



# Good News



June 1981

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## BRASS TACKS A. A. SPONSORS

"Brass Tack A.A. sponsors" can make the difference whether a person, especially a newcomer stays in ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS or goes out the door...perhaps never to come back to our Fellowship again. Sponsorship is a LIFE and DEATH matter and I've seen too many sponsors regard this responsibility too lightly. "BY THE GRACE OF GOD, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWO BRASS TACK SPONSORS, I'm learning to Live One Day At A Time. People seem to forget that there is a difference between our great Fellowship of A.A. and the program of recovery. Awhile back one of my sponsors reminded me that an adversity could happen to me and I might be miles away from them or any other A.A. member. They asked me what I would do. I had to stop and think before answering them. I said, "Well, I would have to rely on my Higher Power, whom I choose to call God, and apply my A.A. program." My ole A.A. sponsor said, "See why all these months I've tried to teach you to live by the A.A. way? God will help you maintain any calamity with some SERENITY."

Each of us must walk our path in SOBRIETY, but the trust, friend-

ship, love, and caring my two sponsors show me...helps the journey that Bill W. tells us to walk toward progress and not perfection ..much easier. Over two years ago when I came into A.A. I heard the expression "It's not enough to put the plug in the jug." Also the expression, "There is a difference between 'DRYNESS and SOBRIETY'". I learned these lessons the hard way because I didn't listen to my sponsors.

Now with God's help I have twenty months of sobriety and can honestly say that the last approximately eight months have been good sobriety in spite of many calamities. "TRUST" in my two sponsors and my Higher Power has been the key. My two sponsors have never betrayed my inventory, or anything I've confided in them. A most beautiful remark they both said to me when they became my sponsors was, "We will give you compassion and understanding and our love when you need it, but not sympathy nor pity, because those can kill us alcoholics." Thank God their hands are always there when I've needed them, but they let me stand on my own feet and grow by working my 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

BRASS TACK SPONSORS really believe in the steps and tradi-

cont. on page 4

INSTITUTIONS BULLETIN (Letter and reply)

"I am writing to ask for clarification regarding AA meetings that are held in a treatment center. We have had AA meetings here at our residence for alcoholics...since 1976. Two local groups have sponsored these meetings, but neither took the responsibility for counting donations at our meetings. The staff was told to use money collected to buy AA literature for residents and to pay for coffee used at the meeting.

"Recently I...heard it is not consistent with AA Guidelines on Institutions to collect money at in-house meetings and that the (H&I Committee) makes provisions for treatment facilities to receive literature. I would like clarification.....

"This recovery house has made a sincere effort to follow all Traditions of AA to maintain the proper position of cooperation but not affiliation.....

"Two other questions the administration has are 1) Does the facility provide coffee as a courtesy to those bringing in the AA meeting; 2) Does it matter who the AA literature is ordered from?..."

The reply from GSO, excerpted, reads:

"...As for your question about

using donations for AA literature, we see no reason why you can't, as 'AA is self-supporting through its own contributions'. In other words, this is exactly what the money should be used for if a collection is taken.

"Your AA group is a 'treatment center group' and that means it would be regarded as a special group --and not the same as a regular AA group that just happens to meet in treatment-oriented facilities...We encourage 'treatment center groups' to be self-supporting, and when they are unable to be, the local institutions committee usually lends a hand. In your case, since the money is being collected from AA members and the orders are being made by an AA member from the group, there should be no problem. On the other hand, if these orders are being made by means of a check issued by your treatment center, it would not be in keeping with our 6th Tradition. Most important here is to remember...the order should be made by an AA member from an AA Group.

"...It probably would be a very good idea to sit down with your institutions committee once again and try to get a group conscience on how you would like this group to be listed. If it's handled as a regular AA group, then it would be handled according to the six-point definition found on page 32 of 'The AA Group' pamphlet.  
cont. on page 9

## CNCA POST-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Now that the experience of Northern Coastal's General Service Pre-Conference Assembly at Petaluma is behind us, plans should be made quickly to attend CNCA's Post-Conference Assembly. This is the Assembly where the Northern Coastal Area Delegate makes his first report on actions taken at the 31st General Service Conference held at New York City April 26 - May 2, 1981. This event will be held this year at the Marriott Hotel, 2700 Mission Blvd., Santa Clara, CA the weekend of May 23-24, 1981. To reach the Marriott, take the Great America Parkway offramp from Highway 101, approaching either from the north or south, and turn onto Mission College Blvd.

Registration for this Post-Conference Assembly will be \$2 per person; banquet tickets will be \$14. Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel at the above address--or telephone (408) 988-1500. (Mention you are attending the AA assembly).

For early arrivals, Registration will commence at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22. There will be an informal AA meeting that night for earlycomers. Official registration will begin Saturday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m.. There will be an optional participation meeting at 10:30 a.m.

After a luncheon break, the Opening Service Meeting at 1:00 p.m. will

feature Lois J., Novato, as Service Speaker. There will be a coffee break, and at 2:30 p.m. there will be a series of three panel workshops. These will include: Panel 1 - Personal Inventory and Steering Committee Inventory. Panel 2 - 12th Step Inventory and PI/CPC Inventory. Panel 3 - Area (Officers) Inventory and District (DCM) Inventory. These panel workshops will be rotated in such a fashion that as many as possible may attend all of them. There will be a charge for coffee.

At the Delegate's Report, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Saturday, there will be additional seating in the banquet room for those who wish to hear the report, but do not wish to attend the banquet. The evening will top off with an Open AA Speaker Meeting at 8:30 p.m., featuring Earl M., Mill Valley, as AA Speaker.

Sunday morning will feature an Ask-It-Basket at 9:00 a.m. and the assembly will conclude with a Spiritual Meeting at 10:00 a.m. The assembly will end by 12:00 noon.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Half our troubles come from wanting our own way --

The other half from getting it --

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Don't drink -- go to meetings -- and change a little -- your life will be more comfortable. (guaranteed by someone who knows)

ZONE 4 (from page 3)

now asking for a commitment to rent the space four years in advance.

With this knowledge, the informed group conscience was to stick with the three yearly conferences.

Remember each group is entitled to two representatives to the Northern California Council. Why not volunteer to be your group's representative and plan to attend our next meeting September 12. Flyers will be sent out, as well as a notice appearing in the Good News.

Hope to see you all at the Stockton Conference.

-JoAnne P.

ZONE C

Delegate's Meeting  
May 30, 1981  
10:30 a.m.

Contra Costa Central Service  
Office  
185 Mayhew  
Walnut Creek, CA

COME - BRING A FRIEND!

-Sylvia K., Concord

BRASS (from page 1)

tions. I'm grateful that my Brass Tack Sponsors have told me, "Now is the time to start serving our Fellowship." "Service is such an important responsibility to our Fellowship of A.A." they say. Now it is my turn to start giving back to God, A.A. and to my sponsors, by doing whatever I am able to do in SERVICE.

By serving A.A. I can help to be a part of the Fellowship when that Alcoholic that is still suffering comes into the door. Like two beautiful sponsors did for me over two years ago when I so desperately needed A.A., I can say "WE CARE."

Brass Tack Sponsors: never change -- continue to carry the message to help others like you have before me. With your solid years of SOBRIETY and SERVICE you have showed me anything is possible. If I Live One Day At A Time, and when God feels the time is right for me, I hope I can give another human being the wonderful "BRASS TACK SPONSORSHIP" you have given me. God bless you both.

Susan K.-Modesto, CA

# ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE



STOCKTON FAIRGROUNDS

JUNE 5, 6, 7, 1981

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF AA

## PROGRAM

### Friday, June 5, 1981

- 2:00 P.M. REGISTRATION — Agricultural Bldg.
- 3:30 P.M. "EARLY-BIRD" A.A. Meeting -- Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: Willie J., Lodi, Ca.
- 8:30 P.M. KICK-OFF MEETING — Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: Art S., Fresno, Ca.  
Definition: Don D., Carmichael, Ca.  
Chapter 5: Mary Jane M., San Rafael, Ca.  
Traditions: Stan P., Fairfax, Ca.  
Speaker: Sybil C., Los Angeles, Ca.
- 10:30 P.M. A.A. Discussion Meeting — Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: Bud C., Stockton, Ca.

**Saturday, June 6, 1981**

- 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION — Agricultural Bldg.
- 9:30 A.M. GENERAL SERVICE — Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: Dick R., Sacramento, Ca.  
Reader: Bill G., Fairfield, Ca.  
Speaker: Naydene B., Modesto, Ca.
- 11:00 A.M. WORKSHOP — What is P.I./C.P.C. — Agricultural Bldg.  
Moderators: Lee M., San Francisco, Ca.  
Bill Mc., Redding, Ca.
- 11:00 A.M. N.C.C.A.A. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING — Alcove

**Lunch Break**

- 1:00 P.M. HOSPITAL & INSTITUTIONAL OPEN MEETING —  
Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: Frank W., Sacramento, Ca.  
Purpose of H&I: Shirley H., Sacramento, Ca.  
Traditions: Roger R., Hearld, Ca.  
Non A.A. Speaker: Hon. John F. Cruikshank Jr.,  
Sup. Court Judge, Stockton, Ca.  
A.A. Speaker: Jean E., Sacramento, Ca.
- 2:30 P.M. N.C.C.A.A. OPEN MEETING — Agricultural Bldg.
- 4:00 P.M. YOUNG PEOPLES MEETING — Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: Jerry T., Los Banos, Ca.  
Definition: Richard C., Sacramento, Ca.  
Chapter 5: Linda A., Santa Cruz, Ca.  
Traditions: Nancy S., San Jose, Ca.  
Speaker: Grady W., Sacramento, Ca.
- 8:30 P.M. OPEN SPEAKER MEETING — Agricultural Bldg.  
Chairperson: LeRoy P., Fresno, Ca.  
Invocation: Rev. Richard Lungren, Retired, Lodi, Ca.  
Welcoming Address: Hon. Duane Martin, Judge, Superior  
Court, Stockton, Ca.

Definition: Grace S., Santa Rosa, Ca.  
 Chapter 5: Jack Y., Hayward, Ca.  
 Traditions: Joyce M., Berkeley, Ca.  
 Speaker: Holly M., Ann Arbor, Mich.

- 10:30 P.M. Drawing -- Agricultural Bldg.  
 10:45 P.M. Dance -- Youth Bldg. (across from Agricultural Bldg.)  
 10:45 P.M. A.A. Discussion Meeting -- Agricultural Bldg.  
 Chairperson: Heather C., Stockton, Ca.

### **Sunday, June 7, 1981**

- 9:30 A.M. HOSPITAL & INSTITUTIONAL PANEL -- Agricultural Bldg.  
 Chairperson: Robert K., Stockton, Ca.  
 Purpose of H & I: Bret C., Sacramento, Ca.  
 Traditions: Henry M., Stockton, Ca.  
 Panelists: Bud C., Stockton, Ca.  
             Ted L., Modesto, Ca.  
             Den S., Sonora, Ca.
- 10:30 A.M. GENERAL SERVICE PANEL -- Agricultural Bldg.  
 Moderator: Bill M., Vallejo, Ca.  
 Reader: Catherine S., Stockton, Ca.  
 Panelists: Ingrid R., Fresno, Ca.  
             Bertie S., Redding, Ca.  
             Sam E., Napa, Ca.
- 10:30 A.M. WORKSHOP -- Twelve Step Study Groups -- Alcove  
 Moderator: Will N., Sacramento, Ca.

### **Lunch Break**

- 1:30 P.M. OPEN SPEAKER MEETING -- Agricultural Bldg.  
 Chairperson: Jini, MacD., Fresno, Ca.  
 Invocation: Rev. John Gleason, St. Mary's of the Annunciation  
             Church, Stockton, Ca.  
 Definition: Diane S., Modesto, Ca.  
 Chapter 5: Jerry L., San Francisco, Ca.  
 Traditions: Horace H., Oakland, Ca.  
 Speaker: Milton M., Van Nuys, Ca.

## **Northern California Al-Anon and Alateen Summer Conference**

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY, JUNE 5-7, 1981**

Registration starts 2:00 P.M. Friday, June 5, 1981

HOLIDAY INN

221 N. Center St.

Stockton, CA

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!! SURPRISE!!!

Alcoholics Anonymous was, is, and will, I hope continue to be full of surprises--pleasant surprises. The best remembered are:

I was surprised that I wanted to stop drinking. I was surprised that there was no need to be proposed and seconded for membership, and that, if at any time I wanted to leave, there was no call for formal resignation.

I was surprised that I was not asked for my name, address, age or religion. I was surprised that the only entrance fee was a desire to stop drinking. I was surprised to learn that I did not need to become conventionally religious and that spirituality simply means trying to be selflessly helpful to other people.

I was surprised to learn that alcohol is a depressant and not a stimulant. I was surprised to learn that alcohol does not make us better in any way, but that it "cons" us along by dulling our senses of criticism -- self-criticism especially. I was surprised to learn that I did not need to swear off drinking for life, and that keeping off one drink, one day at a time, was all that was required.

I was surprised when I became able to lose my temper without wanting to drink. I was surprised one day by personal, contented sobriety. I was surprised to find that life was more satisfying without drink than ever it was with drink. I was surprised at the sense of fulfillment given by trying to practice the A.A. program for recovery.

I am surprised that asking some Higher Power for help, experimentally, seems to work. I am surprised that I should be given the grace to be released from alcoholism.....daily.

--from the Akron Inter-Grouper



## INSTITUTIONS (from page 2)

On the other hand, if you decide to have this group listed as a 'treatment center group', then the pamphlet 'AA in Treatment Centers' will give you further information.

"...Your last two questions have already been answered; but we will once again remind you that 1) 'we are self-supporting through our own contributions, and the facility has no obligation whatsoever to provide coffee as a courtesy to those bringing the AA meeting in. In many cases, however, facilities do provide coffee, and many times the basket money is used to purchase literature or items needed for the facility.

"In answer to question 2, it really doesn't make much sense to order literature from an outside book company, since all AA groups receive a discount on all literature. These book companies order from us, and of course you will be paying more in the long run. It's probably a much better idea to order from AA World Services, Inc., and if the check is sent by an AA member for an AA group, the discount is applied..."



Those of you in the San Francisco area might want to call S.F. Central Office and find out about the meetings held at the West Bay Alano Club, 7330 Mission Street, Daly City, CA. The club opened April 12th.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- June 5 - Northern California  
6 Council of AA - Summer  
7 Conference (see program enclosed)
- June 14 - Gen'l Meeting for Hospital & Institution Committee  
10:00 a.m., at:  
ST. JOHN'S HALL  
215 Tucker St.  
Healdsburg, CA
- The General Chairman for the next two years will be elected at this meeting by the Third Legacy Procedure.
- June 14 - Contra Costa County Inter-group Annual Picnic  
DIABLO VALLEY RANCH  
Marsh Creek Rd. in Clayton  
Fun + Games + Speaker + Food  
BRING THE FAMILY!!!
- June 10 - SUMMERFEST. . . . .  
11 Rodeway Inn  
12 Eugene, Oregon
- June 16 - 24th International Conference of Young People in AA  
Hotel Registration: }  
RADISSON ST. PAUL }  
11 East Kellogg }  
St. Paul, MN 55101 }  
(For information:  
P. O. Box 8655  
Minneapolis, MN 55408)

NCC CORNER

In regards to our Stockton Conference:

FUNCTIONS OF THE NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
Conferences

Conferences are held for one purpose.

TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

It is an established fact that those who attend and take an active part in our conferences have a more positive attitude in their solution of the problem of Alcoholism and are aided in acquiring the knowledge needed to arrest this devastating disease.

Some people have a special knack of giving us a message in a way we can understand. Therefore the Speakers, Chairmen and Moderators at the Conferences are carefully selected to meet this requirement. Through conferences we are able to hear speakers that we would never hear otherwise; thus we get a new perspective of our problems.

Conferences help us attain the "Freedom from Anxiety" which we did not have during our drinking careers. We learn how to gain a release from tension by learning to overcome the causes of tension. You can get the same results that we have if you will attend and seek understanding.

At Conferences we make new friends and get new ideas. As we apply the good ideas to ourselves as individuals, they infiltrate their way into our Groups and a better Group harmony develops. Finally

Inter-Group unity becomes a reality. And the result of all this:--a greater attraction to A.A. for those who still suffer. This may sound like a long way around for we surely come back to the individual. Because we are enabled to better "Carry the Message."

The Workshops and A.A. Meetings are designed for the individual: to give each member working tools in the effort to stay sober and live a contented life.

ZONE D

Zone D, covering the East Bay of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, met April 18th with eleven enthusiastic representatives in attendance.

Topics discussed included:

Northern California Council Structure

How Conference Speakers are Chosen

Number of Conferences to be Held Each Year.

Ann S., past NCC Secretary, shared with us some of the NCC history. In the past when four yearly NCC Conferences were held, the AA membership was much smaller and there were fewer AA activities in which to be involved. Now with our fantastic growth, there are only a limited number of places large enough to accommodate all of us.

Merilyn W. present NCC Secretary, shared with us some of the requirements for arranging our conferences today. Convention Centers are

continued on page 4

FROM THE MAIL BAG

" I'm enclosing \$15.00 for five years. I can afford it now. The GOOD NEWS is such a joy. I always take mine to hospitals when I make a 12th Step Call. Fondly,"

-Erlich, S.F., CA

FROM THE MAIL BAG (cont.)

"Thank you, you have a beautiful publication - well done with much love! God bless!"

Another friend in A.A.,  
-Bro. Daniel McC.,  
Silver Spring, MD

(Thank you Brother Daniel for your excerpts, one of which is on the back page of this paper).  
Editor

"I like your paper. I get the Chicago paper too."

-John C.,  
Cleveland, OH

Service is not a responsibility  
--It is a God-given opportunity.

XX

The material published in GOOD NEWS represents the experience and opinions of AAs and other interested in the field of alcoholism. Opinions expressed herein are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous, nor does publication of any information imply endorsement by either Aolcoholics Anonymous or the GOOD NEWS.

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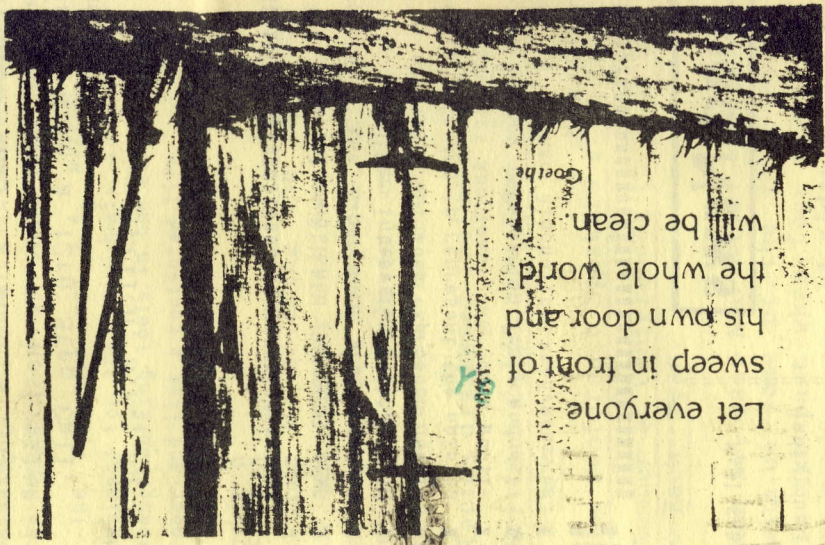
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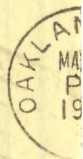
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Let everyone  
sweep in front of  
his own door and  
the whole world  
will be clean.

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~~THIRD CLASS~~

*first class*