



# GOOD NEWS



Est. 1948

Published Four Times a Year in Elk Grove by the  
Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

Summer 2003

## Modesto Fellowship Celebrates 50 Years

The Modesto Fellowship will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Year with an all day "Jubilee" on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 301 S 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Modesto. They will start with a Free Breakfast from 7:00 to 8:30 AM. A Speaker Meeting will follow at 8:30 with an Open Podium Meeting at 10:00 AM. They will fire up the Barbecue for Lunch and have a History of 1<sup>st</sup> St where you can ask ??? a panel of "Old Time 1<sup>st</sup> Streeters". At 6:00 PM Charlie O. ("The Happy Alcoholic") will be featured at the Birthday Speaker Meeting. Doug D. said you can call 209-632-9773 if you need any more information.

**Congratulations to the Modesto Fellowship!!!**

## East Bay Intergroup is Planning Their Annual Picnic for August 9, 2003

The East Bay Intergroup will have their Annual Picnic August 9<sup>th</sup> at Kennedy Park in Hayward on Hesperian Blvd., 1 block north of A Street. The event will start at Noon and go until 5:00 PM. There will be Family Fun & Games for all including a Speaker Meeting. Mike P. is promising lots of food & drinks (sodas & coffee etc.) You can contact the East Bay Intergroup Central Office, 2910 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland by calling 510-839-0709.

## From the NCCAA Chairman's desk...

"I may be repeating myself, but we need to really start looking for different Conference sites. We just finished up a Conference in Fresno last month. We did succeed in carrying the message throughout the weekend and this is a good thing. Financially, we may have broken even. That is not our primary purpose, but we do need to pay the bills and maintain our prudent reserve. The Fresno Convention Sales Manager is working on what she can do for 2005 to keep us there for a Spring Conference. She does NOT want to lose us. We'll see what comes of that. Last year, the Monterey Conference was quite costly and they'll miss the 2 year rotation next year because of the financial requirements.

So, we have a growing problem on our hands! As I mentioned in Fresno, we might be getting to the

Continued on page 2 - "Chairman"

## From General Service...

### The California Northern Interior Area Report

California Northern Interior Area 07 of the General Service Conference is alive and well! Spring is always a time of intense activity, as the annual General Service Conference in New York is held in April each year. The theme of this years' Conference is "Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship". Our Delegate, Kathy C., is busy distributing the agenda topics and attending District meetings to talk with District Committee Members (DCMs) and General Service Representatives (GSRs), explaining and discussing the topics. Our Pre-Conference Assembly, where the GSRs bring their group conscience to the Delegate, was held this year in Lodi on April 12-13. Our Post-Conference Assembly will be held in Placerville on May 17-18. The

Continued on page 2 - "CNIA"

## NCCAA 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference San Jose, California June 13, 14 & 15, 2003

Friday	8:00 PM	Joe L.	New York NY
Saturday	3:30 PM	Matt W.	Modesto
Saturday	8:00 PM	Brian M.	New York NY
Sunday	11:00 AM	Donna E.	Cathedral City

## CNIA

(continued from page 1)

Post-Conference is where our Delegate reports back to the GSRs and gives a full accounting of activity and actions taken at the Conference.

This year, our Delegate Kathy C., will also be presenting a Conference report at the summer NCC to be held in San Jose June 13-15. She is on the agenda for Saturday afternoon at 1pm, and I urge all A.A. members interested in learning how decisions are made concerning the fellowship as a whole to attend her presentation.

Be sure to look for the new anthology of stories taken from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> editions of the Big Book! This new conference approved book entitled Experience, Strength and Hope, will be available in April from your local Central Office, Intergroup or the General Service Office. Marianne H., Area 07 Chair

## San Ramon is Getting Ready

Having hosted our first NCCAA Conference in the East Bay last July, the Host Committee members are excited and enthusiastic in our preparations for the March 2004 San Ramon NCCAA conference! Our first organizational meeting was held this past March and committee chairpeople were selected from the more than 30 people that showed up to make themselves available for service at the conference.

All of our committee chairs have been selected, with several committees being co-chaired with individuals from different geographical areas. We are hoping that having such diversity in our chairpeople will help the outreach committee to get the word out to a wider area. The NCCAA conference is the only AA

## Birthday Club

<b>April-</b>	Dick E	Redwood City	9 years
	Joe K	San Mateo	28 years
<b>May-</b>	Linda T	Ceres	2 years
	Tracy S	Modesto	5 years
	Leslie K	Modesto	11 years
<b>June-</b>	Pete W	Ceres	4 years

## Congratulations to All !!!

The Birthday Club celebrates AA 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 give us your information. This is done at no charge to you.

conference regularly held on "this side of the hills" in the East Bay. The conference dates are March 12, 13, and 14 and we will be back at the San Ramon Marriott hotel and conference center, site of last year's 4th of July NCCAA conference. The hotel and conference center enjoy easy freeway access (I-680) from all areas of Northern California. If you need any information about this upcoming conference, want to make yourself available for service, etc., please contact the Host Committee Chairperson and Co-chairperson at [nccaa\\_sanramon@myway.com](mailto:nccaa_sanramon@myway.com)

We are looking forward to seeing y'all and making you feel welcome in our little corner of Northern California.

## Chairman

(continued from page 1)

point to where we may need to change our venue, or look at different locations. We need to look around. I have a place in the Bay area, the Fremont Marriott, that wants to host our Conference at a reasonable rate, but we already have San Jose next month and San Ramon next Spring. We are okay until Fall

2004 and then we have no bids being submitted to the Steering Committee for consideration.

I encourage anyone to look in their area for possible facilities that may be able to accommodate our needs. In general, the Spring Conferences (Monterey and Fresno) attendance is 2000 or more; Summer attendance has been 1000; and Fall seems to depend on the location, but it's 800 to 1200. I know you'll need more details than that. Just contact me via email at [jcornish@hotmail.com](mailto:jcornish@hotmail.com) and we'll "chat".

In the meantime, we have a great Summer Conference coming up June 13-15, in San Jose. I encourage pre-registration, and the cut-off date for the Host Hotel, the San Jose Hilton & Towers is two weeks prior to the Conference. Your support is needed! Speaking of summer...is the sun ever going to come out and stay out?!"

Joe C. NCCAA Chairperson

## San Jose in 1986

Our Archivist, John G reports that the NCCAA was hit with some hidden charges by San Jose for the water they supplied for the conference. The bill for the water was over \$ 300.00.

The following article was submitted from a member who read it in the "By The Way", the monthly newsletter from the Central California Fellowship (Central Office) in Sacramento. In the next issue we will reprint an article on Singleness of Purpose which was recently reprinted in Box 459. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please let us know if you would like to submit an article.

### **A Drug is a Drug is a Drug ... NOT**

In the past three issues of the Intergroup News, there has been an ongoing discussion concerning the Third Tradition as it relates to drugs and talking about drugs on the podium. We have had a RN, BSN who was certain that Dr. Bob was dually addicted. We heard a nurse proclaim that every alcoholic is, by definition, a drug addict. We had a letter from a member stating that since "NA did not, in my opinion, have the stability nor strength of character to help themselves" that this implied that AA is therefore responsible to change to accommodate her. After all she reasoned, most people coming in today are "cross addicted." Another gentleman launched into an attack on Skedge!

(And yes, I like the exclamation point!), as well as his ideas. He then made the point that he "has the disease of alcoholism, and this disease manifested itself in a number of forms, including abuse of drugs." He went on to use Dr. Paul's story in the Big Book as justification for some of his points. (I suggest you read the Grapevine interview elsewhere in this issue. It will burst that bubble!) That brought us down to the fund point of all the letters as well as what is heard in the rooms; intolerance. "Who are we to impose out rigidity upon them and tell them where they belong? I was told that alcohol was but a symptom of our disease, and that a drug is a drug."

AA must own a large part of the problem. We have abdicated our 12 Step responsibility in the past twenty years. Since the money pot appeared and treatment centers blossomed, we have mixed to the point that most AAs think a 12 Step call is a car ride to

got out, come to AA meetings and start espousing treatment babble. Many feel they owe their sobriety and give their loyalty to the treatment centers not AA. And it is our fault.

And that brings us to the nub of the matter. No matter how many times you tell me a drug is a drug is a drug, dry or wet, I will remain convinced That this theory is absurd. I don't care what your treatment center counselor told you. I am 50 years old, a child of the 60's and have put damn near everything into my body ever conceived in a Lab or grown in a field. I have done uppers and downers. Orange Sunshine by the carload enough pot to fry my lungs for good, but with drugs I never had the phenomenon of craving, the obsession that I had with alcohol.

If you place 100 people in a room and give all of the crack cocaine that they want for a year, in the end you will have a 100 crack addicts. if you put 100 people in a room and give them all of the heroin that they want for a year, in the end you will have a 100 heroin addicts. But if you put 100 people in a room and give them all the alcohol that they want and statistics hold true, in the end, you will have 10 alcoholics.

Even if I accept the theory that a drug is a drug is a drug, the fact is-Alcoholics Anonymous ONLY deals with one of them. Alcohol. Not cocaine, not pot, not anything but alcohol.

Is there a problem if someone finds help in a meeting with another dually-addicted person? Of course not. But I don't want to hear that same person from the podium. I have no problem when someone mentions that they used drugs in the lead, but I have a big problem when a significant part of the message concerns drugs. But what about Dr. Bob??? What

to sedatives and used them to calm the shakes. Page 176 says. "I did not take the morning drink which I craved so badly, but instead would fill up on a large dose of sedatives to quiet the jitters." The gentleman uses this one sentence, out of context, to declare Dr. Bob a drug addict. Bob then stated that over the next 15 years he "had sense enough never to go to the hospital if I had been drinking." To jump to the conclusion that Dr. Bob used sedatives for 15 years is irresponsible. Perhaps our writer didn't think anybody would look up the reference. He used the sedatives because he was a surgeon and could not operate with shaking hands. It is an incredible disservice to our cofounder to label him a drug addict. Perhaps this nurse should call Dr. Bob's daughter, Sue, and tell her that her father was a drug addict and see what happens? And what about Bill? He used acid! The fact is, Bill W used acid under doctors care as an experimental drug to treat his depression, not as a wild-eyed hippie flashing a "Stop the War" sign while tripping.

Even if I accept the notion that Bill and Bob were "druggies", have you listened to any of their talks? Have you ever heard either of them discussing drugs at a meeting? Have you ever heard them introducing themselves as an alcoholic and a whatever? I don't think so.

Then our friend attempts to strengthen his case by referring to the Third Tradition and specifically pages 141 and 142 of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. This portion of the book discusses the controversy in the early days when a dully-addicted person wanted to join. He soon proved that his was a desperate case, and that above

all he wanted to get well. 'But," he asked "will you let me join your group? Since I am a victim of another addiction even worse stigmatized than alcoholism, you may not want me among you. Or will you?

There was a dilemma. What should a group do? The oldest member summoned two others and, in confidence, laid the explosive facts in their laps. Said he, "Well what about it? If we turn this man away, he'll soon die. If we allow him in, only God knows what trouble he'll brew. What shall the answer be-yes or no? At first the elders could look only at the objections. "We deal," they said, " with alcoholics only. Shouldn't we sacrifice this one for the sake of the many? So went the discussion while the newcomer's fate hung in the balance. Then one of the three spoke in a very different voice. "What we are afraid of," he said, " is our reputation. We are much more afraid of what people might say than the trouble this strange alcoholic might bring. As we've been talking, five short words have been running through my mind. Something keeps repeating to me, "What would the Master do?" Not another word was said. What more indeed *could* be said? Overjoyed, the newcomer plunged into Twelfth Step work Tirelessly, he laid AA's message before scores of people. Since this was a very early group, those scores have since multiplied themselves into thousands. Never did he trouble anyone with his other difficulty. AA had taken its first step in the formation of Tradition Three. Our friend brought up the fact that this story, of letting in the dually-addicted person, helped form the Third

Tradition. He brought up the "What would the master do?" quote. *But he ignored, "Never did he trouble anyone with his other difficulty. "*

The Third Tradition is very clear that anyone is a member when he/she says so. But does it mean that they have free reign to say or do anything they want. The Long Form of the Third Tradition states, in part, "our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover." The key here is all who suffer from alcoholism, not just a desire to stop drinking. A drug addict calling himself or herself an alcoholic who does not suffer from alcoholism is not a member of AA. We will not throw them out or challenge their diagnosis, but the fact is dug if the drug addict is not an alcoholic, he or she cannot relate to my story about my love affair with gin. And I can't relate to his cocaine tale.

One of our writers then stated that he could hardly affect AA Unity. By himself? No. But this falls into the "my vote doesn't matter" argument. Tell that to Bush or Gore. When his attitude becomes widespread you bet it affects AA unity. We are unified because we concentrate on singleness of purpose. When we give a lead that is significantly drug related, the new guy with an alcohol problem wanders into the night to die. When we introduce ourselves as "alcoholics and addict", or "cross- addicts", or my personal favorite, " powerless," we divide the room. We are being selfish saying who I want and what I am is more important than the group. We are saying that I am different rather that there is a strength here, because we are dealing

with the same problem. Why is it necessary? I am many things besides an alcoholic, but I don't tag them on in my introduction. The First Tradition is very clear that our common welfare comes first, above the individual. So why not respect the group you're in and follow what they want? There are plenty of groups today that call themselves Alcoholics Anonymous that are anything but. Go there. Stop banging your spoon on your high chair. We do one thing. We do it very well. In AA we deal with alcohol, period.

Am I being intolerant? I am happy to see anyone who wants to get sober come through the doors. I *am* happy when a dually-addicted member finds others who can relate and finds help.

But I am not happy when that same person talks for 40 minutes on the insanity of drugs. I am not happy when they introduce themselves in any old way. I am not happy when they dress in a way that shows no respect for AA nor themselves. I am not happy when I ask someone in a meeting to please be quiet while the guest is speaking and I get cursed out. I am not happy when I am told they don't give a\_what the group wants.

Am I being intolerant? When something concerns whether I live or die, you are dam right I am intolerant.

We are told that today things am different. We have to change.

No we don't by Faye M

This article reprinted in whole from the Akron Intergroup News

## **We Need Readers for future NCCAA Conferences!**

Have you ever been a reader at an NCCAA Conference? We are always looking for people to be Chairpersons and Readers at our conferences. Here is the upcoming schedule for future conferences. Please contact Joe C., Dave W., Katy P or Tim R. if you are interested and available.

**Redding**

October 3, 4 & 5, 2003

**San Ramon  
Stockton  
Yuba Citv**

March 12, 13 & 14, 2004

June or July, 2004

October 3. 4 & 5. 2004

# **Have you visited your Web Site yet?**

<http://www.ncc-aa.org/>

**You'll find:**

**The History of NCCAA**  
**Our “Purpose Structure & Function”**  
**Past issues of the “Good News”**  
**A list of Future Conferences**  
**A list of upcoming Speakers**  
**Flyers - Future & Past**  
**Programs – Upcoming & Past**  
**Information on our Archivist**  
**Guidelines for Hosting a Conference**  
**A Link to AA General Service**  
**And More...**

We regret that our Treasurer Ande M, who was just reelected as our treasurer for the next two years, has been under the weather and hasn't been able to prepare our financial report for the Fresno Conference. We will be sure to have her report in our next issue. Our prudent reserve didn't get the boost we have been used to so we need to build it up again. One way you can do that is to bring a friend or two to the San Jose Conference. It is important that we remain self-supporting. We appreciate your support!