



Good News



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Published Bi-Monthly in Modesto, California
By The Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

September-October
1987

FOOTNOTES FROM THE EDITOR

My name is Paula DiMaria and I've been elected editor for Good News. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to try and be of service, but please bear with me, this is my first adventure in coordinating a publications support system.

There was much to be done. An address (it has its very own post office box), a bank account (in its own name), a Bulk Rate Permit from the Post Office (which it doesn't have yet), a Word Processing and Reproduction System Engineer (a clerk typist), a good lay-out man (he's a fellow member volunteering his services), a printer (another volunteer program-member), a folder and a label & stamp licker!

We also have a volunteer that's taking care of the subscription department (mailing labels, expiration notices and circulation information.)

Please remember we are all new, but we'll do our best to keep it interesting, current, informative, and fun!

STOCKTON'S COMING

Anne K. and Marie C. were in Stockton this week for the Pre-Conference Planning Committee meeting for NCCAA Fall Conference, everything is "Right on Time."

Hope to see you there!

Now for the business at hand. The paper really needs your support. We have lost touch with the previous contribution writers. If you have been submitting articles, or wish to, your support will be greatly appreciated.

We will welcome any committee reports, column contributions, area articles, news of conferences, coming events, comments and suggestions.

The transition has been involved and time consuming, so we apologize for the delay.

Hope to see many of you in Stockton, if you go, please stop by the Good News table and say Hello so we can get to know each other better as we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny!

Thanks, Paula DiMaria

DEADLINES FOR MATERIAL

Dec. 10 . . . Jan.-Feb. issue
Feb. 10 . . . Mar.-April issue
April 10 . . . May-June issue
June 10 . . . July-Aug. issue
Aug. 10 . . . Sept.-Oct. issue
Oct. 10 . . . Nov.-Dec. issue

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

As the new editor, I'd like to welcome you to participate in the GOOD NEWS.

The paper is for "Northern California," which means all 48 zones and I'd like to see as many areas as possible represented.

The following are the guidelines from NCCAA's "Purpose, Structure, and Functions," as they concern us: GOOD NEWS:

"The Good News is the newspaper of the Northern California Council. It reports the activities of the Council, Hospital and Institution Committee, General Service, and other articles of interest to A.A. members. News is written about the Conferences for the benefit of members unable to attend. This publication will give you all the news of activities of the Groups in Northern California. There is a subscription price which is set to cover the cost of printing and mailing."

Being as they aren't very restrictive, any and all help will be welcome and appreciated.

Thanks again for your co-operation and contributions.

TREASURER'S NOTE

The treasurer asked us to extend her apologies for the lateness of the June 30 financial report. She is recovering from eye surgery, and the report will be on its way soon.

HUMOR IN A.A.

My first exposure to A.A. was in a hospital--I was in a treatment program as a chronic alcoholic, and, I might add, was not in the least bit happy to be there. I was forced to attend nightly A.A. meetings, and I didn't like them. My impressions of the A.A. people who were at those meetings were that they were dull, glum, and humorless.

After I was released from the hospital, I carefully avoided all contact with A.A. for many years. When I finally, and painfully, made it back to A.A., my impressions were totally different--this time I found people who were happy, full of life, and interesting. I will probably never know why my first impressions were so bad. Perhaps those first times I was the dull, glum, and humorless one, and I just projected those attitudes onto all around me; perhaps those people were indeed not typical of A.A. The important thing now, however, is that for me, humor is an important part of A.A. and an important part of my sobriety.

I believe that, with few if any individual exceptions, as we lose our ability to control our drinking, we lose our ability to laugh at ourselves. Or put in a different way, the more we progress into the denial of our alcoholism, the less willing we are to let others see any of our foibles, and the less willing we are to admit them to ourselves.

What does this have to do with A.A.? Most of us have been to a considerable variety of A.A. meetings. We have seen the characters of different meetings run the gamut from being deadly serious to being the scene of considerable hilarity. This difference in character is healthy, and Tradition Four supports this: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." I am glad that I can readily find a meeting to suit the mood I may be in at any time. We should also try to avoid extremes in this by keeping in mind Tradition Five: "Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

I personally enjoy hearing laughter at A.A. meetings. I have always taken life too seriously, and to be able to laugh sincerely at my own failures is a good sign of my continuing recovery.

Don G.

This was a real help to me when I was a newcomer. Later I learned it was an even bigger help, because usually when I need one of the listings, I need it NOW!

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SEPT. 13 NCCAA WORKSHOP **CANCELLED** —
WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN RESCHEDULED

1987 Events

SEPT 17-20

BIG BOOK SEMINER, El Rancho Motel, West Sacto

OCT. 16-18 NCCAA FALL CONFERENCE, CIVIC AUDITORIUM,
STOCKTON

OCT. 23-25 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY THE SEA, CCYPAA
Monterey Conference Center Reg. Fee \$5

OCT. 29 - NOV. 1

26TH ANNUAL HAWAII AA CONFERENCE Reg. Fee \$65

NOV 6-8 SANTA BARBARA'S 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
Fess Parker's Red Lion Inn

NOV. 20-22 4TH ANNUAL YOSEMITE AA HIGH SUMMIT CONFERENCE
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

CNCA ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Considering the age of the fellowship and its world wide presence, it isn't at all surprising to receive an extensive variety of memorabilia possessing a diversity of longevity.

Recently Win Schussman (90) sent in some material from the collection of Stanley B. Gaston, Jr. (11). It contained correspondence with the New York General Service Office showing that a trio, Roland plus two other Vermonter alcoholics, Cebra and Shep, joined together in helping Ebby gain sobriety. However, as was their privilege, the latter two chose anonymity and have been excluded from the generally accepted version of how the message of sobriety passed from Dr. Jung to Roland and then to Ebby before reaching our co-founder Bill W. Also there is a multilith manuscript of the Big Book. Hopefully, at some time or other, our membership will have an opportunity to browse through it and enjoy comparing the proposed version with the book, as published. For example, following the (a) (b) (c) portion contained in the Fifth Chapter, there is a now deleted paragraph: "If you are not convinced on these vital issues, you ought to re-read the book to this point or else throw it away."

From the Estate of Charlie J. Brockwell (13) we received several cartons of items too diverse to catalogue here. Having been a seafarer, an A.A. Loner with a sobriety date going back to 9/25/41, he accumulated an enormous collection of letters including quite a stack of prison newsletters from as far away as South Australia, England, etc., as well as from the U.S.A. and we are told that there are several more cartons to come. Stay tuned.

The Archive Center, 2917 MacDonald Ave., Richmond, CA, is open at 7:30 P.M. on the first Monday night of each month and visitors are welcome. It is also open twice a month on Saturday mornings between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. The exact dates are announced by the Archivist at the monthly C.N.C.A. Area meeting.

Thy will be done.

Herb J (06)

PUT A BOTTLE OF BEER IN THE BASKET

In the past year, a friend who buys the stuff tells me, the cost of a beer has gone up 40%. Would any of us have paid attention to this increase in the old drinking days? I might have switched to a cheaper brand or a cheaper brew, but most likely the grocery money would have diminished, my shoes--and the kid's--would have stretched a little further. I would have resented my boss because my paycheck wasn't keeping up with the cost of booze. That stuff was my life. I HAD to have it. It didn't cost all that much compared to cheese. So I reasoned my way into having another. Hang the expense!

When I turned my will and my life over to my Higher Power as I understand him, he said--via my group and my sponsor--"Be responsible for yourself. Don't whine or mooch; don't cheat or steal. If you want it, pay for it." This is the spiritual basis for my economic state today.

Initially in A.A., I listened to "there are no dues or fees" and doubted it. I tried it out. I let the basket go by. See what happens. Nothing happens. No one's tone changes. The message is not diluted. No effort is spared to those who can't afford the coffee right now.

One evening I asked one of those sweet helpful ladies why I should bother chipping in, and she turned to me with surprising force. "What if, when you'd come here, there hadn't been a meeting? What if it were gone next week or next year? We would die that's what!" she said. She went on to tell me how grateful she was to have found the program, and how she believed in transferring her gratitude into support of her group.

It made sense to me. I didn't know where the money went and I didn't want to know. Now I know that while I crawled and fumbled my way up the first steps the service structure was working for me, and it continues to work, whether we know or care about it, or not. For that I am grateful. And I now support it in every way I can.

A.A. is my life. I HAVE to have it! And I have doubled my earlier contributions. (My gratitude has multiplied more than that.) When I reach into my purse I remind myself of the cost of a bottle today--and I go ahead and put that bottle's price into the basket, where it will do some good.

Marion S., Eureka

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When you blame others, you give up your power to change.

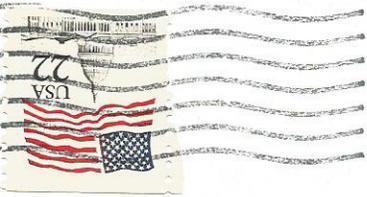
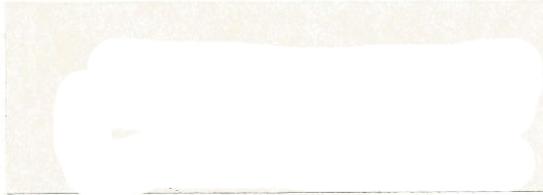
Whatever you are willing to put up with, is exactly what you will have.

Your interpretation of what you see and hear, is just that, your interpretation.

There are no victims, only volunteers.

Your enemy might become your friend, if you allow him to be who he is.

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