



Good News



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1985 General Service Conference

Our Conference Theme for 1985 is Golden Moments of Reflection to commemorate our Fiftieth Anniversary on June 10, 1985. Dr. Bob took his last drink on June 10, 1935, and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous came into existence.

Your Area Officers have prepared the following questions to help you GSR's and DCM's in presenting the agenda topics to your groups and to your districts. Please discuss these items as thoroughly as you can between now and our Pre-Conference Assembly in San Mateo County on Saturday, April 6. We look forward to your sharing your information with the Area Assembly then. It is a golden opportunity to make sure that your group has a voice and a vote in Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is very important that we as individuals are well-informed. It will greatly help in obtaining an informed group conscience on this year's Conference agenda topics. If all of us in service will spend some time daily, reading and studying A.A.-approved literature, we will be! Here are some pertinent reading suggestions: (1) "The A.A. Service Manual";

(2) "The Twelve Concepts of World Service"; (3) "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age"; (4) "Alcoholics Anonymous"; (5) "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions"; (6) the fourteen Guidelines; (7) the Conference Reports for 1983 and 1984; (8) "The Summary of the General Service Conference Advisory Actions for 1951-1983"; (9) Box 4-5-9's for 1984; and (10) several of our pamphlets, perhaps including "A.A. Tradition-How it Developed", "The A.A. Group" and "Supporting the A.A. Support System".

AGENDA TOPICS

I. GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES

1. How can your group members help to make a newcomer feel more welcome?
2. Is your group really self-supporting? Explain why it is or is not.
3. What is your group's primary purpose?
4. What are your group's responsibilities to the Twelve Traditions?

II. THE GSR -- THE KEY ROLE

1. How can we obtain the most qualified group member to serve as a GSR?
2. Why is having a

service sponsor extremely important?

3. Service - The Golden Key?

III. FINANCE

1. How can a group or district best establish a prudent reserve?
2. How should excess monies be divided? Why?
3. Are we really self-supporting? (Explain your answers)
 - a. At the group level?
 - b. At the district level?
 - c. At the area level?
 - d. At the international level? (GSO, New York)

IV. WILL THE HAND OF A.A. ALWAYS BE THERE?

1. What can we active A.A. members do to motivate older members who are fading away?
2. What is an informed group conscience? How can we best obtain an informed group conscience?
3. What can our A.A. group do to better stick to our primary purpose?

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COASTAL AREA LINK

On the subject of communication, it is well to recall that one of the reasons for our literature is to preserve AA principles in an ungarbled context. Relevant literature should counterbalance zeal, especially since a zealous, emotional, uninformed conscience can be mistaken.

Verbal communication involves a sense of responsibility. Even if a member says he does not speak for AA, many evaluate AA by his presentation. Whenever Dr. Bob heard a speaker using objectionable language, he would advise such a one that his message would be more effective were he to clean it up a bit. The Hospital and Institutions Committee exhorts each speaker, since in the minds of his audience he signifies AA, to avoid profanity and obscenity.

Nowadays most AA's use first names only when addressing non-AA audiences. In addition, the Conference has recommended that anonymity be preserved at the level of video tape; that talks be given in person rather than by video tape in view of the temptation to place personalities before principles.

The spoken word is paramount at meetings and in one-to-one situations. Is it true that we often try to communicate what we most need ourselves? An early friend identified the antagonist lurking within AA as our "corporate sneer for a phony"; but then he added this re-

mark: "And who of us is not a phony?" Apropos is Bill W.'s comment to the effect that a Twelfth Step call is one alcoholic talking to another, because the one talking needs to hear the message too. "GOOD NEWS" recently phrased it this way: "We share best what we most need to learn."

"Shoemaker stick to thy last" may be an appropriate slogan for communicators. We read that each member has a unique ability to identify with and bring recovery to another alcoholic; that this is our gift from God; that we cannot and should not try to be all things to all men; that we should avoid multipurpose activity; that a group cannot take on all the personal problems of its members; that sobriety is a group's sole purpose.

Throughout human history, alcoholism has claimed its victims like a plague. Only in our day has the miracle of Alcoholics Anonymous taken place. May we be ever grateful. In Dr. Bob's words -- "Let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple." In Bill W.'s words may we remember that "The temporary or seeming good can often be the deadly enemy of the permanent best."

Frank B.

* * * *

FLETCH'S TERRITORY

Well, alkie, you can't say I didn't tell ya. The Spring Fling at the Red Lion Motor Inn in Sacramento was everything I told you it would be...and more. We sure had a ball seeing old friends and the

girl-watching at those two dances was really something else. Wife #1 tells me that I've been talking in my sleep lately and she thinks she might just accompany me to next year's Spring Fling - I said OK - the more the merrier, but I've got to do something about that talking in my sleep!

Speaking of the past, since that's all we can do about it, I hope you all had a chance to read Diana's article on Service in the last issue of the GOOD NEWS. When she wrote of the true rewards of service to the fellowship, it almost made me want to call my home group secretary and volunteer for something. Don't worry, alkie, I said almost...

Now we get to the real reason for the column - yeah, there is a reason, wise guys. I'm just a little bit worried about all these sober folks heading out of the territory on March 8 for Fresno causin' a monumental traffic jam. I mean, everybody I've talked to is going to the NCC's 38th annual Spring Conference at the Fresno Convention Center and if it's bumper to bumper all the way, some of us might miss Friday's kickoff speaker, John N. from La Habra, CA. So, alkie, all I'm asking is that you all leave the territory at a different time on Friday and if you see my car - the one with the "Easy Does It" bumper sticker - remember, all I need is one clear lane - yes, folks, it is a selfish program.

J. P.

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1985 Events

- Mar. 1-8, PRASSA - Pocatello, Idaho.
- Mar. 8-10, NCCAA 38th Annual Spring Conference, Fresno Convention Center, 700 M St., Fresno, CA. Fresno knows HOW!
- Mar. 17, Calistoga, Myrtle Dale Groups St. Pat's celebration with kickoff speaker 3 PM followed by the Firefighters corned beef and cabbage, Calistoga Fairgrounds.
- Mar. 23, CNIA Pre Conference, 6311 Gettysberg Pl., Stockton, CA.
- Apr. 6, CNCA Pre Conference, San Mateo, CA.
- Apr. 12-14, NCCAA H & I Conference, El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, Santa Rosa...A.A., Alanon, Professional & Fellowship Speakers, Panels, Dance, etc., etc. "Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends."
- Apr. 20, Day of Sobriety, Sat. Night Group, Campbell Community Center, Campbell & Winchester, Campbell, CA. All day with three -- count 'em -- speakers.
- Apr. 27, Stockton Midtown Anniversary Dinner, Scottish Rite Temple, Stockton, CA.
- May 4, East Bay All Groups Day, Richmond Auditorium. Panels, and evening speaker Bob E., Los Angeles, Richmond, CA.
- May 10-12 Reno Spring Festival, Sparks, Nevada.
- May 11, CNCA Post Conference, Salinas, CA.
- May 17-19, First Annual Nor Cal Woman-To-Woman Weekend For AA Women. Register before Apr. 1, 1985. \$150.00 pkg/\$15.00 Reg. Fee limited to first 100 WOMEN. Info..Robyn F. (415) 655-5800.
- May 18-19, CNIA Post Conference, Fresno, CA.
- June 7-8, NCC Summer Conference, El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, Santa Rosa...The WHOLE THING!! is returning to Santa Rosa. SUPPORT yourselves with a summer conference.
- June 28-30, Willow Creek 7th Annual Camp Out and Conference, Camp Kintu...Info - Camp Kintu, c/o HDCC, P.O.Box 751, Eureka, CA. 95501
- July 4-7, 50th International A.A. Convention, Montreal, Canada. Deadline for advanced registration is May 15, 1985...Contact your service groups for more info.
- Aug. 2-4, Sierra Nevada Roundup, Nugget, Sparks, Nev.
- Oct. 13, NCC Fall Conference, Stockton Auditorium, Stockton, CA.
- Oct. 25-27, Monterey Young Peoples Conference, Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, CA.
- Oct. 27, Duffy's Octoberfest, Calistoga Fairgrounds
- Nov. 2, CNIA Electrion Assembly, Sacramento, CA.
- Nov. 23, CNCA Fall Assembly, Lake County

Humboldt County News

1985 was welcomed by a crowd of merrymakers at a New Year's Eve dance sponsored by the Sobriety Society, an enthusiastic group that meets in Eureka five times a week.

On January 19, the first speaker meeting of the year featured Eddie H. from Grant's Pass, Oregon. Since groups around here hold discussion meetings and many people aren't able to get to conferences and meetings outside the area, an out-of-town speaker is a very special occasion. Future plans include Angel K.-N. from Sacramento on March 16 and Bill M. from Vallejo on April 20.

There has never been a Central Office anywhere in Humboldt County. Many important services have been handled by the Humboldt Del Norte Central Committee (HDCC). While the message is being carried this way, many people feel that having a Central Office could provide many other needed services. On April 13, the District 15 General Service Committee, in cooperation with HDCC, will hold a Sharing Session at which all interested members of the A.A. community will be able to share their ideas. It promises to be a lively discussion.

There's a lot of good A.A. in Humboldt County. If you're planning a trip up here and want to know about meetings, we're in the phone book or write: HDCC, P.O.Box 751, Eureka, CA. 95501.

Barbara W.

**NEXT DEADLINE
APRIL 10**

Dear Editor and Good New Readers:

It has been my pleasure and privilege over the past year to have been associated with the GOOD NEWS as your Bay Area Beat reporter. But, as with all service jobs in Alcoholics Anonymous, it is important that we rotate.

I hope I have been able to make a small contribution to the GOOD NEWS and its readers. Writing for you has done a lot for me and my sobriety this past year.

I'm sure Marilyn M., who has done so much for the Council in the past, will do an excellent job keeping you abreast of all the activities here in the Bay Area.

Thanks to all of you, and God Bless, one day at a time.

Lynn B.

BAY AREA BEAT

Thank you, Lynn B., for your contribution to the GOOD NEWS. Your service in the past as the Bay Area Beat reporter has been one of dedication.

I would like to thank the GOOD NEWS staff for asking me to be your next reporter from this area.

To quote Stan W., a past everything in our great California Northern Coastal Area, "what goes around, comes around." My first volunteer service work was as GOOD NEWS business manager when Roland W. was the heartbeat of the GOOD NEWS. At that time GOOD NEWS was only about 20-25 years old. I met this quiet humble man at an NCC Conference in Richmond many years ago sitting at his GOOD NEWS table. I was privileged

to learn a great deal in those few months about our AA program and all the articles that were written at the time to GOOD NEWS.

I was delighted to read Ken B.'s article in the GOOD NEWS on his participation in the formation of NCC and GOOD NEWS. We are deeply indebted to him and those 30 or so concerned AA members.

As a past NCC Secretary, I appreciate the hard work other past secretaries did to make my responsibilities easier. I had so many service sponsors that I used constantly.

As to our Bay Area, I feel the holidays have gone, the celebrations Lynn B. spoke of were successes and we are all on our way into 1985.

This reporter went to the Delta Intergroup of AA in Ripon, CA. on Jan. 12th. There is one healthy, fantastic hard-working service group. Standing room only. Alanon had a great program, too. Dinner was great and the speaker spoke to each of us about growing up and how no matter how long we are sober, problems still occur.

This assignment is going to take me all over as I've been asked to help Frank B. of San Francisco, who is your coastal coordinator, to cover south of S.F. down thru Monterey, San Jose, etc., so look for me in those areas cause I'm on my way to gather new reporters.

I'll have lots of sharing to do with all of you in the future issues and the articles will get better with experience, I promise.

With AA love,

Marilyn M.

CONTRA COSTA CORNER

Hello All:

It's been awhile since the Contra Costa Corner has been in the GOOD NEWS. My fault, but thanks to Frank B. for writing me a reminder, here I am!

I would like to devote this article to the Zone Chairpeople and the NCC delegates, as I feel the Purpose Structure Functions booklet is very outdated and should be revised. Please locate yours and read the following pages to see if any of you out there agree with me. COVER: Revised Oct. 1972. STRUCTURE: The NCC Delegates are elected by the Groups (2 to each Group) and has a vote in making all decisions of the Council and should consult with and express his Group's conscience. Districts shall be formed proximate to each other and should be limited to no more than ten (10) Groups to a District. Zones shall be formed composed of Districts proximate to each other and should be limited to no more than ten (10) Districts to a Zone. (Zone C, of which I am the Chairperson, consists of three Counties and more than 250 Groups.) This is just part of my reasons for feeling that the booklet should be changed.

I have tried to arrange a lunch or breakfast or something at the Fresno Conference, but did not succeed! I had hoped if we could all get together, WE COULD DISCUSS THIS BOOKLET! Possibly at the Steering Committee Meeting in Fresno?

Cont. on Page 5

CONTRA COSTA CORNER (Cont.)

There is a lot to think about in these few paragraphs. Hopefully, some of you will read this! I mailed out over 150 announcements of the Fresno Conference and a Zone C Meeting for Feb. 17. After this meeting, I will be able to tell if there are people interested in N.C.C.A.A. Wish me luck! See you in Fresno!

Respectfully submitted,
Betty H., Zone C

* * * *

CELEBRATE AA's
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

A SUPERMARKET OF A.A. EVENTS

At almost any moment of every day and night, you'll have your choice of programs. Friday and Saturday are packed with alkathons, workshops, panel discussions, and special interest meetings from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. the next day--even a marathon meeting running 24 hours a day! And the Friday night Big Meeting and Sunday morning Spiritual Meeting held at the Olympic Park Stadium will be translated simultaneously into French, Spanish and German, as well as signed for the deaf.

MARVELOUS MONTREAL!

Montreal is so fascinating, so charming, so colorful, you will want to allow extra vacation days to enjoy it. The streets are clean and very safe at any hour. An underground city of shops and boutiques links all the central hotels and the Convention Center. The wonderful "Metro" that will carry you between downtown and the

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY (Cont.)

Olympic Park Stadium is immaculate, swift, silent (on rubber wheels!) and even has Muzak playing! "Old Montreal," a restored historic section, is full of exotic sights. A variety of superb restaurants abound everywhere. Although the French language lends a foreign feeling to Montreal, almost everyone you'll meet speaks English as well.

THE JOY OF LIVING

The weekend kicks off Thursday evening with two simultaneous "get acquainted" dances at the Convention Center: one disco and the other with the "bid band sound." The Friday night Big Meeting with the Flag Ceremony, the Big Show on Saturday night and the Big Spiritual Meeting on Sunday will be held in the famed Olympic Park Stadium --the only structure large enough to hold the anticipated crowd! Most other events, including workshops and panel discussions, will be in the Convention Center--with alkathons and marathon meetings spilling over into the nearby hotels.

FOR PROCRASTINATORS

Deadline for advance registration is May 15--no refunds are possible after that date. For best room selection, register NOW. If you can't make plans by May 15, come anyway! Representatives will be on hand at the Convention Center in Montreal starting July 1 for on-site registration and to help you with housing.

HOW TO REGISTER

Just fill out the form (check out your service

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY (Cont.)

committees and Central Office for forms and INFO) and send it to the address shown. Registration fee for all events-meetings, dances, shows, etc. is \$30. No charge for children under 12. A preprinted badge will be mailed to you. Do not lose it! It is your badge for admission to all events. The cost of a badge replacement will be \$5. Please bring it with you to Montreal so you can be checked in quickly at the Convention Center and receive your badge holder at that time.

Reprinted in part from
AA's Golden Anniversary
Newsletter.

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C.N.C.A. ARCHIVES
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The new CNCA Archives Committee officers, commencing January 1, 1985, will be:

Archivist	Lejeune D. 08 Contra Costa
Alternate Archivist	Agnes F. 09 Solano So.
Secretary	Buzz G. 03 Santa Cruz
Treasurer	Al B. 10 Marin

New members welcomed to the Archives Committee are:
Clarise M., Humboldt/Del Norte

Linn C., Monterey
John H., San Benito/Salinas
Dave Q., Santa Clara So.
Hal G., Santa Clara No.
Roselinde B., San Francisco
Ginny B., Alameda No.
Cecil T., Alameda So.
John J., Contra Costa
Beulah P., Solano So.
Glenn C., Sonoma

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The Twelve Concepts

The Right of Decision

I have often attended General Service meetings at which a decision on a matter of some importance is necessary. The matter is debated at some length--the pros and cons are discussed--and the time arrives for a decision. Too often it happens that some representative will express the opinion, or even make a motion, that the issue which has been under discussion is of such significance that it should be taken back to the representatives' groups to obtain a "group conscience" on the subject. Such an opinion indicates to me a lack of understanding of the Twelve Concepts; in particular, of Concept III, and the Right of Decision spelled out there.

Each A.A. group delegates to its representative this Right of Decision, and, rightfully so. The represented group has not had the benefit of hearing the discussions, the pros and cons of the arguments, and the minority views which normally arise during such discussions. In other words, the group at home, as a group, is neither informed enough nor qualified enough in general service background to give an objective group conscience, and can only give a group opinion, which may be more emotional than logical. I cannot make this point any better than Bill W. has already done in his discussion of Concept III: "The right A.A. solution for this problem is to be found, however, in the latter

TWELVE CONCEPTS (Cont.) part of Tradition Two, which provides for "trusted servants." This really means that we ought to trust our responsible leaders to decide, within the understood framework of their duties, how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises. This sort of leadership discretion should be the essence of "The Right of Decision," and I am certain that we need not have the slightest fear of granting this indispensable privilege at nearly every level of world service."

I do not mean to imply by the above that we should always take immediate action on every issue. In fact, the opposite is often true. It is wise to defer action on a significant decision when this can reasonably be done. It is good if the representative has a chance to reflect over the discussions and the points made at a District or Area meeting and to discuss these with other representatives as well as with members of the represented group. To the extent that this in fact constitutes getting a "group conscience" then, indeed, this is valuable. However, there is a big difference between private, informal, discussions with individual group members with quality sobriety in which information can be exchanged leisurely, and a more formal request at an A.A. meeting for a group conscience with only limited exposure on the part of the group to all aspects of the issues.

TWELVE CONCEPTS (Cont.)

The Right of Decision is an important part of our Service structure. World Service could not function effectively without this delegation of Right of Decision to service representatives. All A.A. leaders and representatives are the trusted servants of the group they represent; trusted servants are not, and must not let themselves become, merely messengers. They have a job, and their job requires them to make decisions from time to time.

Finally, it may at times be tempting to say, "Oh yes, we understand that the Right of Decision is important to A.A. Trustees, and to Conference Delegates at the Annual Conference when they are far from home, but we are close to the groups we represent, and it is no trouble for us to get a group conscience on almost any issue." To this I say, read again the Traditions with this Right of Decision in mind. Bill W. makes it very clear in the Twelve Concepts that the only way A.A. can function is to have decision-making responsibility delegated to the A.A. representatives--the trusted servants. It is the duty--not just an occasional privilege, but the indispensable privilege--of these representatives at nearly every level of service to exercise their Right of Decision.

Of course, even the trusted servant can make a mistake. For example, it is hard for me to remember during sometimes heated discussions that my best friend, who may present

1985 GENERAL SERVICE (Cont.)

4. What do we mean by the hand of A.A.? (Unity? General Service? P.I.? C.P.C.? H & I? Literature? 12-Stepping? Teleservice? etc.....)

V. FIFTY YEARS OF CARING AND SHARING - GOLDEN MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

1. What is your vision of tomorrow in Alcoholics Anonymous?

2. What else is on your mind?

Your Delegate invites and welcomes your written responses. Please send them to:

Diane O.
14630 Springer Court
Saratoga, CA. 95070

Reprinted from January
CNCA Newsletter

TWELVE CONCEPTS (Cont.)

his viewpoint calmly, logically, and unemotionally. I can be wrong, while the wild-eyed ranting radical, whose viewpoint I may have often disagreed with in the past, can be right. Decisions made by majorities of well-meaning people can still be wrong. However, Concept V described "The Right of Appeal" - the method whereby the individual A.A. member or group can seek redress for wrong, or can re-initiate debate on a subject which was formally decided on a majority basis. This Right of Appeal and Petition is seldom exercised, but it could be of tremendous importance to an individual or to A.A. as a whole if at some time A.A. leadership abused its authority or even its Right of Decision.

Don G.

C.N.C.A. ARCHIVES (Cont.)

About seventy-five AA's, families and friends dropped by to visit the Archives Open House held on Feb. 10 and 11 at 2917 MacDonald Ave., Richmond, CA. Some came from as far away as Santa Cruz and Clear Lake to view the exhibits and enjoy a bit of fellowship over the usual cup of coffee and a variety of tasty cookies and candy. The sixth member of A.A., Charlie B., (11) Lake, sent in a picture together with a short A.A. and overall profile of himself. A good time was had by all and some suggested that it be made an annual event.

A red cover big book containing a handwritten list of A.A.'s who authored the stories in the back of the book was donated by the family of Horace B

Homer D. has donated, amongst other things, his script of the "12-Step Play", a play which was written by him many years ago.

Inasmuch as reading copies of the CNCA history has been limited to past and present officers, as well as Archives Committee members, there isn't too much, if anything, generally known with respect to the contents, confidential such as they are. Nevertheless, Dean K. recently wrote a "Disclaimer" with regard to the history, which may be looked upon as being not only of an interesting nature, but quite informative in its own limited way. Thus, it is offered verbatim as follows:

"Of course, this history does not speak for AA. AA speaks for itself. In

C.N.C.A. ARCHIVES (Cont.)

addition, because of the paucity of information received from some communities, it has been necessary to depend on information from one, or sometimes only two longtimers. Experience has shown that memories are sometimes faulty or differ as to names, dates, and sometimes facts. Because of this, in this history it has been necessary at times to make arbitrary decisions. And since the compilation of this history has extended over a seven-year period, the listing of complete resource material providers may have been omitted inadvertently.

"I have tried to be objective in reporting facts, without being judgmental or opinionated, in all sections of this history. However, being only human, and considering the length and scope of this document, such emotions may have crept into some chapters herein. If this has happened, I ask the reader to forgive and consider the overall history, rather than any personalities so expressed.

"In general, what I am saying is that I do not consider myself personally responsible for errors or omissions in this CNCA HISTORY. Rather, I hope the readers will provide the correct information for the benefit of some future historian who may issue "VOLUME 2" of this HISTORY."

Dean K. (1984)

Dean K., past delegate and author of CNCA HISTORY, Volume I, passed away on December 2, 1984. Memorial services were held on December 4th at the Cooper Mortuary in San Leandro.

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3/86



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