetings to sign up. From my experience it improves the odds of staying sober by practicing the spiritual nature of 12 Step work with the guidance of our Pink Pamphlet which contains our H&I Policy and Procedures as they relate to upholding our 12 Traditions.

Thank you for your participation, cooperation, and donations to the central address of P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco, CA 94119-2490. We encourage each home group to send their contributions with return addresses so that receipts can be returned. No member of the H&I Committee is paid for service and any expenses incurred carrying the message to hospitals and institutions, regardless of the distance, is strictly a personal contribution. The money goes to purchase AA books and literature from AA World Services, Inc., including *The Grapevine* and tapes. Come help us carry the AA message.

*Mike H., H&I Public Information Chair
Martinez, CA*

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 1581
Vacaville, CA 95696-1581**

Tentative Deadline Guidelines
(Not Set in Stone)

February 1 for Spring Issue
May 1 for Summer Issue
August 1 for Fall Issue
December 1 for Winter Issue

TRADITION EIGHT

“AA should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

Bill W. was very clear about this tradition in the *12 and 12*, in *AA Comes of Age*; in *Twelve Concepts for World Services*. Professionalism was defined as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire (i.e., for pay).

But we may employ alcoholics for performing services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. However, our usual 12th Step work is never to be paid for. At our General Service Office we hire AA staff members. They are professional secretaries, but they are not professional AA's.

AA policy declares that each paid headquarters person should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of similar services in the commercial world; that our paid workers should labor cheaply would be a mistake, since this would mark our service workers for unusual sacrifices that we would ask no other AA's to make.

Our GSO exercises a rotation policy among staff members. Most assignments are changed yearly. Each of these people can step into almost any other person's job—should a sudden emergency arise. Salaries are identical. Pay increases are based on time served only. This puts staff members on a complete parity.

In *Language of the Heart* Bill observed that, in the course of duties for which they are paid, service workers may do some 12th Step work besides. He noted nothing wrong with this, as long as what they are getting paid for are those skills for which non-alcoholics would otherwise have to be hired.

Bill wrote that we should not criticize AA's in the therapy field. But he made this point that no one ought to advertise himself as an AA therapist. As strict amateurs, we can be no such thing.

Frank B., Napa, CA

◆ 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."

WHAT'S YOUR JOB IN AA?

Are you a Group Secretary, GSR, Intergroup/Central Office Rep, NCCAA Group Delegate, Greeter? Do you make the coffee, bring the cookies, or hand out chips? Do you do H&I or PI/CPC work? Are you on the Teleservice Committee? Do you come early help set up and stay late to help clean up. Do you have your hand out to the newcomer? There are jobs for all of us in AA.

I was lucky that in Vacaville in 1985, there were meetings for the Court to send me to. When I finally decided to stay around and got a sponsor, she told me that I would need to immediately get a job in AA and that I would have other jobs as my sobriety progressed. She also said that, "It is a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous and that I must earn that privilege."

Today I understand these words better than ever. My first AA job was to flip up the seats at the Courthouse where we held many meetings. As I look back in the beginning years, it was the many jobs I had that compelled me to keep showing up (very often planning to get drunk later). Inevitably, I would hear something at that meeting or event that would put another chink in my armor of denial and I would once again put off that first drink. I'm still sober some years later and waiting for my next job. I agree with my friend who often states, "The best job I've had is the one I am rotating out of."

There are many jobs that must be done so that we keep the hand of AA ready for "anyone anywhere". It's not important "who" does these jobs—what's important is that the jobs get done. Be available!

Carole D., Vacaville, CA

Annals of an Alternate Delegate

CNCA's Alternate Delegate shares her experience...

What exactly does an Alternate Delegate do? Like so many other questions about General Service work in Alcoholics Anonymous, the answer is a definite. "It depends...". The particular style of each Delegate and Alternate determine how they work together and what they share; my own experience has been serving with a Delegate, Bob K., who has been very generous with information and with time.

The AA Service Manual gives fifteen categories of duties for Delegates, including keeping "Alternate Delegates fully informed, using the Alternates' help wherever possible...", and tells us that an Alternate is "A service worker who assists, supports, and participates in service responsibilities...".

As you can see, this is not a specific job description, but a suggestive outline. Life as an Alternate Delegate has been a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, about our Pacific Region and about my own area, California Northern Coastal. Being willing to "help wherever possible" means that I have to learn how to find the material, how to absorb the information and how to recognize the joys of service in each task!

In addition, CNCA asks the Alternate Delegate to chair its combined Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee. This is a fascinating job for many reasons, most of which have to do with the dedicated alcoholics who do this work. In our area, PI and CPC work sometimes is a function of Intergroup's and Central Offices and sometimes works through General Service in the local Districts. All of us meet once month to share our experience, strength and hope. We share training sessions and newsletter articles, and we help each other to more effectively service Alcoholics Anonymous.

Like all service jobs, the second year is easier than the first. Now I have experience in calmly and promptly responding to PI/CPC requests. I just came home from a short vacation, and the man at the post office felt compelled to comment on the volume of mail accumulated in my box! I thought about trying to explain that it wasn't all personal correspondence, but then I realized that, of course, anything done for the good of AA was intensely personal, and that I was extraordinarily lucky to be able to do this.

Serving as the Alternate Delegate for CNCA has been a very great privilege, and I have learned that the simplest answer to "what exactly does an Alternate Delegate do?" is whatever I am asked to do!

*Nancy H., CNCA Alternate Delegate
St. Helena, CA*

Pre Registration Helps Our Conferences

There is a Pre-Registration Table at all NCCAA Conferences. Please pre-register for both the Conference and at the Hotel for the upcoming Conference.

Modesto Conference
October 2, 3, & 4, 1998
Doubletree Inn
(209) 526-6000



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