



# Good News



NOVEMBER,  
1969

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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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## A.A. Membership Overseas May Top North America, Conference Told

Overseas membership in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous may eventually exceed that of North America, according to Dr. John Norris, non-alcoholic chairman of the organization's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Norris made this statement at A.A.'s first World Service Meeting which concluded three days of conferences at the Roosevelt Hotel, October 9-11, 1969.

In attendance were 27 delegates from 12 countries overseas, the Central American Zone and the North American (United States and Canada) Conference.

Dr. Norris pointed out that the A.A. General Service Office in New York, supported and directed by the A.A. groups of North America, currently serves a growing number of A.A. members and groups overseas. However it eventually should become merely the "senior service center" among a number of such offices around the globe, he said.

"Future meetings like this one will help A.A. national and zonal offices throughout the world to operate more efficiently and to solve common problems of growth and development," he stated.

Noting that A.A. is strong in many areas of the world while it is only beginning in others, Dr. Norris said that "it is obvious that the North American General Service Office cannot do such things as conduct public information activities or manage relations with medicine or government agencies in Europe, South America or anywhere else."

In the area of literature, for instance, distribution centers are needed that take into account language, currency and shipping problems. "We are too remote to do these jobs and we should never make the attempt," he said.

"But we can help by sharing with other countries our thirty-

(Continued on page 2)

## AL-ANON GROUPS OPEN MEETING IN VACAVILLE

The Fairfield and Vacaville Al-Anon groups will host an open speaker meeting on Saturday, December 6th, 8:30 p.m., at the Alamo School, 500 Orchard Avenue in Vacaville.

Harvey and Estella E., popular husband and wife team of Woodland, will be the speakers, and refreshments and coffee will follow the meeting.

## 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF S.F. YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP NOVEMBER 8th

The Young Peoples Group which meets in Gresham Hall of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, will celebrate their 2nd Anniversary on Saturday evening, November 8 at 8 p.m. This meeting was originally scheduled one week earlier, on November 1st.

Mariette H. of Los Angeles, "Young — Swinging — Beautiful — Great Sobriety" will be guest speaker for the meeting which will be followed by dancing to the music of "The Roman Legions", and refreshments, coffee, etc.

Free parking in the Cathedral lot; enter from Sacramento Street.

## Inter-County Fellowship Activities - News - Events Open House November 16

The Inter-County Fellowship office at 166 Geary Street in San Francisco will hold **Open House** from one to five o'clock Sunday Afternoon, November 16th.

All the loyal volunteers will be there; coffee, sandwiches and cake will be served, and "we have 14 windows—7 doors; they will all be open for you!"

The Friday Night All-Groups meeting at First Unitarian Church, Geary and Franklin Streets, will present a husband and wife team, Eve and Dick C. from Walnut Creek, on Friday, November 28th, the day after Thanksgiving. The Hosts will be the Visitation Valley Group.

There are good speakers every Friday Night. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., there is a half hour meeting from 7:30 to 8 p.m. for **beginners only**, due to space limitations, with the regular meeting at 8:30 p.m. Coffee is served both before and after the meetings; there is plenty of parking!

## MISSION ALL GROUPS AT INDUSTRIAL CLUB

The monthly Mission All Groups meeting, dinner and dance will be held on Saturday, November 8th at The Industrial Club, 3198-16th Street, San Francisco.

Bud G., Contra Costa County H & I Representative, will be speaker at the A.A. meeting, 5:00 p.m.; the Chairman, Merle G. of Millbrae.

A spaghetti and Meat-balls dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by dancing to live music until??? Anticipated donation for dinner and dance, \$1.00.



## NEWS OF AA DOINGS IN FRESNO

By GRACE A.

### "THE MELODY LINGERS ON"

Fresno members are still remembering the pleasure and excitement of the conference held here last month. The hard-working committee deserves our thanks for their efforts.

The H. and I. Committee will host the monthly Inter-group meeting at St. John's Cathedral on Saturday, November 8th, 8:30 p.m. John T., Chairman.

The Sunday Morning Breakfast Meeting at the Carousel Restaurant on November 15th at 10:00 a.m. will have our own Grace A. as speaker. John L. will be the chairman for this popular event.

The Village Group will have Cecil J. from Long Beach as guest speaker for their meeting on Friday evening, November 28th, 8:30 p.m., at St. Columbo's Church, according to group Secretary Carol.

The Alano Club will serve Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 22nd, at 6:00 p.m., cooked by their capable chief chef Howard T.

### A.A. MEMBERSHIP

(continued from page 1)

year history and experience," he said noting that through this meeting A.A. is taking a long step toward world-wide unity and service to A.A. members and those alcoholics who still suffer.

Dr. Norris said that the World Service Meeting had five major objectives. These were: 1. to consider the future development of world services; 2. to strengthen general-service work already existing overseas; 3. to increase the number of service centers; 4. to provide for them an orderly plan of evolution, and 5. to assist in strengthening their self-support.

"Achieving these and other objectives will help make certain that the A.A. message continues to be carried to the sick alcoholic wherever he is or whatever language he speaks," Dr. Norris said.

Countries which sent delegates to the meeting were: Australia, Belgium, Central American Zone, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom and

### CHICO GROUP MOVES TO NEW FACILITIES

The Chico group which has, for some years, met on West 8th Avenue is moving to new quarters at 235 West 5th Street, and will hold the first meeting in the new location on Sunday, November 2, 1969, 8:00 p.m.

Meetings will be held five nights of the week; Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; no regular meetings scheduled for Thursday or Saturday.

The Chico Groups will host the monthly meeting of the Northern California Intergroup of A.A. on Saturday, November 15th, at the First Christian Church, 295 East Washington Avenue, the time, 8:00 p.m.

Holly and Lois D. from Salinas; A.A. and Alanon husband and wife team; will be guest speakers. They have been active in the program for some years, a very interesting couple.

the United States and Canada. They were chosen on the basis of A.A. population and the existence of service centers in their areas.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who maintain their own sobriety by helping other alcoholics to recover. There are now 15,030 A.A. groups in more than 90 countries. Of these, 3,340 are located outside North America, an increase of 20% from a year earlier.

### THREE SERVICE CENTERS UNITY MEET—EAST BAY

A landmark in East Bay A.A. Unity was achieved on Wednesday, October 22, 1969, when the first meeting of a committee representing the three Service Centers in Oakland, Hayward and Walnut Creek, met at the Oakland Central Office.

This committee functions for the correlation of ideas and to effect a closer cooperation between the Centers. It has no decision-making powers, but serves to bring about badly needed communication necessary for mutual assistance.

The always expanding services of these fellowships have at times overlapped on dates and coverage. It is the purpose and hope of this committee to provide unification in future planning of East Bay events.

The committee plans to meet quarterly, taking back to its Inter-groups a report of mutual needs and a complete schedule of future activities. Its purpose is the ever present need; help for the alcoholic who still suffers.

### STOCKTON MID-TOWN NEWS

By Joan F.

The monthly open speaker meeting will be held on November 29th at 8:00 p.m., with bingo, coffee and conversation following.

Almost too late for this issue is the pot-luck planned for Saturday, the 1st day of the month, at 6:00 p.m. preceding the regular open meeting. Bingo and fellowship always follow. Watch for the next one on December 6th.

Two real 'old-timers' will be among those sharing the birthday cake and celebration on Friday, November 21st at 8:00 p.m.; Pat B., 15 years, and Bill S. with 12 years.

Also attending will be Don Van T. (8), Sophie T. (7), Homer R. (6), Anne C. (4), Philo T., Dick C. and Jerry G., each 3 years, total 61 years.



# "THE LINK"

**IMPORTANT**—Every group should have a General Service Representative and should register the group and the name of the representative with the New York office before January 1st so that they may be listed in the 1970 United States and Canada directory.

There are a number of Marin County groups which do not have a representative. Please send your representative's name to both New York and also to Delegate Ed B., 1929 Hershner Drive, San Jose, Cal. 95124.

The big day this month is November 22nd, the date of the meeting at Nourse Auditorium in San Francisco (see back page), a middle of the term get-together to strengthen forces to carry the message through 1970.

Frank B. and his committee are working hard to have everything in order and Marge C. is cooking up a very nice buffet luncheon.

## "BUZ" D. SPEAKER AT SAN JOSE FELLOWSHIP

Paul 'Buz' D. of Daly City, a man with over 20 years of sobriety, will speak at the Downtown Fellowship, 590 South First Street in San Jose Sunday Evening, November 9th, at 8:00 p.m.

## MERIT GROUP ANNUAL THANKSGIVING OPEN

The Merit Group of Oakland will hold their Annual Open Thanksgiving meeting on Tuesday Evening, November 22nd, 8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 1401 Harrison Avenue (across from Shepard Cadillac).

Gene D., popular manager of Myrtle Dale Lodge in Calistoga, will be guest speaker, with Stan G. as chairman. Gene tells a very interesting 'down to earth' story.

The Merit Group, in keeping with Tradition Month, chose the Tuesday before Thanksgiving 18 years ago to hold their once a year open meeting, and it has been a group tradition every year since then.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION COMMITTEE OF NORTH CALIFORNIA  
Period 7-1-69 to 10-1-69

Donations		Disbursements	
Area 1	\$31.25	Good News	\$50.00
2	59.85	H and I Office	163.30
3	53.62	Literature	742.97
4	344.55	Stamps, etc.	45.17
6	323.39	P.O. Box 4032	9.00
7	149.45	Misc.	181.92
8	30.91	(Includes donation to	
9	46.40	Heart Assoc., all H and I	
10	51.79	Meeting expense,	
11	98.05	Bill Mitchell tapes, etc.)	
14	15.00	Petty Cash	57.60
		Telephone expense	77.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1204.26</b>	Additional stamps to	
		groups about pink cans	11.10
Note: There were no		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1338.39</b>
donations from areas		Balance (10-1-69)	718.90
5-12-13.			
Balance (7-1-69)	\$853.03		
	<b>\$2057.29</b>		<b>\$2057.29</b>

## SPEAKERS INSPIRING AT FALL CONFERENCE

The Fall Conference of A.A. in Fresno October 11-12 was a successful affair even though the attendance was a bit disappointing, due perhaps to the Annual Southern California A.A. Convention the previous week in Anaheim. The Fresno Convention Center provided a fine setting.

Both the featured speakers were excellent, as also were those who addressed the Hospital & Institutions meeting Saturday morning, and the General Service Meeting Saturday Afternoon.

The Council business meeting voted to maintain a hospitality room at the Miami Convention in July, 1970, as they did at Toronto in 1965.

Financially, the conference broke almost exactly even, in the black \$6.91. A summary follows:

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Registrations	\$501.00	The Banquet	\$495.93
Collections	566.02	The Snack Bar	391.85
The Banquet	542.75	Printing, etc.	549.64
The Snack Bar	417.49	Speakers, sound, etc.	433.21
Miscellaneous	348.70	Dance Band	185.00
		Literature	121.20
		Miscellaneous	202.22
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,375.96</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,369.05</b>
		<b>NET GAIN</b>	<b>6.91</b>

## CLUB A-7-A TO SHOW THE 12TH STEP PLAY

The A.A. 12th Step Play, will be presented by Homer D. and his Bunch at the A-7-A Club, 1815 Jefferson Street in Oakland on Saturday, November 22nd, at 8:30 p.m. according to Frank H.

The play runs for about an hour and a half, with a cast of twelve people. There is no admission charge, but the basket will be passed as usual. The group is from the Hayward-San Leandro Area.



## MENTAL DIET FOR ALCOHOLICS

I know that I must abstain from alcohol, not merely for the sake of others, but first and foremost for my own self esteem. The solution of my problem rests primarily with me.

If I pray for help I don't expect God to perform a miracle. He cannot do for me what can only be done through me. Persistent effort must be made. God will provide the food — He won't cook the dinner.

An alcoholic is made not born. Heredity, therefore, is not the cause of my drinking. Such an excuse is an age old dodge to avoid the reality of seeing myself as I really am.

I know my drinking past has no power over me other than what my present feeling about the past gives it.

Regret and despair over yesterday's drinking will only make today a torment and, since tomorrow grows out of today, it will bear the image of today. I will avoid such manner of thinking as it is only living in a rut.

I know there is a danger in being too self confident because of short lived sobriety. A sense of exhilaration, as well as one of depression, is equally a good excuse for taking a drink.

I do not need alcohol. Others can do without it and so can I. Any person of average intelligence, who is sincere, and honestly exerts an effort over a reasonable length of time can lead a life without alcohol.

I know from my own personal experience that drinking never solved a problem but only made matters worse.

I realize that I must be absolutely sincere in my effort to overcome the habit of drinking, otherwise, no one can help me.

I know that I have put a lot of effort into becoming an alcoholic.

I know that were I to exert a similar effort and concentrate on doing so, I could successfully achieve that which I want to be or do. (To be continued)

## Doctor Calls "Slips" More Normal Than Alcoholic

By DR. WM. D. SILKWORTH

The mystery of slips is not so deep as it may appear. While it does seem odd that an alcoholic, who has restored himself to a dignified place among his fellowmen, and continued dry for years, should suddenly throw all his happiness overboard and find himself again in mortal peril of drowning in liquor — often the reason is simple.

People are inclined to say "there is something peculiar about alcoholics. They may seem to be well yet at any moment they may turn back to their old way. You can never be sure". This is largely twaddle — the alcoholic is a sick person. Under the techniques of Alcoholics Anonymous he gets well, that is today, his disease is arrested. There is nothing unpredictable about him any more than there is anything weird about a person who has arrested diabetes.

Let's get it clear, once and for all, that alcoholics are human beings just like other human beings — then we safeguard ourselves intelligently against most slips.

Both in professional and lay circles, there is a tendency to label everything that an alcoholic may do as "alcoholic behavior". The truth is — it is simple human nature!

It is very wrong to consider many of the personality traits ob-

served in liquor addicts as peculiar to the alcoholic. Emotional and mental quirks are classified as symptoms of alcoholism merely because alcoholics have them — yet those same quirks can be found among non alcoholics, too. ACTUALLY THEY ARE SYMPTOMS OF MANKIND.

Of course, the alcoholic himself tends to think of himself as different, someone special, with unique tendencies and reactions. Many psychiatrists, doctors and therapists carry the same idea to extremes in their analysis and treatment of alcoholics. Sometimes they make a complicated mystery of a condition which is found in all human beings whether they drink whiskey or butter milk.

To be sure, alcoholism like every other disease manifests itself in some unique ways. It does have a number of baffling peculiarities which differ from all other diseases. At the same time, many of the symptoms and much of the behavior of alcoholism are closely paralleled and even duplicated in other diseases.

The alcoholic "slip" as it is known in A.A., furnishes a perfect example of how human nature can be mistaken for alcoholic behavior.

(To be continued in December)

## SAN PABLO FRIENDLY THANKSGIVING DINNER

A Thanksgiving Day Dinner with all the trimmings will be served at Friendly Fellowship, 1426-13th Street, San Pablo, beginning at noon. All welcome!

The Fellowship is open daily, with A.A. meetings every night at 8:30 p.m. Every Friday Night is a speaker meeting. Al-Anons meet Monday Nights, and Alateens on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

First Sunday's breakfast is served beginning at 9 a.m., every second Saturday is pot-luck dinner at 6 p.m., and business meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.

The Fellowship also has a baseball team which meets for a game, once a month. Members from other groups are invited to join in — as participants or spectators. Call 232-9814 for details or drop into the Fellowship.

**Every AA Group  
Should have GOOD  
NEWS on their FREE  
literature table.**

**Has YOUR group?  
WHY NOT?**



## A.A. GROUPS OVERSEAS INCREASE 20 PERCENT

Alcoholics Anonymous is growing at the rate of 20% per year outside the United States and Canada, it was reported recently by Dr. John L. Norris, non-alcoholic chairman of A.A.'s Board of Trustees.

In issuing A.A.'s annual report to the public, Dr. Norris, who recently retired as Assistant Medical Director of Eastman Kodak Co., noted that the number of groups overseas increased from 2,784 in 1967 to 3,340 in 1968. In the United States and Canada, where A.A. started in 1935, the number of groups rose from 9,895 in 1967 to 10,151 in 1968.

There are now 15,030 A.A. groups in more than 90 countries registered with A.A.'s General Service Office in New York, said Dr. Norris. This compares with 14,154 groups a year earlier and represents a total worldwide gain of 6.2%.

A.A. groups in North America represent 78% of the world total. While there is no practical way to make an accurate count, A.A. membership is currently estimated at more than 425,000 men and women, said Dr. Norris.

One of the highlights of the past year, according to Dr. Norris, was the completion of A.A.'s first broad survey of members attending meetings in the United States and Canada. A total of 11,355 members at 466 A.A. meetings filled out questionnaires on such matters as age, sex, length of sobriety, and the primary factors responsible for getting them to A.A.

Of the total, 60% reported that they had not had a drink for one year or more, while 41% reported that they stopped drinking completely from the time of attending their first A.A. meeting.

Among other things, the survey showed: three fourths of those attending meetings are men; that the average age of all those queried was 46; that 90% attend at least one A.A. meeting a week, and that most came to A.A. because of another A.A. member or someone in the family.

Some trends which the survey highlights: an increasing percentage of those who come to A.A. are women; the age at which alcoholics first come to A.A. is decreasing, and the influence of physicians in getting alcoholics to their first meeting is increasing sharply.

## DINNER IN DUNSMUIR FETES 21ST BIRTHDAY

Art S. of Dunsmuir presided at an A.A. meeting Saturday evening, October 4th, preceded by a ham dinner attended by his friends from the surrounding area, all celebrating his 21st A.A. birthday.

After the meeting, a birthday cake, decorated in the form of a book, was served. Bill S. of San Francisco, Art's sponsor, was to have been there celebrating his 24th year, but illness prevented his presence.

A congratulatory telegram was received from Bill and the Sunset Group in San Francisco where Art attended his first A.A. meeting.

## NEW "SEQUOIA GROUP" FUN IN REDWOOD CITY

A note from Jack S., says, "If you hear of anyone who would like to take a 26 mile drive south (from San Francisco) for a fun meeting, tell them about us at the Sequoia Hospital, Alameda and Whipple, (first Redwood City off ramp).

The Sequoia Group meets at the hospital on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. This is NOT an H & I meeting. Jack also says,

"We have a closet full of extra chairs and some room for them to be filled."

## NEW ALANO CLUB AT SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

South Lake Tahoe members have opened an Alano Club at the intersection of Martin and O'Malley Streets. Turn off highway 50 at Carson Street (halfway between the 'Y' and Stateline) and directly left into O'Malley Street. Drop in when you're in the vicinity!

## News Events from S.F. Alano Club

By Paul "Bus" D.,

The holiday season is upon us, and as usual it starts with this Thanksgiving Month. We, at the Club, feel there are many things to be thankful for this year. You wonderful sober people, who have patronized and supported us these past years in our efforts to bring you and yours some entertainment and fun. The fact that we have one of the most beautiful and best operated clubs in the country. Yes indeed we are thankful to you. As usual we have planned many events for you, so, keep these dates in mind.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1—HALLOWEEN DANCE.** Forgive us! We're only one day late. It's the best we could do. Costume or not, dance to the "Dry Notes". Door prizes just for you.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15—THANKSGIVING DANCE.** Dancing to our great little combo, the "Dry Notes". Personal door prizes.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 27—THANKSGIVING DAY.** Open house all day. Big open meeting at 12 Noon. Buffet luncheon from 2 til 5 P.M. Roast turkey and all the trimmings. You're all invited.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29—A.A. BIRTHDAY TIME.** A night to celebrate all those November A.A. birthdays. Coffee and cake. Dancing to fine records.

There you are, a full month of variety. Take your choice or attend them all. But do come. Don't forget the address.

**SAN FRANCISCO ALANO CLUB  
414 GRANT AVENUE—CORNER BUSH STREET**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1—A-7-A Annual Thanksgiving Benefit Dance & buffet, at The Oakland Alano Club, 319-14th Street. Donation \$1.00 — Phone 444-9302.

November 15—Northern California Intergroup monthly meeting; First Christian Church, 295 East Washington Avenue, Chico; 8 p.m.

November 15—Annual Gratitude Buffet Dinner, Southern Alameda County Service Center Ass'n., Veterans Memorial Building, Main & C Streets, Hayward; Dinner, Meeting and Dance; donation \$2.50.

November 16—Open House, Central Office, San Francisco, 1-5 p.m. 166 Geary Street, Suite #84.

November 22—Coastal Area General Service assembly, Nourse Auditorium, San Francisco.

November 22—Fresno Alano Club Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:00 p.m.

November 22—12th Step Play by Homer D. at The A-7-A Club, 1815 Jefferson Street, Oakland, 8:30 p.m.

November 25—Annual Thanksgiving Open Meeting of Merit Group, Oakland. First Congregational Church, 1401 Harrison Ave., 8:30 p.m.

December 6—Vacaville & Fairfield Al-Anon Groups open speaker, meeting Alamo School, 500 Orchard Avenue, Vacaville, 8:30 p.m. Refreshments.

## GRATITUDE DINNER SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY

The Southern Alameda County Service Center Association of Alcoholics Anonymous will hold their Annual Gratitude Buffet Dinner on Saturday, November 15th, in Veterans' Memorial Building, Main & 'C' Streets, Hayward, according to Dell C., Secretary.

Chuck C. from Laguna Beach will be the guest speaker at an open A.A. meeting following the dinner which will be served from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with the meeting at eight o'clock, and Dancing 'till midnite.

Anticipated donation, \$2.50.

## "BY-THE-WAY" SACRAMENTO CCFAA

The sixth anniversary of the 'Second Saturday' monthly speaker meeting will be celebrated on November 8th with an all day program highlighted by the presence of probably the two most well-known speakers in their field, Chuck C. for A.A., and his wife Elsa for Al-Anon.

Starting with an H. & I. meeting at 2:00 p.m., the program will consist of a CCFAA Delegates meeting at four, a Spaghetti Dinner at six and the speaker meeting at 8:00 p.m. The whole thing takes place at the Labor Center, 2525 Stockton Boulevard in Sacramento.

Dinner tickets must be had in advance; no tickets sold at the door!

A new club — **Alano North** — has been granted a charter by the State of California as a non-profit corporation. It is to be a family-type club, with gambling prohibited, and will open in the North Area soon.

All interested members contact any of the following: Hank K., 927-7960; Dave D., 685-9402 or Mary Pat N., 927-4877.

Don L., new BUCK OF THE MONTH chairman is really working, and the results are already showing. September figures were more than double August, and just watch the Treasurer's report for October!

## RETREAT FOR COUPLES A.A. AND AL-ANON

An A.A. retreat for married couples, conducted by Father Barney, will be held the weekend of November 21-23, 1969, at Cenacle Retreat House, 5340 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, California 95608 (phone 916-489-3651).

Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The retreat will close Sunday about 4 p.m. The cost will be \$40.00 a couple, with a deposit of \$5.00 or more requested with the reservation.

This retreat is the result of

## Letters To The Editor

Seattle, Wash.

October 19, 1969

Good News,  
166 Geary St., Room 84, S.F.

Dear Rollin:

Enclosed is my renewal for another two years to your fine publication. Good News helps me to keep in touch with my many California friends.

Just a few days ago I was privileged to attend a portion of the First World Service Meeting and share with A.A. members from many parts of our A.A. world. Our two delegates from the North American Conference (Warren S. from Southern California & Chuck D. from Michigan) did a fabulous job in representing us. No finer selection of delegates could have been made.

It seemed that in minutes after meeting A.A.'s from other countries, there was this almost instant rapport. Like Eve M. (formerly of our GSO staff) used to say. "There are no strangers in A.A.; merely friends who have not yet met." And on the meeting of one another there were the quips and jokes, and the "language of the heart" expressed with an accent. It was instantaneous communication.

I would suggest that you ask your readers to watch for the reports that are to come shortly from our General Service Office in New York. These reports will indicate to all, the wonderful and powerful length and breadth and depth of our grand fellowship that cuts through barriers like race and language and geography like no other organization, society or fellowship can.

May God, who presides over all, grant continued success to your wonderful "GOOD NEWS".

Cordially,

Eric B.

numerous requests made by women who attended the women's retreat last May; women who thought a retreat just for couples would be of great benefit. They say that no one should stay away because of finances. If they can't pay they are welcome, too.



## Good News

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of Alcoholics Anonymous

Rollin W., Business Manager

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## NEW REHAB PROGRAM AT PALO ALTO VA HOSPITAL

The VA hospital in Palo Alto on Junipero Serra Blvd. (Foothill Unit) has a 90 day alcoholic rehabilitation program available for veterans.

This program is the only one of its type in the VA system, and up to now has been in the nature of an experiment and pilot program for the system.

Applicants are accepted from anywhere in the world, at no expense, for 90 days. They must be sober, have a genuine desire to stop drinking, are subject to disciplinary discharge for drinking during the 90 days, and once completed can never again be admitted to this program for any reason.

For further information contact Robert C. Rothhammer, phone 341-8111.

## GRATON FELLOWSHIP BOTH A.A. & AL-ANON

There are both A.A. and Al-Anon meetings in Graton every Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. in the Oak Grove School, 8760 Bower St.

The last Thursday of every month is birthday night. Marie L., formerly of Richmond, celebrated 26 years in September, along with Bud and Alice who have 2 years. Bud T., Gerry W. and Florence M. had birthdays in October. Visitors invited any and every Thursday Night!

## H & I BROADSIDES

By George R., general chairman,

Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee

A 1969 survey, conducted by the New York office, indicates that there are 648 registered hospital groups with an approximate membership of 16,000 and 891 prison groups with 35,000 members. There are some 350 institutional sponsors registered and 102 Hospital and Institution committees.

Problems faced by these groups include the fact that many hospital and prison administrators tend to lump alcoholism with other illnesses. Thus the mentally disturbed and narcotic addicts are often referred to A.A. because it seems to be the only available source of help. Another problem is supplying literature to these groups, but there is less difficulty where there is an active H and I Committee. There is also an increasing need for visual aids which are descriptive of the A.A. program.

The problems noted by the survey are very similar to those which we are encountering in Northern California.

The Conference in Fresno Saturday and Sunday, October 11-12, 1969 was very successful insofar as the H and I Committee was concerned. Our Fresno friends did an excellent job and our special thanks to John T., Area 9 Chairman and his H and I workers for making our stay both productive and enjoyable.

The Saturday morning "Open H and I Meeting" was very well attended. Kim M. of Santa Rosa acted as M.C. Our non-alcoholic speaker, Ed Price, San Francisco businessman, presented an interesting case history of his son's successful struggle against alcohol and related problems. Virginia M. from Modesto, our alcoholic speaker followed Ed to the podium. Her experiences, her introduction and participation in the A.A. program and Hospital and Institution work in Southern California was outstanding. Virginia certainly has a wonderful message and does an excellent job in H and I work. Many thanks again to Ed Price, Virginia M. and Kim M. for a job well done.

Sunday we held our regular H and I workshops. Stan W. of San Francisco, Area VI Chairman, chaired the Institution meeting and Betty S. of San Pablo chaired the Hospital meeting. Both sessions were well attended and as usual both of these individuals did an excellent job. Meetings of this type are excellent since many problems are discussed, many viewpoints presented, and a better understanding of such problems results.

In H and I work, as in most every other part of our lives, communication is a very vital factor. These meetings are the place to raise problems, and I am sure with all of us working together we can come up with the solutions.

Our next General Meeting will be held in Fresno on November 9, 1969 at the Tropicana Motel, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Let's all try to attend.

## ESPECIALLY FOR NEWCOMERS

### MONDAY BEGINNERS

Speaker Meeting with  
Questions and Answers

### THURSDAY BEGINNERS

Speaker—Discussion Meeting

Both Meetings held at 1755 Clay St., San Francisco—8:30 pm  
Coffee — Refreshments — Arm's Length A.A. after each Meeting



# NOTICE

Northern California Coastal Area

**A. A. ASSEMBLY**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1969**

**Nourse Auditorium**

275 Hayes Street at Franklin — San Francisco, California

**10:00 A.M. Registration**

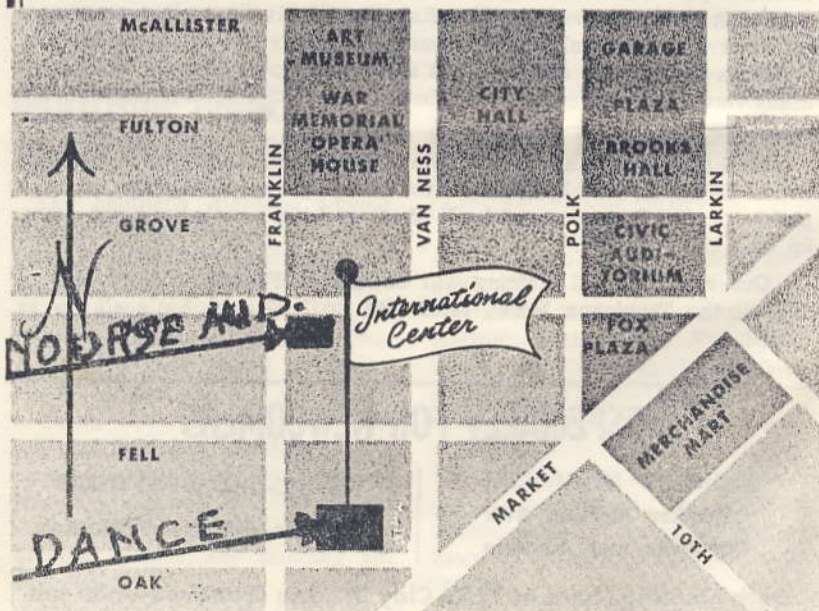
**12:00 Noon Buffet Luncheon (Ham - Turkey)**

**1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Sharing Session**

**8:00 P.M. Open Public A. A. Meeting**

Chairman: GENE D., Calistoga

Speaker: DICK W., Hollywood  
Television and Screen Personality



Dancing 10 p.m. till 1 a.m.

**DOOR PRIZES**

Music by:

**"THE DRY NOTES"**  
Lively A. A. Combo

Dancing at the  
**INTERNATIONAL CENTER**  
50 Oak Street

**ALL  
WELCOME**