



Good News



MARCH-
APRIL

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PRAASA Convention

Santa Clara will host the 16th Annual Pacific Region AA Service Assembly March 4, 5 and 6 at Marriott Hotel, 2700 Mission Blvd.

The theme is, "Anonymity -- Our Spiritual Foundation."

Chuck C. will be the AA speaker for Saturday evening.

Registration will begin Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. on the 4th.

The session will be held in cooperation with the Al-Anon Service Assembly.

Alateen schedules will also be available.

Delta Intergroup Unity Day a Winner

One of the biggest turnouts ever attended Delta Intergroup's 6th Annual Unity Day observance in Ripon January 29th.

Approximately 400 persons were on hand for the program. Cora Louise, former World Service Secretary, described her journey from the darkness of alcohol to a shining new way of life that keeps getting better and better. "We don't have to have confidence in ourselves, but we have to have confidence in

Fresno Prepares For '83 Spring Conference

The 36th Annual Spring Conference of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous will open Friday, March 18, in the Fresno Convention Center, 700 M St.

Keynotes this spring will be: Friday, Vincent Y. of Venice, CA; Saturday, Wesley P. of Pompano Beach, FL, and Sunday, Jack H. of San Jose, CA.

The complete program is on page three of your Good News.

We hope to see you all there!

Did You Know The Pink Can Was Your Personal Donation?

Unity Day Cont'd

this program," she explained.

Willie J. of Lodi and Don of Modesto "carried the message" in afternoon talks. A red ball meeting, short talks by several other AA members, and another top performance of "The Saga of Susie the Souse" rounded out the day, which was capped by an excellent dinner served by the ripon Fire Department, and a dance.

Bill S. of Stockton was Unity Day chairman.

Spring Fling Is Here

"A New Freedom..A New Happiness" is the theme for the 1983 Spring Fling scheduled February 25, 26 and 27 in the Woodlake Inn on Highway 160, Sacramento.

Eddie C. of Glendora will speak Friday at 8:30 p.m. Joanna Z. of Costa Mesa will speak Saturday at 2:00 p.m., and John V. of Berlin, Massachusetts will give the 8:30 p.m. Saturday talk.

Mary R. of Tustin will give the closing address at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Marathon meetings, an H. and I. panel, and dance to live music will also be featured.

What Do Sponsors Mean To You?

Stop for a minute and think about that question. It is a question we need to re-evaluate frequently. Being neither a newcomer nor an old timer, I have been in the program enough years to appreciate sponsors -- I have two myself. Sponsorship often is taken too lightly by both sponsors and sponsorees. As a newcomer I was urged to

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Sponsor Continued

get a sponsor right away and to do my inventory as soon as possible. I was scared to death and wanted someone to really care about me. I used my sponsor frequently. Within 4½ months I had done my 5th step. For me, that was too soon. I learned the sponsor I had chosen was not for me. Now I can see also that I was the wrong sponsoree for that A.A. member. I then chose a sponsor whom I could trust with complete confidence. My new sponsor told me he would give me compassion and understanding but never sympathy, because sympathy kills an Alcoholic. He leveled with me. He told me, "I can't give you any guarantees this sponsorship will work, but I'll do my best." A few years later that person is still my sponsor.

After working with my new sponsor for 2½ months I added a second sponsor. Each sponsor is different. Mine are from the "old school" and go by our "Big Book." That means "Tough Love."

About a year ago I told them I dislike the word "sponsorship." They suggested I use the term "friend" instead.

We need a sponsor who has his feet on the ground and not just someone who "preaches" to us. We need one who lives the A.A. way of life.

Sponsors are human and have "feet of clay." For me, however, one of the most important ingredients is complete trust. Mine have both been there to help me and listen to me. But they allow me to make my own

mistakes, when at times I still want to do it "my way." One of my sponsors reminds me constantly that God doesn't give any of us a guarantee but one day at a time, if we work our program and don't take that first drink, then we can handle any crisis or problem without drinking.

My list of qualities for a good sponsor and friend, is the following:

1. Complete trust and confidence.
2. Compassion and understanding.
3. Knowledge of the Big Book.
4. Knowledge of A.A. service.
5. Knowledge of the history of A.A.
6. Knowledge of the 12 concepts of A.A.
7. Experience in service work.

I have found these qualities in both my sponsors, whom I love very much. I'm grateful God chose them to be my sponsors and I'm grateful for all they have done for me.

A. L.
Modesto

*God grant me the
Serenity
to accept the things I
cannot change...
Courage to
change the things I can
and Wisdom to
know the difference...*

To All of You in Las Vegas

A big thanks to Candy J for listing us with the Las Vegas Silver Streak so we can carry your message to Northern California.

Ruth - of the Las Vegas P.I.-C.P.C., all we can say here in Stockton is we're having growing pains too, but making progress with our new P.I.-C.P.C. We've seen it come and go here, but we're determined to make it work this time. The Public and Professional Community must get the message that we are here. Keep up the good work.

NCCAA Good News Staff

Thanks to all of you who helped put the Las Vegas Round-Up together for 1982. It was great!

Good News Editor

The Lighter Side

"I was asked to speak to a group of sixth-graders. Didn't want to," writes Hal S., Anoka, Minn., "because I had no such experience, but I went."

"Decided to start by letting them ask questions. One kid directly in front of me had piled before him more AA literature than I own!" Hall continues.

"How come?" I asked.

"He said his dad belonged to a group, so I said, 'I'll let you ask the first question.'"

"He said, 'Are you an alky?' I said yes. 'Do you go to A.A.?' he asked. I said yes.

"'All right,' he said. 'Recite the Twelve Steps!'"

Box 459, Aug-Sept 1977

36TH ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1983**

- 2:00 P.M. REGISTRATION - Exhibit Hall
- 8:30 P.M. KICK-OFF MEETING - Exhibit Hall
 Chairperson: Gordon R., Santa Clara, Ca.
 Definition: Pat R., Ft. Bragg, Ca.
 Chapter 5: Sheila H., Castro Valley, Ca.
 Traditions: Colene P., Manteca, Ca.
 Speaker: Vincent Y., Venice, Ca.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1983

- 2:00 A.M.
- 9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION - Exhibit Hall
- 9:30 A.M. HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION Open Meeting - Exhibit Hall
 Chairperson: Dave B., Fresno, Ca.
 Purpose of H & I: Jean H., Fresno, Ca.
 Traditions: Thomas B., Fresno, Ca.
 Non A.A. Speaker: Kenneth Andreen, Judge, Fresno Superior Court
 A.A. Speaker: John C., Daly City, Ca.
- 11:00 A.M. WORKSHOP - Exhibit Hall
 4th Step Inventory
 Chairperson: Norma M., Modesto, Ca.
- 11:00 A.M. N.C.C.A.A. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - Mendota Room/
 San Joaquin Room

-LUNCH BREAK-

- 1:00 P.M. Spanish Speaking Meeting - Mendota Room/San Joaquin Room
- 1:00 P.M. GENERAL SERVICE SPEAKER MEETING - Exhibit Hall
 Chairperson: Russell B., Salida, Ca.
 Reader: Terry L., Davis, Ca.
 Speaker: Sam E., Napa, Ca.
- 2:30 P.M. N.C.C.A.A. OPEN MEETING - Exhibit Hall
- 3:30 P.M. YOUNG PEOPLES MEETING - Exhibit Hall
 Chairperson: Gloria A., Orinda, Ca.
 Definition: Amy B., Atwater, Ca.
 Traditions: Debbie K., Modesto, Ca.
 Promises: Steve G., Sonora, Ca.
 Speaker: Bruce H., San Jose, Ca.
- 8:30 P.M. OPEN SPEAKER MEETING - Exhibit Hall
 Chairperson: John T., Sacramento, Ca.
 Invocation: Fa. David Duran, St. Anthony's Church, Fresno, Ca.
 Welcoming Address: Mayor Daniel Whitehurst, Fresno, Ca.
 Definition: Dean L., San Mateo, Ca.
 Chapter 5: Louise F., Santa Rosa, Ca.
 Traditions: Pauline S., Pacifica, Ca.
 Speaker: Wesley P., Pompano Beach, Fl.
- 10:30 P.M. Drawing - Exhibit Hall
- 10:30 P.M. Dance - Hilton Hotel
- 10:30 P.M. Marathon Meeting - Apricot Rooms

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1983

- 8:00 A.M. Marathon Meeting - Apricot Rooms
- 10:00 A.M. GENERAL SERVICE & HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION SERVICE MEET
 'Back to Basics' - Exhibit Hall
 Moderator: Wally C., Rohnert Park, Ca.
 Purpose of H & I: Jeff B., Daly City, Ca.
 Traditions: LeRoy P., Fresno, Ca.
 Panelists: Marie L., Fremont, Ca.
 Jim M., Sacramento, Ca.
 Bud F., San Ramon, Ca.
 Joe O., Dublin, Ca.
- 10:00 A.M. WORKSHOP - 10th Step - The Growing Step - San Joaquin Room
 Chairperson: Jeanne B., San Mateo, Ca.
- 12:30 P.M. OPEN SPEAKER MEETING - Exhibit Hall
 Chairperson: Rae F., Sacramento, Ca.
 Invocation: Fa. Bernie Flynn, St. Columbus Episcopal Church, Fresno
 Definition: Martin M., La Honda, Ca.
 Chapter 5: Billy S., San Jose, Ca.
 Traditions: Jacqueline G., Modesto, Ca.
 Speaker: Jack H., San Jose, Ca.

Al-Anon and Alateen schedules available
 at Conference Center.

Intervention

Intervention in the area of alcoholism can be a lifesaving act, just as CPR for the heart attack victim or surgery for a malignant tumor. The dictionary states that intervention is "the interference with the acts of others." Upsetting and changing the habits of a practicing alcoholic is a difficult task. Early warning signs are usually apparent to people associated with the alcoholic, but the denial system prevents that person from seeing his own problem.

Intervention in the early stages requires knowledge, patience, firmness, understanding and faith. Don't give up hope. The drinking person may be oblivious to what you are saying. He needs time, and possibly more pain before he will understand your message and be ready to surrender himself to treatment.

Whatever stage of alcoholism you feel the drinking person may be in, don't be discouraged by his denial and possible hostilities. Remember your own fight for freedom from alcohol and give it your best shot. He is worth everything you can give him.

Dick B.
 Stockton

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

**Has YOUR group?
 WHY NOT?**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Living Sober Group is presenting Gene D. of Calistoga in a series of five March programs in the auditorium of the Cathedral, 1119 K Street, Sacramento.

The sessions, all set for 8:00 p.m. are as follows:

March 3 - "How We Got Here"

March 10 - "The Deadly Game of the Alcoholic"

March 17 - "Cafeteria Style--Bunk"

March 24 - "Pick a Winner"

March 31 - "God, As I Understand Him"

All proceeds will go to the Central Office.

Fresno recently held a Tele-Service Workshop, moderated by Carol M.

Panelists were Bob H., Sonja B., Irene H. and Jean P. Nancy from the answering service answered questions about the switchboard.

Congratulations to Oak Park Fellowship on its 3rd anniversary, Action Gets It Going Group of Sacramento on its 4th birthday, and to Stockton Main Group on its 9th anniversary!

Ripon Group recently held its first meeting-- a Thursday night affair in Fellowship Hall at Second and Orange.

Five Oroville groups host a joint speakers meeting on the last Friday of the month at 720 Montgomery Street.

Mary R. recently celebrated her 18th year with the Galt Fellowship at 11611 Borden Rd.

The Serenity Fellowship of Turloc invites you to a series of Hard Hitting--No-Nonsense Tell It Like It Is Meetings given by Gene D. of Calistoga, CA.

April 6 - How We Got Here

April 13 - The Deadly Game of the Alcoholic

April 20 - Why A.A.

April 27 - God, As I Understand Him

All meetings start at 8:00 pm at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Cafeteria Building. Enter off Broadway through the White Arch Gate.

Welcome to another new group -- Railroad Flat Group which meets Wednesday nights at the elementary school.

The Myrtledale Group of AA is holding its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration Sunday, March 20, 3:30 pm at the Calistoga Fairgrounds.

The guest speaker will be Clint H. of Laguna Niguel.

Come and enjoy an authentic Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner which will be cooked and served by the San Francisco Fire Department.

The Central California Fellowship of AA is having its 16th annual AA Banquet April 16 across from Cal Expo at the Beverley Gardens Motel, 1780 Tribute Rd. (Take Expo Blvd. west to Hiway 80)

There will be a dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a speaker (to be announced later) and a dance to wind things up for a good ole time.

Come and enjoy!

**The Pink Can is Over
25 Years Old.**

**Does Your Group Have a
Pink Can?**

NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

Nobody minds a man having a morning eye-opener, and it's OK to have a bracer around 10 a.m. and a couple of drinks before lunch, and a few beers on a hot afternoon to keep a man healthy or at least happy, and, of course,

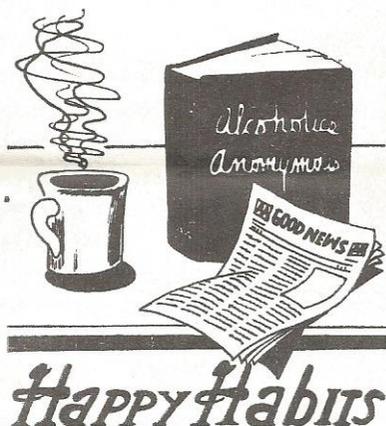
everyone drinks at a cocktail hour, and a man can't be criticized for having wine with his dinner, a liqueur afterwards and a hiball or two during the evening, but this damn business of sip, sip, sip all day long HAS GOT TO STOP!

What About Your Little Red Wagon?

For nearly three years I had mouthed the words of the "The Serenity Prayer" without realizing the true meaning... and the source of strength it can be as we try to live the AA way of life.

I had heard a story which truly illustrates the true meaning of the acceptance of the will of God several times, delivered by an AA speaker the year before.

But one night a year later the true meaning of the story hit me hard.



Since then, it has been easy for me to accept the bad knocks as well as good fortune.

Here is the story:

A man was on the verge of bankruptcy, his crops wiped out, when suddenly his wife was stricken and taken to the hospital in a critical condition.

One night upon returning from the hospital, he was met by his young son, who greeted him with "How's mommy, daddy? Better...isn't she?"

"Yes, she's better, Johnny," said the father.

"I knew she would be, daddy. I said a prayer to God."

"What do you mean... God?" said the man.

"There couldn't be a God. Look what he's done to me!"

"Oh, you're wrong, daddy," said the boy. "Maybe you don't believe in God, but I do. I pray to

**A little praise
goes a long way.
But it's the tiny
morsel of scandal
that really travels.**

God and he always answers my prayers--and that's why mommy's better."

"He always answers your prayers, eh, Johnny," said the father. "How about that little red wagon you've been praying for during the past few months? He didn't answer that prayer, did He, Johnny?"

"You're wrong again, daddy," said the boy. "God answered the prayer, all right. God said...NO!"
...The Reviver, Australia
The Grapevine, January 1954

Deadline The 15th

A deadline means just that! The Good News deadline is the 15th of each even month. Any mail received after 5pm on the 15th cannot be included in the next issue, nor can any news be telephoned in after that time. Deadline for the May-June issue is May 15th. Let's hear from you!

Good News

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