

Good News



August 1981

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BY THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

VOL. XXV

ALTERED ATTITUDES

One of the symptoms of the disease of alcoholism is CHRONIC NEGATIVITY. We are always waiting for the axe to drop... the other shoe to fall...the storm to engulf us. And once we are sober, the "ism" of our disease continues to shroud our newfound hope with thick clouds of pessimism.

The 12 Steps of the program are designed for people like us to lead us out of the night of despair into the sunlight of the spirit. But it is often a long and rocky road to the kind of peace and joy that the program guides us toward. When we are afraid...we lash out at those closest to us. Lately it seems that, even in our AA meetings, a spirit of fear sometimes causes us to behave intolerantly. As the poet Wadsworth said. "The World Is Too Much With Us", and it activates the fear, which activates all of our other character defects...almost instantaneously revert back ot the behavior that caused us to drink.

We must always remember that as alcoholics we are "bodily and mentally different from our fellows." We cannot afford to be hateful, resentful, or cruel if we wish to continue to stay sober and gain a measure of self-respect and peace of mind. A LOVING GOD rules over us all and promises us that all will be well if we put principles before personalities and remember that we are all in the same "lifeboat" as fortunate "survivors" of a fatal disease ---alcoholism.

Sondra E., Garden Grove, CA

LIFE IS A DARING ADVENTURE OR IT IS NOTHING!

To cough is to risk appearing the fool

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental

To reach out for another is to risk involvement

To expose one's feelings is to risk showing our true self.

To love is to risk not being loved in return

To live is to risk dying

To hope is to risk despair

To try at all is to risk failure.

But to risk we must,

For the greatest hazard in life
 is to risk nothing

The man, the woman who risks nothing

---does nothing

---has nothing ---is nothing.

(Found on the bottom of a tea box)

1980 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS.....

The 1980 contribution totals from groups to the General Service Office by Delegate Area now has been published. The five areas in California have noted improvement over similar figures for 1979. Total contributions per capita for the United States and Canada was \$2.39. The percentage of

over

*July issue should have been #5. Sorry.

1,255.27

GREETINGS ALL A. A. YOUNG PEOPLE....

Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.C.Y.P.A.A.) Round-Up committee. Our next A.C.Y.P.A.A. Round-Up will be held at the Airport Hilton Inn in Oakland, California. The dates will be February 12, 13, 14, 1982.

We are sending out a monthly news letter and other information regarding the '82 Round-Up to all Young People's A. A. Groups in California. If your group is newly formed and/or your group is not listed in the Western Directory, or if your group is not receiving information on our Round-Up, please send us your group mailing address to our P. O. Box address so we can put you on our mailing list.

ALSO--Every 2nd and 4th Sunday we are holding General Round-Up planning meetings. You are welcome to attend. These meetings are being held at the El Cerrito Fellowship, 11231 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, at 3:00 p.m.

Monthly fund raising events to raise funds for our '82 A.C.Y.P.A.A. Round-Up are being held. Since it is All California Young People of A. A., we wish to get all groups notified and involved. It's Everyone's Young Peoples' Round-Up. . so join in and support your Round-Up. Here is our address:

A.C.Y.P.A.A. P. O. Box 989 El Cerrito, CA 94530

NCC CORNER

NCC FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/80 \$12,173.61 FRESNO CONFERENCE 3/13-15/81

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$10,037.60
" DISBURSEMENTS 8,782.33
NET

STOCKTON CONFERENCE 6/5-7/81
TOTAL RECEIPTS 8,517.40 lugher
DISBURSEMENTS 8,662.27
NET LOSS (88.3

NCC EXPENSES 12/10/80-6/10/81 1,930.33

BALANCE ON HAND 6/10/81 11,410.22

LESS PRUDENT RESERVE (4,500.00)

WORKING CAPITAL 6/10/81 7,010.22

NOTE: The Financial Report for GOOD NEWS will appear in the August Issue.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

AUGUST 7th, 8th, 9th --

4th Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup
--"Sweet Surrender"
at John Ascuagas Nugget Hotel-Casino
12th and B Streets

Sparks, Nevads

AUGUST 8th -- 21st ANNIVERSARY at

"IN-BETWEEN FELLOWSHIP" 4710 E. 14th Street Oakland, CA 94601

6:00 p.m. Buffet 8:00 p.m. . . Speaker: Bob C., Napa

31st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The 31st General Service Conference met at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, April 26 - May 2, 1981. Membership trends, a look at Conference procedures, and selection of 1985's International Convention were among the actions.

Montreal, Quebec was first choice for host city of the 50th Anniversary Convention. Seond and third choices were San Diego, California and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The General Service Board now will send a committee to these three communities to examine convention facilities, hotel and restaurant accommodations, after which a final decision as to the site will be made.

An advance report on the 1980 membership survey showed that 65% of new members in the sample stayed sober longer than three months as compared to 47% in 1977. The percentage of members 30 and under showed a 30% increase over 1977 - and of those who have come into the program since the last survey, 26% are "young people".

Pacific Region delegates voted on sites for some events of interest to Northern California: The third Pacific Regional Forum will be held on an announced date in June 1982 at Las Vegas, Nevada. The first Regional Forum was held in Sacramento three years ago, and the second at Anaheim last year. These are sharing sessions with members of the General Service Board, staff of the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine on a one-on-one basis.

The Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly will be held at the Marriott Hotel at "Great America" in Santa Clara, California the first weekend in March, 1983. This event in 1982 will be held at Portland, Oregon.

Presentations at the Conference shed light on some of AA's fundamental assumptions, asking: Do we really trust our service workers? Is there a tendency in AA to look for rulings, instead of an informed group conscience? Do we observe the letter rather than the spirit of the Traditions?

Some of the Advisory Actions recommended by the Conference were: Agenda - That the 1982 onference Theme be built around one of the following: "Equal Voice-Equal Responsibility", "The Traditions-The Way to Unity", and "A.A.-Its Structure"; that presentation/discussion subjects for 1982 be "Equal Authority-Equal Responsibility" and "How We Carry the Message to Alcoholics Coming To Us From Outside Agencies".

<u>CPC</u> - AA publish a leaflet addressed to labor and management. And the pamphlet "AA In Your Community" be reinstated.

continued ...

Correctional Facilities - The pamphlet "Memo To An Inmate Who May Be An Alocoholic" be continued and reviewed next year.

Grapevine - Provide a discount package of miscellaneous items for sale to groups and central offices and intergroups.

Literature - A suggestion of a pamphlet for the homosexual alcoholic be tables so Delegates can obtain the group conscience of their Areas for discussion at the 1982 Conference.

Public Information - A pamphlet and tabletop display be developed of the 1980 membrship survey, if feasible.

Report and Charter - The "AA Service Manual" and "Twelve Concepts for World Service" be combined into one volume.

Treatment Facilities - The treatment center pamphlet be modified to reflect types of meetings held there, and the six-point definition of an AA Group be included to clarify the difference between a group and a meeting.

Floor Actions - That clubs should not receive the AA literature discount. And distribution of the filmstrip, "Markings on the Journey" be confied to showings within the AA Fellowship.

The new Trustee-U.S. elected by the Conference is Dave A., from Dallas, Texas. There were five nominees from California.



P. O. BOX 1980 GRAND CENTRAL STA NEW YORK, NY 10017 HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE GRAPEVINE?

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN BUY A GRAPEVINE GIFT CERTIFICATE? WHAT A PRESENT FOR A NEWCOMER!

"Will you wastsch (watch) my drink while I go to the bathroom I really gotta go," one drunk said to another in a bar.

"Schure--while yer in there, go fer me," retorted the other. Upon his return the 2nd drunk said to the 1st drunk, "Didya go fer me?"

"Oh, wait a minute, I forgot," and he left again only to return and answer, "What'dya send me in there for? Ya didn't haf to go!"

OVERHEAL

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THE AA "BIG BOOK": A CONTINUING "BEST SELLER"

Sales of "Alcoholics Anonymous," the basic book describing the self-help recovery program that bears its name, will climb over the three million mark by mid-1981, ranking it among one of the most successful hardcover best-sellers of all time. Other features that make the "Big Book", as AA members call it, unique in book publishing include the following:

- * Published privately (by AA World Services, Inc.) and anonymously (no author or editor is identified), the Big Book is generally not available in bookstores.
- * First published in English in 1939, the Big Book has since been translated into other languages, including Afrikaans, Finnish, Flemish, French, German, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- * The book's title, "Alcoholics Anonymous," provided the name for a worldwide Fellowship of recovered alcoholics with an estimated million members in 110 countries.
- * Priced at \$3.50 back in 1939, the Big Book now retails for only \$5.65 (\$4.65 for AA members), in the midst of skyrocketing book costs.

* Unlike the sales of most books, sales of the Big Book are constantly increasing instead of decreasing—and at an ever-faster rate. It took 34 years to sell the first million copies; only five years to sell the second million; and a little more than three years to sell the third million.

That the Big Book ever got published in the first place is a miracle. Although AA was started in 1935, the Fellowship numbered fewer than 100 members by 1938, when these pioneers decided to write down their experiences in recovery from alcoholism and make them available to a wider audience.

The first printing of 5,000 was done on less than a shoestring and, for the next two years, the book attracted little attention and few sales. The financial picture was stark; only loans from sympathetic friends kept the publishing venture afloat. Then in March 1941, following publication of an article on AA by Jack Alexander in The Saturday Evening Post, sales finally took off. A second printing was ordered that same monthonly the tip of the iceberg as it turned out.



We are asking for your help. Since the GOOD NEWS is for all of Northern California and reaches many readers, we would really appreciate it if those Groups or Fellowships sponsoring events would notify GOOD NEWS in plenty of time to be published in the month preceding the event.

Thank you for your help.

Yours in AA with love,

Gloria P., Editor

The material published in GOOD NEWS A 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 Alocholics Anonymous or the GOOD NEWS.

A REAL RESERVATION DE LA COMPANSION DE L

FROM THE MAIL BAG

"Always a joy to receive Good News.
Really miss all of our 'AA' friends in
San Francisco but still get to hear speakers from Bay Area at our Intergroup
Meeting once a month."

Lucille W. Reno, Nevada

"Your Good News is the best news we can read."

C.F.M. Sacramento, Calif.

This drunk heard that most automobile accidents happen within 25 miles from home.. so he moved!

2. 3.

AA Serenity Searchlight, Redding, Calif.

Good News

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