



Good News



Est.
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By The Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

Jan.-Feb.
1984

MONTEREY FORECAST

"THE COAST IS CLEAR"
March 9-11, 1984

For many of the 40,000 or so AA members throughout Northern California it will take more than a little fog or even an outright down-pour to dampen the "Conference Spirit" that we have come to expect at the Annual Spring NCC Conference in Monterey.

This year's version had already started in October. Wasn't that you I heard leaving the Stockton Conference saying (more than once), "See you in Monterey-if not before"? I said it, too. I have some "Conference Friends" - people I met at Conferences and (unfortunately) don't see much in between - but I know I'll see them "next time".

The Pre-conference Committee met in October and again in November, making the decisions necessary to coordinate all the planning and arranging that goes into the enormous "production" that NCC Conferences have turned out to be. Even though there are many NCC people helping with the hundreds of jobs there are to do between now and March 11, there are literally hundreds of "parts" left in the play - several would fit you I'm sure.

* * * *

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
GOOD NEWS
PHONE-IN LINE
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CALIFORNIA

NORTHERN INTERIOR ELECTION RESULTS...

Delegate to N.Y. - Les. W.
Alternate to N.Y. - John
(the cop) L.
Chairman - Wil N.
Secretary - Anne B.
Treasurer - Doris Mc.
H & I Liaison - Bill S.
(Details: See "Pitch" p.4)

NCC SECRETARY 1980-84

"I can't, but we can," she said, or possibly she didn't say it, maybe she just brought us together and did it. During the past 4 years approximately 38,000 of us have come together under one roof in unity and spiritual harmony. Someone said the look, feel and report of "Conference Success" seems so effortless. I wonder. So much of the work took place when I wasn't looking. Marilyn made it all come together - like a piece of art. When I was looking, I've never seen a pair of legs cover more territory over a three AA/period. After a marathon event, when the rest of us were totally exhausted she'd get that little gleam in her eye and say something like, "Let's get to work, Monterey is just around the corner." - And I think she would say it was fun.

Dear Marilyn, if ever there has been a display of "Love and Service" in AA you've done it, and it isn't easy to say "thanks".

* * * *

SERVICE?. . WHO?. . ME?. .

Volunteer work meant exactly one thing to me - "DON'T, or not just "no", but "NO"! I stayed away from my group's business meetings because I was sure that's where they found the suckers for volunteer labor. I was right. My sponsor tried to tell me that my view on AA involvement was wrong. Since he was usually right, I said I'd try it, but I never did. Not for many years, anyway.

Today, as the year grows to a close, I'm coming to the end of my latest term of AA service. In 1982 I was elected - unanimously (means I ran unopposed) - to a one-year term serving my central office. The first three months were a pain, but the next six months, as I learned the job and made a lot of new friends, it became honest fun. Now that I must be rotated out of "my" job, I find that I don't want to go.

I "know" that nincompoop (no matter who it is) won't do it like I did...and next year I could really get a lot done, now that "I" know the ropes...and "I"... could practically build an empire.

Rotation, you see, is very important for many reasons; to give other nincompoops a chance to serve, to nip us empire builders in the bud, and most importantly, we realize our rewards at the end of our term.

Here's an excerpt, bla-

(Cont. Page 3)

"RESPONSIBILITY" NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD

The word "responsibility" is a word of many letters, for me, the definition of the word is another word of many letters "opportunities", as used in this text means "spiritual opportunities", with no implication to the four-letter word "work".

When I say I am an Alcoholic, I am also making a commitment and automatically assuming certain responsibilities to AA as a whole. As a member of Alcoholics Anonymous it is my responsibility to uphold the structure, principles and the traditions and our heritage. A responsible person is answerable, reliable, dependable, and acts in a responsible manner. I feel a responsibility to my home group, to make 12-step calls, to make sure the doors are always open, to attend its meetings regularly. In my group I am also responsible for sponsoring and helping the newcomer develop and grow by guiding them into action. To give freely what has been given freely. Therefore, it is my responsibility to learn something about the program so I have something to give away. Being responsible is to get involved, which takes personal sacrifices. My responsibility lies to the old timer also. They lend a stabilizing influence in their sharing. I also must share my gift of faith with others and offer my services, depending upon what particular talents I have. There is a need for all of us.

In this new sober life, I will be presented with responsibilities to the world, as a good citizen.

Our 12th step refers to this. As a sober citizen I am ready to accept these responsibilities outside of AA, such as in my home and to my loved ones, job, church, neighborhood and associates. I have a moral responsibility to use the 12 steps as a tool to recovery and to accept the AA program for moral regeneration. Sober, I can take full responsibility in my dealings with others. I can make decisions and take the responsibility for my actions and for any damage to others.

"Easy Does It", is no excuse for avoiding responsibilities.

"Keep It Simple", does not mean to be ineffective.

"Let It Begin With Me", speaks for itself.

The results of "spiritual opportunities" are "spiritual experiences".

Lejeune D.
Pinole, CA.
(Reprint)

* * *

GENERAL SERVICE SERVES!!

To say "a wonderful time was had by all" would not begin to express the excitement experienced by the AA members who attended The Primary Purpose Day in San Francisco on October 22, sponsored by San Francisco General Service District 06. Information and communication about the AA Group and AA services were disseminated by nineteen individual members participating on four separate panels. The agenda covered all of our basics: from what is a coffeemaker, group secretary, steering committee and GSR through General Service, H&I, PI/CPC, a central office and the

NCCAA. A question and answer period followed each panel when time allowed. Each panelist covered his/her topic thoroughly, thoughtfully, clearly and concisely, and often with humor.

A 12 Traditions play preceded the dinner and speaker Eilish L. followed, sharing her recovery from our common disease through love and service. Immediately after the meeting closed, a raffle was held and the prizes included subscriptions to the Grapevine and Good News, and a set of books including a Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and Living Sober.

CNCA Archives provided a most interesting display of selected items throughout the day, and our district literature chairman made sure ample literature was available. Ivan B., the CNCA Literature/Grapevine Chairman, visited and shared with us also.

An often-repeated comment made by several newcomers to our fellowship was: "I had no idea how much was involved with, or how many services are provided by, Alcoholics Anonymous!!" Hopefully, many who attended, newcomers and oldtimers alike, will be inspired to give back a little of what they have been given so freely through service of some type. Our legacies are threefold: Recovery, Unity and Service. San Francisco's Primary Purpose Day proved through its participation and attendance that these Legacies are alive and well in our district.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn B.
San Francisco

* * * * *

PI/CPC-OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

That AA Works - is not new information to a broad, complicated network of public, private and business agencies throughout the community. More and more we find "referrals" coming from any number of professionals and agencies.

PI/CPC has had to do some fast growing to keep up with the demand for information and assistance. We have a chapter devoted to the family, and have been closely connected with our family physicians and clergymen since the beginning.

But the courts, the psychological/psychiatric community, military and business, to name a few, have surfaced as major influences in introducing AA as an "idea" to the sufferer.

Agencies and individuals are learning what we know, that "the message" is best carried in a certain way by fellow sufferers. In response to the wider need for accurate, consistent information about "what AA IS and IS NOT", CPC people have really been pressed to do their homework.

Frank L. of Yuba City/Marysville area was on hand in Stockton a few months back sharing his experience. Frank and his group are designing a methodical approach to identifying our target populations and agencies. Then they feel they can set out the most effective way to provide accurate, thorough answers to the difficult questions we are asked.

Keep up the good work, Frank and Willie (and all the other "Franks and Willies" in all our groups)! Nice Job!

* * * *

H & I BROADSIDES

By Bill S., General Chairman of NCC H&I

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all members of the Hospital and Institution Committee for the year 1984.

Our regions and areas are doing a good job by the efforts of a few dedicated AA members carrying the message through the Hospital and Institution Committee to the people who are confined. Anyone wishing to know about H & I, just ask your group secretary or your General Service Representative. Our committee needs people to cover our jails, hospitals, etc. We know H & I work is not for some people, but there still is general service, PI/CPC Committee or the group secretary. This is the way we keep AA going by being of service.

Our next steering committee meeting will be in Galt, CA., Saturday, January 7, 1984 and the general committee meeting will be Sunday, January 29th.

Area 51 Chairperson, Vivian H., held a workshop at Napa State Hospital on December 11th and was it exciting! High winds, trees going over, all the electricity off and we were locked out. A few of us were about to leave but not our Vivian. "Give it a chance, have faith, it will pass", and sure enough, it quieted down and the meeting started - in the dark and with no coffee, but a plaque was presented to the inside sponsor.

Vivian introduced the panel, bubbly Peggy M. of Sacramento did a bang-up job, Bill M., the Coastal New York Conference delegate gave a beautiful picture of being a part of AA and in service, and Vivian closed with a pep talk on being a part of H & I.

Walter McC., a former general chairman of some years back, was in an automobile accident and is in Sutter Memorial Hospital in Sacramento. Get well quick, Walter.

Think Pink for H & I
Bill S.

SERVICE?...WHO?...ME?..(Cont.)

tantly stolen from a newsletter, where a trusted servant lists his group's achievements and then writes...

"The second purpose of this letter is simply to say thanks for your help, your understanding, and your love in allowing me to serve this fellowship that has given me more than I can ever return."

This person has found that the rewards for AA service are definitely there. I hope it didn't take him/her/it as long as it took me, and I hope it doesn't take you as long either.

The next time AA asks you to carry the message, don't sit on your hands. Say "Yes, I'll do it, because someone did it for me." By the way, you'd better say it quick...cause I'm looking for a job, and I might be in your group.

Anonymous, please.

COASTAL AREA "LINK"

Much of the Twelve Concepts treatise develops the "trusted servant" theme, so much so that it is almost a sequel to Chapter Two of the Traditions. Quite naturally then, the Concepts enunciate such principles as Right of Decision, of Participation, of Appeal, of Petition, and the proposition that service authority should equal service responsibility. Even so--there are also inherent, offsetting factors to neutralize any runaway egos. Balance would seem to be essentially present.

In musing, one might elaborate by imagining that: The "trusted servant" role is classified by axioms that counterbalance all the consequentialities implied; prerogatives are bound in duties' thrall. Decision making rights and, equally, companion duties bid in constant reach--authority, responsibility--in measured ebb and flow from each to each. The Fellowship confers a certain grant to execute in freedom from duress. Tradition Two substantiates this grant, for "trust" assumes the suffix, "worthiness". So trust pervades our service legacy, facilitating unanimity.

Traditions, Concepts, Charter synchronize in confluence and reciprocity, as like with like are wont to harmonize, when common cause informs each entity. To help the sick recover is the norm to which, in fact, these other norms conform.

In our spiritual heritage, each legacy supports

the other two legacies, as illustrated by the metaphor of the equilateral triangle, each side of which braces the other two sides. Ours is a Fellowship of mutually supporting principles, of mutually supporting members.

Submitted by,
Frank B.
San Francisco, CA.

* * * *

REMEMBER . . .

When "everything is coming down" on you, you make a smaller target standing erect and sober than you do drunk, prone and in the gutter!

* * * *

Taking that drink won't make it go away--the interest on short-term, false euphoria is outrageous!

* * * *

"THE PITCH" FROM THE INTERIOR

It was an exciting day Nov. 12 in Marysville. District #19 hosted our Bi-annual California Northern Interior Officers election. The facilities at Yuba College were great, easy to locate and comfortable. The room was filled to capacity it appeared, with a number of past delegates and officers on hand. NCC-H & I-Good News-Central Office and last but not least, our good friends from the California Northern Coastal Area were there to handle the balloting (see that we kept our act clean).

After a beautiful morning of regular business, introductions, area reports and lunch, it was on with the election of our new officers. Many willing and able servants came forward in the ultimate deed of service. As our outgoing Delegate put it, there are and were no losers. All should be congratulated for service above and beyond. Marge K. chaired the election with the assistance of Doc and our Coastal friends.

"...if I may have the envelope, please". Those dedicated to a long hard two years of work are - Delegate to N.Y. - Les. W. Alternate to N.Y. - John (the cop) L., Chairman - Wil N., Secretary-Anne B., Treasurer-Doris Mc.

H & I Liaison Officer is Bill S. of Stockton (who was recently reelected as our new NCC H & I General Chairman after a 19-year leave of absence from that very job). Good luck, Bill and it's sure great to see H & I once again standing in unity with General Service.

The first Officers Planning meeting will have been held prior to this publication to lay the ground work that we'll all enjoy being a part of the next two years.

See you Jan. 14th in Woodland, CA. (at the bowling alley) for our General Service January Assembly.

* * * *

DON'T LET IT GET AWAY.
IT WAS HARD ENOUGH TO FIND.

* * * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My letter is in reply to the letter printed in your Sept.-Oct. issue.

My first impression about "the idea" was, "What took them so long to think of that?" As I read on, I find that the writer didn't think it was such a good idea. I wondered how many of the people directly involved he talked to? Could this negative attitude be born out of contempt prior to investigation? What reasons, other than "employee vs. volunteers" could have been given? Is there anything we distrust more than new ideas?... except the thought of a little organization. I think an open-minded person would ask himself first, "Is this idea feasible? How would it function? Could an office better serve the groups in the area? Are there any other General Service Area offices? Why not investigate first, outline the purpose, structure, officers' responsibilities, financing, etc., that would be just for a start. Has the growth of the area placed a burden on the Secretary and Treasurer so that those jobs will be hard to fill with responsible people? Do the job qualifications require a great deal of time? Would the record-keeping be more timely and accurate? Some points seemed to be a little contradictory. It's not O.K. to have a part-time paid worker but it is O.K. to have a paid Central Office worker assist in doing the job. The monthly mailings are done by a paid worker at the present time, this is nothing new. When does a service responsibility fall in the "job"

category? Does he believe that volunteers should replace the paid Central Office employees? There would soon be no Central Offices if we had to depend on volunteers.

We should not expect our AA members to do a job free of charge when we wouldn't expect someone on the outside to work for free. Concept X deals with financial compensation of special workers. We are not a charity, we pay our own way. Some have the idea that our AA members should work cheaper; on the contrary, we should compensate our workers well. We do not expect our service workers to make financial sacrifices. We expect our service workers to be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of their similar service or abilities in the commercial world.

The Eighth Tradition makes perfectly clear the difference between the non-professional in regard to our Twelfth Step. Of course we do not pay people to do the twelve step work.

I was a DCM a few years back and recall when the delegate was given a raise in "run-around money" to go back to the General Service Conference. Today the delegate is paid \$300. What professional job does the delegate do that they need \$60.00 per day? What possibly can they spend the money on? Everything is paid for by the General Service Office. Today the area officers are paid their meals when they visit districts. Where is the volunteerism there?

What ever happened to the "group conscience", the ultimate authority and

the "trusted servant" as the delegated authority?

I believe there should be more than one opinion heard and now you have heard some of mine.

Thank You.

* * * *

BAY AREA BEAT

By Lynn B.

Outgoing 1983 brought a flurry of activity to San Francisco and Bay Area groups. Christmas parties and holiday Alkathons were held throughout the Bay Area, notable among these: an Open House by the San Francisco Central Office on 12/23, with coffee and goodies for all who dropped by to meet our loyal, hard-working staff and share the joys of sobriety. In Alameda, the Island Fellowship held a dance New Year's Eve following the speaker meeting. Welcome 1984!

Post-holiday blues? No excuse by the bay this January. The Japan Center was the locale for the 1st Annual BayDaze Event on 1/13,14&15/84. "Gratitude in Action", the conference theme, was visible in all those who served on committees, participated in and attended this gathering sponsored by the Bay Area Young People. "The Original Pie & Ice Cream Group", aka the Sinbar Group, holds their 11th Anniversary on 1/22 at 8 PM. And the Daly City Group's 21st Anniversary was celebrated on 1/11 at 8:30 PM at the West Bay Alano Club.

1984 will see San Francisco/Bay Area AA's involved in lots of activities, so stay tuned!

* * * *

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Coastal Assembly

Persistent rains could not dampen the spirits of the many trusted servants and visitors in Petaluma Nov. 19th for the annual California Northern Coastal Area Fall Assmebly. "Let it Begin With Me" was the prevading theme. The after-noon agenda was a full one, with three panels, each followed by a question/answer comment session. Topics: The AA Group--Where It All Begins; The G.S.R.--The Vital Link; and District Responsibilities.

Of prime importance at the area business meeting was the decision (overwhelming vote) to change the day and time of the area meetings very soon. The 3rd Thursday of the month in Oakland will stand until a definite new time is settled.

The pot-luck dinner was followed by a recovery speaker meeting at which David A. told of his sickness and recovery from alcoholism. All of us were extremely moved by his talk.

The next CNCA Assembly will be held in Vallejo on April 7, 1984. For a full day of love, sharing, caring, recovery, unity and service (and some good food), come and check it out. CNCA is an exciting, growing area. Come and share our experiences, strengths and hopes!

Interior Assembly

Sat., Jan. 14. Jan. CNIA Gen. Serv. Assembly 10 AM (all day). Cracchiola's Banquet Rooms, 1320 E. Main Woodland, CA. Lunch-\$4.75, Coffee-all day.

Spring Fling Is Here

Spring Fling '84, Jan. 20, 21, 22, Woodlake Inn, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento

Friday

5:00 PM-Early Bird Participation Meeting
8:30 PM-Speaker Cindy A., Dana Point, CA.

Saturday

1:00 PM-Speaker Ron N., San Diego, CA.
3:00 PM-H & I Panel
8:30 PM-Speaker David A., Dallas, TX.
Dance - Live Music

Sunday

10:30 AM-Speaker Bob E., Los Angeles, CA.

Delta Intergroup Unity Day

Sat., Jan. 28

AA

1:30 PM-Reg./Donation \$2.00
2:30 PM-Kickoff
2:45 PM-Red Ball Meeting
4:00 PM-Speakers
5:00-7:00 PM-Dinner-\$6.00
7:30 PM-Speaker Johnny H., Lakewood, CA.
9:00-12:00 - Dance

ALANON

12:30 PM-Registration-\$2.00
1:00 PM-Spiritual Meeting
2:15 PM-Speaker Bernie E., Venice, CA.
3:30 PM-Surprise
4:30 PM-Break
5:00 PM-Dinner - \$6.00
7:30 PM-AA Speaker
9:00-12:00 - Dance/Raffle
Ripon Community Center, 4th and Walnut Sts., Ripon, CA.

Old - Timers

Sat., Feb. 4. Sat Nite Live Presents a "Day of Sobriety". An old-timers meeting which will include speakers Johanna Z. of Costa Mesa, CA. and Johnny H. of Lakewood, CA. It all happens from 1 PM to 6:30 at the Campbell Community Center, corner of Winchester and Campbell Sts., Campbell, CA.

Workshop

Fremont Fellowship sponsors 1st Annual Service Workshop 535 W. Fremont St., Stockton, CA. Sat., Jan. 21,

9 AM - Registration
10 AM - Gen. Serv.-Russell B., Salida, CA.
11 AM - PI/CPC-Willy J., Lodi, CA.
Lunch - 12:00
1 PM - Gen. Sect/Grp. Responsibilities, Pat J. Stockton
2 PM - H & I, Pat S. Modesto
3 PM - Intergroup Functions- Paul A., Ripon, CA.

Fletch's Territory

Well I know you think you read it here that the Spring Fling was in February, but since WE "in the territory" never make a mistake!, it must have been January. Right? The 20th, 21st and 22nd. Right? Great speakers: Cindy A. from Dana Point on Friday at 8:30 PM, Ron N. from San Diego at 1:00PM David A. from Dallas North Mexico at 8:30 PM (both on Saturday), and...and on Sunday at 10:30 AM from Los Angeles, our own Bob E. Now..you got it right? Right!

If you're in the Roseville, Loomis, Citrus Heights, etc. area on the last Saturday of the month, don't miss the South Placer Speaker meeting at Granite Bay Lakeside - 6365 Douglas Blvd. Now here's some News... GOOD NEWS Phone #. Now jot this down (209)943-0419. Got that? Good, now give us a call and say "Hi, I love the GOOD NEWS", or "Hi, I hate 'Fletch's Territory'", or "anything", but use this number to tell us about your group's coming events. Hey Gang... if they'll print this drivel, you know they'll print your important stuff.

GOOD NEWS CORNER

[That number is
(209) 943-0419]

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WELCOME! Lynn B., San Francisco, our newest reporter keeping us well informed of the happenings in that area. We look forward to receiving more of your wonderful letters, notes, reports-everything!

EDITOR

P.S. How about some great stories of RECOVERY - there must be about 40,000 of them out there. Remember - any recovery is a great story.

PASSED OUR WAY . . .

It is with sadness that we have to announce the passing of a very personal and close friend and also an active member of our Hospital and Institution Committee in Modesto, and that was Donna S., the wife of Pat S., our regional chairman.

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Editor. Ann C. Stockton, Ca

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THIS SPACE

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FOR YOUR
GROUP

* * * *

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Wishing you a
SOBER, SERENE
* 1984 *
from GOOD NEWS
* * * * *

GOOD NEWS

AA CALENDAR - 1984

January

- 13-15 1st Annual Bay Daze Conference-San Francisco, CA.
- 14 CNIA Assembly, Woodland, CA.
- 20-21 Unity in Sobriety - Conference-Oakland, CA.
- 20-22 Spring Fling, Sacramento, CA.
- 21 Valley Service Center - Anniversary, Pleasanton, CA.
- 28 Delta Intergroup "Unity Day" - Ripon, CA.
- 28 Roseville Tue. Group - Anniversary, Roseville, CA.

February

- 3-5 San Fernando Valley Convention, North Hollywood, CA.
- 4 Sat. Nite Live Grps.-"A Day of Sobriety", Campbell, CA.
- 23-26 20th Nat'l AA Women's Conf.; Atlanta, GA. (Call Central Office for details)

March

- 2-4 Pacific Region AA Service Assembly-San Diego, CA.
- 9-11 NCC Spring Conference, Monterey, CA.
- 18 Duffy-Myrtle Dale Groups St. Pat's Day Celebration, Calistoga, CA.
- 31 CNIA Pre-Conference Assembly - Manteca, CA.

April

- 7 CNCA Pre-Conference Assembly - Vallejo, CA.
- 21 San Francisco Fellowship Annual Banquet, San Francisco, CA.
- 28 Stockton Midtown Group-Anniversary
- 28 Woodland Groups Anniversary

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