



Good News



Established 1948

Holiday 2015

Published Four Times a Year

By Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

NCCAA CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Hi everyone! HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I would like to say thank you for all the members that support NCCAA and the process of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous through our conference. What a year it has been! Very exciting! Very busy! I really want to say what an Honor and a privilege it has been to serve this body at the chairperson capacity. As most of you know when you had elected me as new chairperson for NCCAA in March of 2014 I shared with you my vision and goals for NCCAA during my two year term. None of that would have been able to happen unless it was for the Group Delegates, Steering committee members and absolutely the officers of NCCAA having an open mind and trusting that process. Those goals and vision included working closer with both Interior (07) Coastal (06) H&I and attending their Area Committee meetings welcoming them and giving updates on what's going on with NCCAA. Reaching out to both AI-Anon and the Spanish community, and asking them to have a Liaison to the NCCAA steering committee. Extending our business meeting to one and a half hours so that we may have more time for discussion of business and allow the Group Delegates feel like they are important and heard. Reach out to cities that have never had a chance to host an NCCAA conference. Review and update duties for officers, update host committee guidelines and job descriptions that meet our current conference process, update our Purpose, Structure, Functions handbook. And to discuss more on having an Inventory for NCCAA. Well I have to say that all of that has been done only because you trusted the process. Also what has happened because of all this both AI-Anon and Spanish have really had the forum to participate at our conferences and share their message in a bigger way.

Inside this Issue	
Sobriety Birthdays	2
Letter From The Editor	6
San Ramon Spaghetti Feed Flyer	2

NCCAA 69th Annual Spring Conference San Ramon, CA

March 18, 19, 20 2016

Friday 8:00 PM
Mike L. Indianapolis, In.
Saturday 3:30 PM
Courtney A. Pleasant Hill, CA
Saturday 8:00 PM
David D Millersville, MD
Sunday 11:00 AM
Mildred F Toronto, Canada

Upcoming Conferences

Santa Rosa – June 10, 11, 12 2016
Modesto Oct 7, 8, 9 2016
Foster City – March 10, 11, 12 2017

Visit Our NCCAA Website

[http:// http://norcalaa.org](http://http://norcalaa.org)

- ◆ Download Conference Flyer
- ◆ Register for Upcoming Conference
- ◆ Good News Subscriptions
- ◆ Good News Archives
- ◆ Submit Articles
- ◆ History of NCCAA
- ◆ Purpose, Structure & Function
- ◆ Host Committee Guidelines

Chairperson Report (Continued)

I really believe this has helped the families that have both A.A. and Al-Anon is able to come to the conference together and celebrate their recoveries. American Sign Language has been involved even more and has been reaching out to the Deaf community and passed on our flyers both in English and Spanish so that their members may attend our conference and hear the message of recovery. We introduced Square to the Fresno conference and that was a big success.

Knowing that most members today, especially young people don't carry cash on them, having this service available to NCCAA helps with registration, Seventh Tradition, free drawing, and pre-registration. What's nice is that we can bring the convenience of square to planning meetings, area meetings and wherever our officers may go to make available to pre-register. We made maps to display at each conference so members can see the counties that they live in and what participation they have for County reps, Group Delegates, and Central office participation. Hopefully that will encourage more members to go back to their areas and share that information. I was really excited that we finally had our Inventory and participated in it. I really believe that NCCAA is needed even more today than ever before. I also realize that we have more events within A.A. from local cities and Intergroup today than we did 20 years ago, but feel with NCCAA's rich history we can grow and carry the message still today to members and cities that have never had the experience of a conference this big.

Elections for a new NCCAA chairperson will happen in San Ramon March 18-20th 2016. You may go on our website at (norcalaa.org) and review the Purpose, Structure, Functions handbook on the duties of the chairperson and the election process. Share this with your groups. The nominee has to be nominated by a steering committee member at the steering committee meeting on March 19th at 8am and give an A.A. resume. All nominations will be closed after the steering committee meeting. Then at the Group Delegates business meeting Saturday March 19th at 11am, all nominees will stand up and give their A.A. resume to the delegation to be voted for. Our next Steering Committee meeting in Stockton will be January 24th at 1:15pm at the Stockton Alano Club 1812 Monte Diablo. Anyone is welcome to attend. Again from the bottom of my heart and the Love and Passion I have had for NCCAA I want to thank all of you in allowing me to serve.

Shaun G. NCCAA Chairperson

Chairperson Requirements are listed on page 5

HOW'S YOUR GRATITUDE DOING?

During the Holiday Season, many members choose to express their gratitude for their recoveries by making a contribution to events like NCCAA that provide opportunities for members to practice our three legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. Help to carry the message by making a tax-deductible contribution to NCCAA which will be used to assist newcomers in attending future conferences.

Get your birthday listed in the Good News!

If you want your birthday in the Good News just get a subscription to the Good News and it will automatically be listed in the Birthday Section. Or you can just email the editor, dleesmith@aol.com or send a note to PO Box 1087, Lakeport, Ca, 95453. Or contact any steering committee member.

BIRTHDAYS ***IN*** ***NOVEMBER***

GLENN H	SACRAMENTO	11/25/2008
JOE C	REDWOOD CITY	11/16/1986
JOE G	FRESNO	11/21/1997
JOHN E	ATHERTON	11/17/2006
JOSE R	FRESNO	11/03/2005
JULIE S	SANTA CLARA	11/27/2001
LINDA M	DIXON	11/03/1980
MARTIN S	SANTA CLARA	11/11/2009
MIKE M	OAKLAND	11/15/1984
MIKE R	DANVILLE	11/19/1993
NEAL H	SUNNYVALE	11/17/2008
PAT B	CLOVIS	11/06/1997
RAMONA J	FRESNO	11/24/1979
REID C	SACRAMENTO	11/24/1997
RENE G	PACIFIC GROVE	11/06/2008
TERESA D	CARMICHAEL	11/16/1991

San Ramon NCCAA Host Committee Spaghetti feed/ Speaker Fundraiser

January 9th 2016 (1020 E Tregallas Rd Antioch 94509)

Dinner and salad to be served at 6:30pm (\$10)

GUEST SPEAKER

FATHER TOM G.

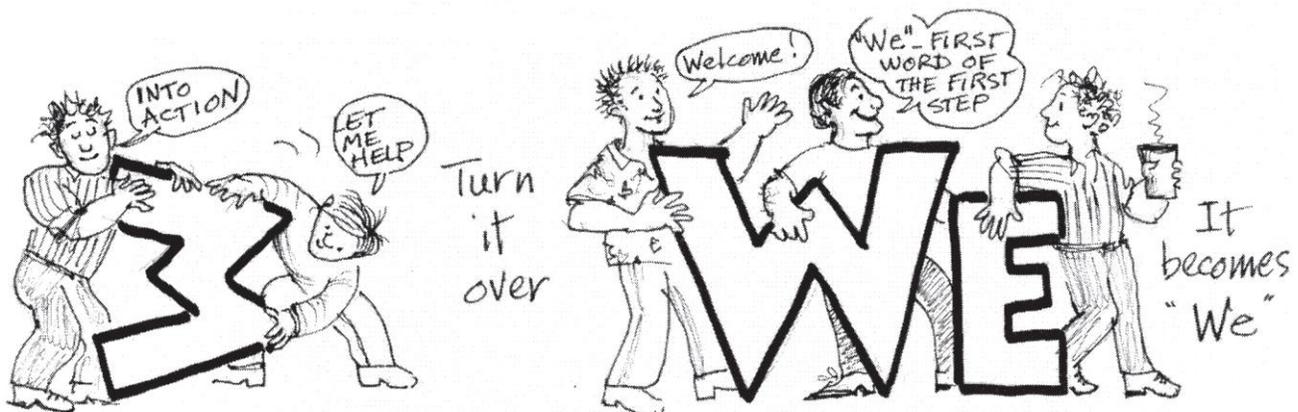
This event is to help the local host committee provide a great DJ for the **San Ramon NCCAA** conference that will be coming in **March 18-20th 2016**.

This is also an opportunity to meet the host committee and volunteer for this great conference. You will also be able to pre-register for the conference.

The **Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous** has been in existence since March 1947. There are three conferences a year that NCCAA holds in Northern California. Members put bids in to host an NCCAA conference in their city. The purpose of the conference is to “carry the message of A.A.” At these conferences you’re able to hear speakers from around the world that you normally wouldn’t hear. The conference provides newcomers to hear about all the services within Alcoholics Anonymous that maybe they wouldn’t hear at their local home group. And most of all to meet new people from all over northern California and meet new friends. We will be celebrating our 69th year in 2016 and welcome all of you to attend the conference.

For more information contact Dan K (925) 681-8201

Or you may go to our website at norcalaa.org



MEMBERS NOTES

This is a page for members, who have left notes on their impression of our conferences, and /or some fun things that you get to do because of your sobriety.

Go salmon fishing with my son.

I was at my lowest point, I felt that I couldn't go on anymore and I wanted it to end. I had no one to turn. Then I was introduced to AA and my life did a complete 360° and I haven't looked back. I am now gainfully employed and going to college where I am studying to be a Substance Abuse Counselor. My life and future have never looked brighter. Thank you to the rooms of AA I now have hope. Thanks to those who keep the doors open. Cleveland C.

Very Organized and great variety for all types of People and levels of sobriety

Thank you for all your efforts

However: The marathon meetings should not break between 11-1 on Saturday.

*A 3 legged dog walks into a bar and says "I'm lookin' for the man who shot my paw."
Anonymous*

My experience with NCCAA has been the bright spot of my sobriety.

Brigitte P

I was our groups GSR (Lathrope) fellowship in 1982 - This year I thought it would be nice to come back. It has been 30 years since I have been to the NCCAA. I have been living out of state. Just wanted to say HI. Archie R

*NCCAA conferences always seem to kick my sobriety up a notch. I really enjoy the speakers and the fellowship.
Bonnie C.*

Elections for Council Chairperson will be held in San Ramon

Below is the requirements for Council Chairperson

The Council Chairperson

The Council Chairperson is elected at the Spring Conference of the EVEN numbered years and serves a two (2) year term. This office is restricted to no more than two (2) consecutive terms, four (4) years.

It is recommended that the Council Chairperson have a minimum of five (5) years continuous sobriety and a service background.

The Council Chairperson should have the time available to perform the duties of conducting the business of the Council in presenting the three Conferences each year and work closely with the Treasurer and the Secretaries.

The Council Chairperson may delegate any, or all, of the Chairperson's responsibilities to one or any of the Secretaries, or in cases of necessity to any responsible A.A. member. The Council Chairperson shall, however, assume full responsibility for any functions so delegated. If the Chairperson is unable to assume the duties of the Council, one of the Secretaries will act as Chairperson until a special election can be held.

Speaker Selection Submissions

Tape Librarians need Speaker Selection Submissions with Speaker contact information. If you have a favorite speaker and would like to hear them at one of our conferences send tapes or CDs to:

c/o David Lester
Sound Solutions
1513 Grass Valley Hwy
Auburn, CA 95605

BRING A NCCAA CONFERENCE TO YOUR AREA

Bid procedures for conferences to avoid conflicts with the regularly scheduled meetings of other AA service organizations the steering committee strongly recommends that bids be accepted at March Conferences for the second weekend of March three years hence, at the June Conferences for the first or second weekend in June three years hence and at the October Conferences for the first or second weekend in October three years hence. A Host Committee may not present a bid for a Conference while it is hosting a present conference. At the Conference where the bid is presented, NCCAA bid forms must be filled out and any pertinent hotel and convention center information included, and copies must be given to the Chairperson. New conference sites must be inspected by the chairperson at least three months before the Conference where the bid is to be presented.

Get your Conference Bid forms here and help NCCAA reach new areas

<http://norcalaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ConferenceBidForm.pdf>

EDITOR'S CORNER

Greetings to all friends in this holiday season. My name is Dennis S and I'm the next new editor of the **Good News**. Funny thing, Friday I came to the Fresno Conference having just retired and on Sunday I left as the editor of the **Good News**. It seems to work that way in my sobriety, when I need to move forward something comes along that fits right into my life. I've been attending NCCAA Conferences for a few years now and they have really picked up my sobriety and I've been looking for something in NCCAA to further my service commitments. This is going to fit the bill just right. It's something I can do on my computer, it's something I can learn about and it's something I will need help with from other sober alcoholics. As with our program this is a we project. Without your support "**The Good News**" will be no news. My job is to put your stories, your recovery, and your humor in one place for all of us to learn from and enjoy. So, are you with me? All you have to do is send in articles, stories and cartoons. I'll do the rest. My email is dleesmith@aol.com, snail mail Good News/care of Dennis Smith, PO Box 1087, Lakeport, Ca 95453, or person to person anywhere you find me. Take Care and until the next issue.
Peace, Dennis S.

From the Grapevine

SHRINK RAP

May 2015

*TALKING WITH PSYCHIATRISTS ABOUT
AA SO THEY CAN HELP THEIR PATIENTS*

Not long ago, I was invited to attend a state psychiatrist's conference to help staff an AA "Cooperation with the Professional Community" information booth. Our booth was situated among various vendors, and was also next to the free snacks and beverages. Two doctors walked into our booth area casually carrying their goblets full of red wine. Suddenly realizing they were in an Alcoholics Anonymous booth, they each took a couple steps back before asking if it was ok to bring their wine into our area. I was quick to tell them we have no opinion on the use of alcohol. Feeling more at ease, the doctors began to ask us questions and share their concerns about AA.

One concern was their fear that members of AA would tell their patients they couldn't be sober if they were on prescribed medications. True enough, I've heard horror stories about this, and I've witnessed it first hand in open discussion meetings. If I were a doctor, I would be concerned too. We did our best to allay their concerns by showing them our pamphlet, "The A.A. Member – Medications & Other Drugs" and explaining how we as a Fellowship understand it isn't our place to play doctor or express an opinion on such treatments. I offered a few suggestions to the doctors.

First of all, I said that it isn't anyone's business in AA what medications a member is taking, suggesting that their clients not share such personal information to begin with. We do not police our members, we are nonprofessional. I acknowledged that sometimes there are ill-informed members in AA who are willing to talk at great lengths on matters they know nothing about. I suggested that the doctors contact the local AA Intergroup or Central Office to ask members from their Twelve Step or Public Information Committee to come out and meet with them and then meet their clients.

Continued next page

Date Issued: 4-24-2007

This is the date when I received this badge allowing me the opportunity to carry the message of AA into our local Jail. Hello I am John and I'm an alcoholic. How many of you said or thought Hi John. I hope you all did.

Introducing myself as an alcoholic was the most honest words out of my mouth in a long time. I walked into AA at the age of 49, February 27, 2006. I did, said and read just about everything that was asked of me- why back then? I had no idea – I just did it! When asked to do the reading of the Traditions, oh boy, I could not pronounce the word Anonymity, to this day if I am looking at it and saying it out loud my brain, lips and the rest of my mouth just cannot process it. A-o-nim-it-t! It just needs to have a spelling change. Watch for a future General Service agenda topic! To solve my problem. Just KIDDING!

Within a few days a man brought me a Big Book and within a month I became the coffee/set-up guy for a local Saturday night meeting. It seems the last person had rotated out a while back and the secretary was doing it. This man showed me how to make coffee and used his thumb to measure how deep the grounds needed to be in the drip tray, this guy worked on transmissions all day and his thumb was coated with grease and oil. I knew right then I was just where I belonged. I felt right at home. I will add that my wife was helping me with the set-up; it was the first time the two of us worked together on anything positive in a very long time. I think because we did it together they ran the commitment a bit longer than normal.

We both passed the service test I guess and she became the intergroup Representative and I became General Service Representative. I was told to go to the Area meetings the 4th Saturday of each month. I did and was so proud of my report when I gave it at the next business meeting, then I gave them a receipt for some gas and I guess my report wasn't that good because they didn't want to reimburse me. It was only because I did not get approval first! There was actually a line item to fund the GSR. Oh, I picked up a service sponsor too!

At around 5 months I was asked to make myself available to secretary the Monday night Big Book study. At about the same time there was an opening for a Thursday night S/D meeting which my wife was elected too. We honored our 6 month commitment because it felt good.

When we both met our 1 year sober requirement for H&I, we applied and we both passed. I was always told to make myself available, just raise your hand John. I could do that very well, it was the same hand I used to drink with so it was in good shape.

I enjoy going into our local jail carrying the AA message. It has been good for me to hear the many examples of just how unmanageable someone's life can be. As I listen to the

(Continued next column)

SHRINK RAP (continued)

In this way they could address all of their concerns about AA, and if the client was willing, help safely introduce the potential member into the local AA community.

The doctors liked our suggestions, and they seemed surprised that AA could offer this sort of help. Other doctors visited our booth, and we offered them the opportunity to subscribe to the "About AA" news letter and answered more questions about the AA program and, more importantly, told them how to get in touch with the local AA community.

How can we attract alcoholics if we don't reach out? If we remain passive with our outreach to the professional community and let misinformation and misunderstanding guide the professional community's opinion of us, how many drunks might suffer or die? Reaching out is not promotion. Radio and TV public service announcements, ads in newspapers and billboards letting the public know who we are, what we do and that we are here to help anyone with a drinking problem are not promotion. They're a demonstration of Love. We care and we've been there.

Woody R.
Stockton, Calif.

Reprinted from the Grapevine May 2015

(Continued from previous column)

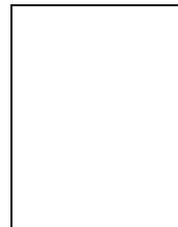
similarities of my own experiences I now see just how important our 12 steps are. For every problem there is a step which will provide the solution.

There is also a Recovery Program in Lake County where we hold an open AA meeting on Monday nights, it is a speaker meeting and it is full of men seeking a better life. As with the jail, many are there because they have to be and they need a bit of guidance and a good dose of the 12 steps.

Many of the men who leave the jail or recovery program leave hearing this promise from me. When you get out call the hotline, go to a meeting and give me a call, I will do everything I can to help you stay sober. I have only helped a few, though about a year ago at a birthday chip meeting this young man pulled me to the side and thanked me while showing me his 5 year chip. He said John you remember me from the jail meetings? Of course I said yes with a smile.

John O. Kelseyville, Calif.

Dennis Smith
PO Box 1087
Lakeport, Ca
95453



Mailing Address

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Good News Subscription Form

Subscription Rates

US Subscriptions - \$4.00 per year
Outside of the US - \$5.00 per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sobriety Date: _____

Type of Subscription: New Renew Gift

Mail Subscription To:
Dennis Smith
PO Box 1087
Lakeport, Ca 95453
Email: goodnewsncaa@gmail.com

Subscribe or Submit Article Online: <http://www.norcalaa.org/>