



Have you heard the Good News?

Good News



Est. 1948
Spring 2012

Upcoming Spring Conference

There is much excitement for this upcoming Spring Conference in San Ramon, Ca. March 16,17,& 18, 2012.

The following hotel is offering special rates for those attending the 65th Annual NCCAA Spring Conference in San Ramon. To ensure your reservation, you should register at least 30 days in advance of the Conference, and you must mention that you are attending the NCCAA San Ramon conference in order to obtain these rates. The Host Hotel is the

Marriott San Ramon

2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583
(800) 228-9290

Rates:

\$ 99.00 single

AA Grapevine
Volume 1 Issue 5
October 1944

\$ 99.00 double

Amenities:

Pool, Jacuzzi, exercise room, full restaurant, (pet friendly facility).

San Ramon

NCCAA 65th Annual Spring Conference

March 16, 17, & 18, 2012

2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583
(800) 228-9290

• Friday March 16

- 2:00 p.m. Registration Opens
- 3:30 p.m. Old Timers Panel
- 8:00 p.m. Open Speaker Meeting—Howard P., Gilbert, AZ

Saturday, March 17

- 9:30 a.m. General Service Panel Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Recover Play
- 1:00 p.m. Hospital & Institutions Panel Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. Young People's Speaker Meeting—Gina B., Sacramento, Ca.
- 8:00 p.m. Open Speaker Meeting—Charlie H., Henderson, NV
- 10:00 p.m. Dance Following Drawing

• Sunday, March 18

- 9:30 a.m. All A.A. Services Panel Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Open Speaker Meeting—Shelia A., Norman, OK

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 upcoming Speakers
- Flyers
- Future & Past Programs
- Information on our Archivist
- Guidelines for Hosting a Conference
- A Link to AA General Service
- And More



THIS POOR GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT AILS HIM . . . HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS THINK HE'S A BAD EGG OR WORSE. "THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION ON ALCOHOLISM" IS GOING TO TRY TO GET THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS BIRD HAS A DISEASE CALLED ALCOHOLISM— THAT HE IS WORTH HELPING— AND THAT HE CAN BE HELPED (WITNESS US A.A.!).

Letter from our Chair person – Carol Harvey

As I come to the end of my first term as the chairperson for NCCAA, I have been reflecting on the past two years. God, and the members of Alcoholics Anonymous have once again prevailed. In a time where the economy everywhere has greatly affected many areas of our lives, the local host committees, the NCCAA Delegates and Steering Committee members have dug deep in their pockets to ensure the continuance of our organization. They have realized the need to seek out lesser expensive venues and help to cut back on our costs and have trusted that God will see us through. In our sixty-four (64) years, there has always been a conference. We have but one primary purpose: “to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous”.

Foster City, Stockton and Santa Rosa conferences “rocked”. The attendance at all 3 brought us up out of the darkness and into the light (a little too dramatic?). Well, the future of NCCAA is very important. We have been carrying the message since 1947. When Bill Wilson visited San Francisco, CA in 1945 he saw that groups were scattered and needed to come together. He suggested a gathering where all the groups could come together and share their experience, strength and hope. Thus, the beginning of NCCAA. The first meeting was attended by only thirty (30) groups. The second meeting had one hundred and forty-five (145) in attendance. And it was at this meeting where they decided, with Bill’s blessing to call themselves: The Northern California Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA). While General Service did not exist at that time, the panel 1 & panel 2 delegates were chosen and sent to New York. After that, General Service and Central Offices met on the Friday of each conference to share their experiences- what worked and what didn’t work. While not part of the General Service, Intergroup or Central Office structures, NCCAA has prevailed as a gathering place of all service entities.

At first the conferences were four times a year. Speakers were brought in from across the region and across the country. There were dances and workshops. Then the conferences were held only three times a year. As the attendance grew, larger venues were sought out. When you read the history at ncc-aa.org., it states the last “small” conference was held in Santa Cruz in 1975. Since that time we have gathered in the larger cities where facilities could accommodate us. Now, we are going back to some of the smaller venues in areas where conferences have not been held before. In July 2012 we will be going to Auburn, CA and in June 2014 we will be going to Lodi, CA. These venues are smaller, but they do have large AA communities and the enthusiasm is beyond expectations.

NCCAA has become the only conference, convention, round-up, gathering, etc. where ALL service entities are invited to participate. From weekend workshops to tables to display their literature and history all are afforded an opportunity to discuss their service with members who otherwise would not be exposed to them. Many newcomers, in-betweeners and long-timers have become involved in service areas they had only heard of. At the recent CNIA election assembly, a member shared how much he learned of Bridging the Gap. A young lady in Sacramento County, has become involved in PI/CPC since attending the All Services Panel in Santa Rosa. There are many, many more testimonies such as this.

Some new traditions for NCCAA are starting to be realized. In the past, the Saturday Night Speaker/ NCCAA Officer dinners have been costly as they have been held at hotels and restaurants. Stockton, realizing the need to cut back on costs and afford the local host committee the opportunity to meet and greet the speakers and officers, held a catered dinner at the local Alano Club. The cost was minimal and everyone was able to relax and enjoy the food and fellowship. In Santa Rosa, The Dogs on the Roof catered an incredibly awesome BBQ at a local church. Again, cost was low and more were able to attend. The speakers felt going back to the “roots” off AA made their experience more enjoyable. Auburn, Sacramento and Lodi will also hold offsite BBQs, and local potlucks. We no longer feel the need for elaborate decorations, dances DJS or free drawing prizes that strain our budget.

Letter from our Chair person – Carol Harvey (continued)

NCCAA is self-supporting through our contributions. The registrations, 7th Tradition and Free Drawing donations keep us going. The AA communities in Northern California have been incredibly generous in seeing the need NCCAA has filled and continue to support us.

The past 2 years have been very special to me. I can never ever repay NCCAA for the opportunities for growth. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for letting me of service.

In Love & Service

Carole Harvey

NCCAA Chairperson.

New "Good News" Editor

NCCAA bids farewell to Julie S. as its Good News editor and is looking forward to seeing her at all our upcoming Conferences. Thanks for a job well done Julie! I'm Allison O. and will be serving as your new Editor and am looking forward to the opportunity to serve. My sponsor brought me to my first conference when I had three months sobriety in Fall 2005. I have been hooked ever since. My other experience in NCCAA has been 2010 Summer Conference in San Jose I served as Co-Chair. I am looking forward to this new area of service and hope to hear from you regarding suggestions you might have as to how the GOOD NEWS can best serve NCCAA and AA as a whole. I will be looking forward to taking up where Julie and those who came before her left off. I am busy reviewing past issues and hope to convey the information you are accustomed to seeing and perhaps adding new content as well. The GOOD NEWS has been in production since 1948, that's 65 YEARS! Making it the oldest news letters in Northern California.

I am looking forward to seeing you all and hope you will consider helping to keep the GOOD NEWS as a viable resource by subscribing and helping to spread the word of its availability amongst your friends. We both appreciate and need your ongoing subscriptions. AA often expresses its conscience at the basket. Please consider supporting this long standing and valuable tool for communication. Your written contributions are also welcome.

Allison O.

Heard at Meetings.

Inter Group: "An alcoholic is a man with two feet firmly planted in mid-air."

Greenwich: "A.A. is like an umbrella. It won't work unless you put it up."

White Plains: "An alcoholic is a person who finds he has nothing in common with himself."

Manhattan: "Time heals all cuts; time also cuts all heels."

Inter Group: "The twelve steps are a matter of long, slow work. One can't go from a heel to a halo in twelve easy lessons!"

Manhattan: "When I look at a new prospect I say to myself, 'If you don't take a drink, feller, you'll be where I am, and if I *do* take a drink, I'll be where you are--in no time flat'."

Sponsorship

A member of A.A., who previously had been attending meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, her sponsor decided to visit her.

It was a chilly evening and the sponsor found the sponsee at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the sponsor's visit, the sponsee welcomed her, led her to a big chair near the fireplace and waited.

Her sponsor had made herself comfortable, but said nothing. In the grave silence, she contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the sponsor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it on one side of the hearth all alone.

Then she sat back in the chair, still silent. The sponsee watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and 'dead as a doornail'. Not a word had been spoken since the initial meeting.

Just before the sponsor was ready to leave, she picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the sponsor reached the door to leave, the sponsee said, "thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I'll see you at the meeting in the morning."

Anonymous

Service

Gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are , partners in a common effort, the well-understood fact that in God's sight all human beings are important, the proof that we no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons the surety that we need no longer be square pegs in round holes but can fit and belong in God's scheme of things- these are the permanent and legitimate satisfaction of right living for which no amount of pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes. True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.

Page 124 and 125, TWELVE STEPS and TWELVE TRADITIONS



Sobriety Birthdays

Bill K.	Oakland, Ca.	March 16,1977
Brian G.	Mountain View, Ca.	April 17, 1973
Bud A.	Modesto, Ca.	April 9, 1959
Chris J.	Carmichael, Ca.	March 3, 1984
Clinton N.	Roseville, Ca.	May 7, 2008
Guy J.	Old Station, Ca.	March 5, 1984
James H.	Alameda, Ca.	May 1, 1988
Jeffrey N.	Novato, Ca.	May 6, 1988
JO M.	Turlock, Ca.	March 15, 2001
Joe P.	Antelope, Ca.	April 6, 2003
Kathleen C.	Sunnyvale, Ca.	May 21, 1998
Keith H.	Guernville, Ca.	May 31, 1983
Lisa T.	Elk Grove, Ca.	March 18, 1988
Mary C.	S. San Francisco, Ca.	April 1, 1972
Megan R.	Richmond, Ca.	March 28, 1981
Cindy P.	Manteca, Ca.	May 1 ,1994
Robert B.	Modesto, Ca.	May 6 1986
Ron J.	Paicines, Ca.	March 19, 1979
Terry F.	North Highlands, Ca.	March 2, 1994
Theresa A.	Paradise, Ca.	April 1 1991
Veronica S.	Pacifica, Ca.	April 1, 1991
William R.	Woodland, Ca.	April 6, 2006



Upcoming NCCAA Conferences

<u>Auburn</u>	<u>July 6, 7, & 8 2012</u>	
Friday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 3:30 p.m.	Jeff N.	Novato, Ca.
Saturday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Tamara B.	Roseville, Ca.

<u>Sacramento</u>	<u>October 5, 6, & 7 2012</u>	
Friday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 3:30 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 8:00 p.m.	Tom W.	Oakland, Ca
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	TBA	

<u>Fresno</u>	<u>March 8, 9, & 10 2013</u>	
Friday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 3:30 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	(TBA)	

<u>Foster City</u>	<u>June 7, 8, & 9 2013</u>	
Friday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 3:30 p.m.	(TBA)	
Saturday 8:00 p.m.	(TBA)	
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	(TBA)	

San Ramon March 2014

Modesto Oct 2014

Please let us know if you would like to participate as a reader at one of our conferences. We'd Love to get you up there

NCCAA
Good News

First Class

Address Correction Requested

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