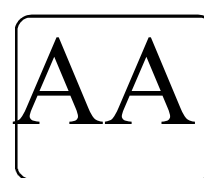


GOOD NEWS



October Issue

October 2002

Special points of interest:

- Birthday Club
- Blast from the Past
- Election
- Letter from the Chairman
- Letter from the Editors
- Calendar of Events
- San Ramon Conference
- Modesto Conference

Election

In Fresno NCCAA will elect a Treasurer for the next 2 years. Be prepared to make yourself available if you wish to be of service to NCCAA in this capacity. The election will be held at the 3:30 pm delegates meeting on Saturday. And nominations can be made up to that time.

If you need any further information please ask for Joe Cornish. If you don't know Joe grab anyone with a gold NCCAA badge and we will direct you to him.

The Last NCCAA Conference of 2002

As we wind down the year with our last conference. The members of the NCCAA steering committee and all the local committees would like to thank everyone who has helped and participated in our conferences this year.

Again, as in the past we had a very successful year carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. It takes a lot of hands to bring these conferences to you.

Every time we get together at our conferences the message we all here is so strong. The speakers are great. But what makes it is to see the smiling faces of A.A. and the gra-

riousness that our members display to all.

From the newest member to the old timer we all have the same struggle. And that is what we relate to.

Yes the message is strong, but without you being there it would not matter.

It's you who makes the difference at our conferences, and when you support our conference, our A.A. you carry the message loud and strong. "We are here for the next person who walks through that door".

See you in Modesto

NCCAA 55TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Modesto

October 4, 5, & 6 2002

Friday Oct. 4	8:00 pm	Ruth S.	San Bernardino, Ca
Saturday Oct. 5	3:30 pm	Earl H.	Los Angeles, Ca
Saturday Oct. 5	8:00 pm	Billy S.	Las Vegas, NV.
Sunday Oct. 6	11:00 am	Marilyn H.	Eugene, Or

The Porcelain Idol

During my drinking career there were countless mornings where my master, alcohol, brought me to my knees. With my arms clutched around the porcelain idol, I prayed to that other God, the one I knew nothing about – the God that those hypocritical church people prayed to. There were also several times when I was brought to my knees by those peoples with guns and badges who were always out to get me, following me and harassing me. When they forced me to my knees, I prayed to that God of hypocrites again. It never seemed to help much but I knew nothing else to do. After admitting I was powerless over alcohol and that my life had become very unmanageable, I was faced with that “God” thing again. I was told by many people in AA that If I didn’t find a power greater than myself, I’d surely drink again. Confronted with those two options, I came to believe.

Almost five months into my new and sober life, I was sentenced to four years in prison and six months in the county workhouse. After spending about five months in lockdown I was given a chance to work for a local small town police department. There was no pay involved and I’d still be in prison, but a job was a privilege and I accepted it without hesitation. I was somewhat afraid of those policemen who had always been out to get me. But just the same I went to work. Less than two weeks passed before I knew almost everybody there and had become friends with most. They treated me like and equal not a criminal.

One of my many job duties was cleaning the bathrooms, so I found myself in front of the porcelain idol that eleven months before I’d been praying to. It seemed only natural that, while down on my knees cleaning toilets, I should pray to this God who, by his grace, had given me a chance at life again. Suddenly that God who never seemed to listen to me was becoming a God that I could understand, a living and caring God who gives me strength and courage as long as I am willing to strive for spiritual perfection. Today I am grateful for the time I had alone in the bathroom stall of that police station where I could relate to a God of my understanding.

Keats K. Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Reprinted from
Grapevine October 1997

Birthdays We Forgot

Martha W. 1 year
Gary W. 8 Years

Lonya J. 2 Years
Laura L. 15 Years

Veronica S. 3 Years
Bob S. 6 Years

San Ramon NCCAA CONFERENCE

Finally the NCCAA has come back to Alameda County. What a beautiful Conference it was.

It's always nice when the conference is in your area. So many familiar faces helping to bring our conference to others in Northern California.



The Marriott Hotel was fantastic and the extra effort they went through for us was appreciated. The speaker room was amazing. We are all looking forward to the next chance we get to go back there again.

San Ramon

Yippee

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Getting Struck Sober

The AA message, like lightning, strikes us drunks in any numbers of ways, times and places. We'll be sitting at a meeting and a way out will suddenly dawn on us or, in the middle of the night, in a cold sweat, we'll solemnly resolve to make that call. What's surprising is that we're surprised when-seemingly out of the blue-we get it! *Hey, I can stop*, we'll suddenly realize. I don't have to drink! Isn't that amazing?

But what about lightning that strikes, not when we have terrible a hangover and we're consumed with guilt and fear, but when we're three sheets to the wind? Now, that's something!

Such was a case with Ruben A. , a Spanish-speaking farm worker living in Cutler, California, who wrote to G.S.O. last November asking for help. Danny M., staff member of the Spanish Services desk, sent Ruben some pamphlets, along with the Big Book, and some encouraging words.

"The day the mailman brought the package, and I opened it, I was drinking a few beers. I began to read it and have not had a drink since then." Ruben wrote. "I'm in so much agreement with what this book has to say, and I believe God sent me this book. For without it, I would not have stopped drinking as I did.

Ruben wrote that he was out of work when the AA literature came, but planned to send \$5.00 as soon as his paycheck came. The newly-sober man said he also needed some advice. The Big Book recommended attendance at AA meetings and there were these meetings in Cutler, was that a good idea? Danny wrote Ruben a letter of congratulations on his new sobriety and the speed with which he'd understand. "Now" Danny suggested, "get to as many meetings as you can"

Chairperson's Report

I hope everyone is ready for a great Conference in Modesto! The local committee has been working hard to ensure that this will be a successful Conference. Since we were last in Modesto in 2000, the downtown area has completed their renovation. Lots of good places to dine and shop!

In talking with our Speakers for the weekend, they are excited about coming to Modesto and participating in our Conference.

While at the Modesto Conference, be sure and pre-register for the Fresno Conference being held March, 21, 22, & 23, 2003.

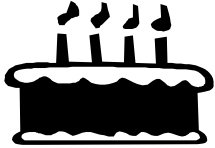
It's becoming more and more important at our Conferences to make sure that when we register at the hotels, that we mention we will be attending the NCCAA Conference during that time. Part of the agreement we have with the Conference site is that we will occupy so many rooms at the host hotel to receive a significant discount for the actual Conference facility. We have actually been penalized in the past because we did not fill the agreed number of rooms. At some sites, we receive the weekend Conference for free because we have met their requirements! This is good!! So, please make sure that when you make your reservations, that they acknowledge you are with NCCAA.

Enjoy the Modesto Conference!

In Love and Service,
Joe Cornish
NCCAA Chairperson

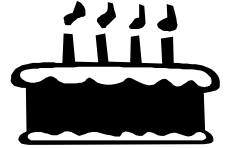
Honoring Those Who Came Before Us

Past Chairman of NCCAA, Bill Garrison, died on April 22nd in Reno, Nevada with 47 years of sobriety (which he celebrated on April 8, 2002). Bill was also a former Chair of the H&I Committee and a Delegate to the General Service Conference. He attended the NCCAA conferences for many years until recently. He will be dearly missed.



Marji H.
Tim R.
Berine DG

July
San Jose **1 year**
10 Years
Rohnert Park **14 Years**

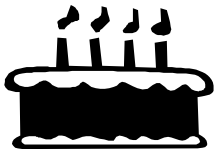


Birthday

Audrey A.
Richard M.
Jim C.
Bill R.
Sylvia K.

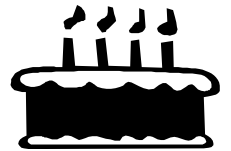
August
Manteca **1 year**
8 Years
Redwood City **16 Years**
Santa Clara **21 Years**
Concord **31 Years**

Club



Ellie S
Michael C.
Gary H.
Ande M.
CJ R.

September
Yuba City **1 year**
Gilroy **6 Years**
Antioch **8 Years**
Fresno **12 Years**
Alameda **20 Years**



The Birthday Club celebrates Birthdays every quarter. If you would like to be on the birthday list please come by the Good News table at your next conference and find out How. There is no charge. Next issue
October—November—December

Calendar of Events

October 4-6	55th NCCAA Annual Fall Conference	Modesto Ca.
October 12	San Mateo Central Office Anniversary Party	San Mateo, Ca
November 14-17	41st Annual Hawaii Convention	Honolulu, HI
November 22-24	Yosemite Summit Conference 2002	Yosemite, CA

Letter from the Editors

Well it's been a long time since we had a conference in Alameda County. And it was right down the block from us. We live in Livermore and the conference was in San Ramon, just about 10 minutes from us. It was such a joy to see so many local faces at our conference. It's always a little extra special when the conference is in your area.

The year for our conferences are winding down as we get closer to the Modesto Conference. Modesto has turned out to be such a nice place to visit in the fall, we really look forward to it. The next issue will be our holiday issue and we would love any suggestions for articles.

Please stop by the good news table and visit us. We always appreciate your input

In Love and Service,