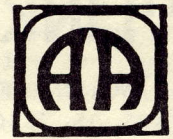




Good News



Est.
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Nov.-Dec.
1984

Northern California Conference Report

What a nice conference at Redding. There were good speakers, good workshops, good fellowship and the weather was good for the most part. Most people make sure to attend the main speaker meetings but are unable to attend some of the workshops. At the request of some of our readers, we tried to get reports on these workshops. We were unable to cover them all but we did get a couple.

GENERAL SERVICE SPEAKERS MEETING

At the General Service Speakers Meeting at the Redding Conference, Marge K. spoke of the necessity of responsible leadership-- leadership that includes training and example. She observed that leadership by mandate was rarely effective.

Marge pointed out that the G.S.R., after obtaining the group conscience of his or her group on Conference agenda items, becomes a vital link in the chain of communication to the delegate and the General Service Conference. The G.S.R. is, therefore, the custodian of our traditions, communicating the power of the group conscience.

"At the time I became a group leader," Marge said, "I also became flushed with importance and my ego suffered. We are provided with the spiritual principle of rotation for that purpose." Marge also

stated that she was considered a "bleeding deacon" but that was all right if it got the job done. And she ended by saying that General Service, for her, had been the most gratifying experience.

A personal note from this reporter--Marge also walks like she talks!

Lejeune D.
Moderator

* * * *

GOOD NEWS WORKSHOP

The GOOD NEWS Workshop on Sunday morning was very informative. There were reports on finances, staff, goals and content. There is a need for more reporters from areas such as Monterey, Santa Rosa and Redding.

The staff is busy trying to expand the Master calendar in each issue and any help from readers regarding multi-group functions or service meetings would be

most appreciated. There were many suggestions from the floor which will be taken up in greater detail in a later issue.

All in all, it was a good workshop.

* * * *

You say you can't sleep Saturday nights? Listen to an OPEN A.A. Meeting! 12:30 AM Sunday morning. KEST, 1450 on your AM radio.

Jim M. has asked for any issues of the GOOD NEWS from 1975 or later for the N.C.C. archives. Please send issues to the GOOD NEWS and they will be forwarded to Him.

COASTAL AREA "LINK"

The "Twelve and Twelve" classifies as "storm signals" anything injurious to A.A., and any affiliation with outside interests. Are we too concerned about non-A.A. literature? If so, we're in good company with A.A.'s overall conscience.

In 1954, the Conference resolved not to accept publishing rights to the "Twenty-Four Hours A Day" book. In 1972, it recommended not to confirm the "Twenty-Four Hour Book" as Conference-approved literature and recommended that when a local facility sold non-Conference-approved literature, it should be clearly depicted as such. In 1975, it reaffirmed that non-Conference-approved literature ought to be separately displayed. Finally, in 1977, it suggested that groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office and the Grapevine.

Ironically, it seems that few groups stock or display "The AA Service Manual" and "Twelve Concepts For World Service". One is inclined to wonder whether we fully value and appreciate our Third Legacy of Service.

A.A. neither endorses nor opposes outside literature. Let it be emphasized that just one special-interest exception is capable of setting a precedent for anything from Aesop to Zeno. What we read anonymously, outside of A.A., "in all our affairs", as private

individuals, is one thing. What goes on in A.A. is something else. Tradition ought to be paramount. May our groups evaluate their autonomy by asking: Are we informed? Are we responsible?

Frank B.
San Francisco

* * * *

FLETCH'S TERRITORY

Say alkies, do those folks up in Redding know how to put on a conference or was I just dreaming. Hey, Jim M., that was not a blackout...dreams are in color, remember? Sure was nice seeing old friends and meeting new ones, just as it is at every NCC get-together. One thing I love about the Redding conference besides staying over with good friends - Ron C. calls it mooching - is after Sunday's speaker meeting I head up into the mountains for a spell. This time I took a 47-mile walk into the Marble Mountain Wilderness to spend some time with my Higher Power. Alkies, let me tell ya, that trout I pulled out of Cliff Lake was big - so big that our editor, Lauri N., and my rigorous honesty won't let me tell ya about it. But I can tell ya this, just before I tucked myself into that warm sleeping bag that first night, I spent a moment thanking Him for my blessings - right up in front was the fellowship with friends I couldn't begin to count. Shortly, I fell asleep, but He knows just where I'm coming from. After all...I could still be sleeping in gutters, right?

Don't stop readin' just yet, alkies. You, too, can get to breathe some fresh mountain air - Nov. 16-18, the first ever, AA Summit conference in Yosemite National Park - those of you who are afraid of a bear nibblin' at your toes should get room reservations quick, but some of us that haven't completed Step Two are planning on pitchin' a tent and roughin' it. I guess after three days of that we'll all smell like goats. But believe me, gang..it has been worse, it has been worse.

Before I let ya get on with your normal doings, I've got a question for ya. What do you think about a tear-away page in the GOOD NEWS with an events calendar for the NCC area? If you can still write without shakin' too much, drop us a line and tell us. OK? OK.

Luv ya,
J.P.
Fair Oaks

* * * *

CHANGE THE NAME OF
THE "GOOD NEWS"?

Some of our readers have expressed an interest in changing the name of the GOOD NEWS. How do you feel about it? Send your opinion to the GOOD NEWS. Results will be published in the next issue.

* * * *

NEXT DEADLINE
December 10th

GOOD NEWS

AA CALENDAR - 1984

Nov. 2, 3, and 4 - Monterey
California Coastal Young
People's "Conference by the
Sea", Monterey Convention
Center - \$5.00 registration
to: CCYPAA Registration
177 Webster A-211
Monterey, CA. 93940

Nov. 3 - San Jose
3rd Annual "Service in
Sobriety", Emmanuel
Lutheran Church, Moorpark &
Leigh, San Jose, CA.
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 8, 9, 10, 11-Las Vegas
18th Annual "Roundup".
Banquet, Live Show, Mara-
thon, Tennis-Golf Tourna-
ments, etc. Hearing TTY or
Voice (702) 798-8539
Roundup Committee
P. O. Box 43177
Las Vegas, Nevada 89116

Nov. 16, 17, 18 - Yosemite
National Park
1st Annual Yosemite Summit
Conference. AA and Alanon
speakers, marathon schedule,
buffet and dance, sight-
seeing.
Info. Telephone (209)
966-5312
Pre-registration, \$5.00
Dinner tickets, \$18.00
Mail: AA Summit Conference
P. O. Box 113
Mariposa, CA. 95338

Nov. 17, Ukiah
Northern Coastal Area
Election Assembly. Ukiah
Fairgrounds. 9:30 regis-
tration, Trustee and G.S.O.
General Mgr. sharing,
lunch, 1 p.m. elections
start, pot-luck dinner and
A.A. speaker meeting with
Bob P., New York G.S.O.

Nov. 20
Merit Group Traditional
"Gratitude Night", Piedmont
Community Church, 400 High-
land Ave. 8:15 p.m.
Speaker: Jack H., San Jose

Nov. 21
Thanksgiving Marathon,
8:30 p.m. thru Nov. 22,
9:30 p.m. El Cerrito
Fellowship, 1121 San Pablo
Ave. (near Potrero Ave. &
Del Norte BART Station).
3 p.m. pot-luck dinner and
it's okay to bring food.

ALWAYS KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
YOUR CENTRAL OFFICES AND
SERVICE COMMITTEES FOR MORE
INFO AND JOIN AA ACTIVITIES
TO AVOID THE DREADED "DULL,
BORING AND GLUM" DISEASE--
AND TELL THEM TO TELL THE
GOOD NEWS BEFOREHAND SO
YOUR FRIENDS CAN JOIN YOU.

* * * *

GOOD NEWS presents the ex-
periences of AAs and others
interested in our program.
Opinions expressed herein
are not to be attributed to
Alcoholics Anonymous as a
whole, nor does publication
of any article imply en-
dorsement, either by AA or
the GOOD NEWS. If you
would like to share your
viewpoints, please send
them to GOOD NEWS, P. O.
Box 5521, Stockton, Cali-
fornia 95205.

Have courage for the great
sorrows of life and patience
for the small ones. And
when you have accomplished
your daily tasks, go to
sleep in peace. God is
awake.

* * *

LET SOBRIETY BE
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
IN YOUR LIFE

When I was three years
sober, Alcoholics Anonymous
was not the most important
thing in my life. Getting
wrapped up in the rat-race
of the world was becoming
frequent; material things
were again important; the
contact with my God was
gone. I felt almost dead
inside. Not a minute too
soon, the thought of ninety
meetings in ninety days came
to me. Each morning I
decided which meeting I
would go to, then planned
my day around that. It was
important for me to learn
that everything does not
have to be accomplished in
one day.

The results of those
meetings gave me feelings of
appreciation, gratitude,
enthusiasm, involvement, and
oh so much more. I was
given back the comfort of
inner peace.

H & I work has become
very important in my life.
I visit the hospital where
I see people so physically
sick from alcoholism that
some are too weak to walk.
It's an awful sight. But
to go and share myself and
to leave hope in their
hearts is a gift I never

Cont. on Page 5

50th ANNIVERSARY
INTERNATIONAL AA CONVENTION
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
JULY 4-7, 1985

Having talked to some of us who attended the 1980 International AA Convention in New Orleans...THE WORD is, bring the body, the spirit will follow...and so it seems. People from all over the world attending and participating in their sobriety to the point of sharing with a (brand) new one. It's a nice thought that he's still sober and the International is his home group.

Montreal '85 info has arrived...our Central Offices and Service Committees have the fliers and brochures. As groups or individuals we may copy these or obtain more from G.S.O., N.Y. They are VERY well done.

Montreal is in another country and, although where I come from the local people still cross the border with ease, the Canadian Travel Bureau states the need for two IDs (either birth certificate or passport) and a driver's license.

It is a good idea to change the necessary funds to Canadian here at a convenient bank and, of course, they will change whatever is left on your return. Use of Canadian currency is appreciated even at the larger establishments that will accept and exchange U.S. dollars. I believe we treat Canadian currency with equal discomfort here.

Montreal is bi-lingual (French/English) so don't be surprised if the natives speak to you in French be-

fore knowing you can't. (Maybe you look French.) I've found through our family's travels that Canadians, French or otherwise, are a responsive society...You smile and they smile. The politically-motivated violence is a thing of the past, but it's a good idea to avoid that discussion as you may miss a few hours of meetings.

If you have time for sightseeing, the Gray Lines-Voyager is recommended with THE French City of Quebec, a great tour, and Old Montreal, a fine and easy tour.

Weather in July sounds like San Francisco--HOT, with lows at approx. 50 and highs at 80.

Even for your shorter weekend visits, \$600.00 of new merchandise is allowed duty free with the Canadian American customs process ever polite and at ease. On my last trip back from Nova Scotia we met another friend of Bill W.'s working Customs. A.A. is international, have fun at it...

Love,
Wil & Lucy M.

* * * *

*** NOTE ***

This is the first of a series of articles on The Twelve Concepts. These articles are not meant to give anyone a thorough understanding of the Concepts--such an understanding can only come from careful study of them, from Bill W.'s exposition of them which exists in our Service Manual, and from an under-

standing of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. However, it has been my experience that outside of General Service, most members of Alcoholics Anonymous have scarcely heard of the Twelve Concepts; and even within General Service, many are not as familiar with the Concepts as they might like to be. These articles, then, are meant to provide only a brief introduction to the Concepts with the hope that many readers will go on to study them further.

Just what are the functions of the Twelve Concepts? I regard them, in conjunction with the Conference Charter itself, as serving a purpose for members of A.A. as well as for those alcoholics who are still suffering, very much like the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights serve the people of the United States. The Concepts spell out the system of checks and balances which are a part of the Service structure, just as the U.S. Constitution spells out the checks and balances for U.S. governmental structure. They describe the system whereby we can feel confident in A.A. that no single person or group of persons can ever become influential enough to have a detrimental effect on our fellowship--our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. The Concepts are thus fundamental to the long-term continuation of the A.A. fellowship as we know it.

Don G., District
Committee Member
San Francisco

BAY AREA BEAT

Sorry I couldn't be in Redding to partake in the love and sharing at the Conference; but I understand all went well (as usual), and I certainly plan to "get there" next spring!

In the meantime, there's been LOTS of action around here. The San Fran Alano Club celebrated their 2nd Anniversary at the 525 Sutter St. address over the weekend of 10/6 & 7. The agenda included a mini-alkathon, a rummage sale/bazaar, games, and Sylvia M. as the Sat. night lead and Bill A. on Sunday evening.

Octoberfest at Myrtle-dale was a smashing success, too. Held on 10/21 at the Napa Co.

Fairgrounds speaker mee followed by Sheboygan B Brown Bread lish! That trict 70-Sc service "Su This event booths, a filmstrips a 12-Step 105 chairman the speaker meeting. and live m topped off

A big H held at the group in Sa Costumes ra sublime t and every time fig who. Th group me 8PM, at at Diamor Addison S

This 90-minute closed speaker-discussion group invites all of you to come and share your sobriety with them.

The CNCA Election Assembly will be held on 11/17 at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. The Third Legacy election procedure begins at 1 PM following the 10:30 AM sharing session and pot-luck lunch. This will be a very exciting day as we see our new Area officers chosen and see our service structure in action. All A.A. members are welcome at CNCA Assemblies and we hope to see many of you there.

We are anticipating the Holiday Season, and some celebrations are already scheduled, such as the 6th Annual Coastside A.A. Christmas Party to be held

SOBRIETY-THE MOST IMPORTANT THING (Cont.)

want to quit giving. I have watched the progress of recovery being performed right in front of my eyes. I have seen sick, sick patients become alive and well members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In jails and penitentiaries - the same places that had me at one time - people sit with all freedom removed and nothing left inside, including the will to live. Many of these people don't know a different way to live because they've never experienced it.

I once went to Juvenile Hall to share with three young girls. One was there for armed robbery of a pharmacy her boyfriend had committed--she took the