



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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1989

Council Will Choose New Treasurer

By THE EDITOR

On Saturday, March 11, 1989, Anne K's term as Treasurer for NCCAA will be up, and we will elect a new treasurer at the Fresno Conference.

Anne, who has been in service to NCCAA for many years, has served two consecutive terms as treasurer and is not eligible for re-election. I have personally enjoyed working with Anne, and I feel she has done an outstanding job as Treasurer. Thank you, you will be missed.

POLICIES ARE SET

So what happens when an officer of the Council rotates out? First of all, the Purpose, Structure, and Functions booklet has this to say about the Council Treasurer:

"The Council Treasurer is elected at the Spring Conference of the odd numbered years and serves a two-year term. This office is restricted to no more than two consecutive terms.

"It is recommended that the Council Treasurer have a minimum of five years continuous sobriety, a service background, and experience in accounting or

(See "Treasurer," Page 2)

42nd Annual Spring Conference

Fresno Calls NCCAA Back for Business

The Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous will be back in Fresno March 10, 11 and 12, 1989, in order to conduct its 42nd Annual Spring Conference.

The Conference will get underway Friday afternoon with the opening of the registration area at 2 p.m., followed by the Early Bird Meeting at 3:30. Bernie F from Fresno will be the speaker. Immediately following will be the start of the marathon meetings at 5 p.m. and running until midnight.

IT ALL STARTS FRIDAY

At 8:30 Friday night will be the Kickoff Speaker Meeting, where Angela O'K from Campbell River, British Columbia will share her experience, strength and hope.

Saturday will start off early with registration opening up at 9 a.m. along with the marathon meetings. At 9:30, H & I will conduct its meeting, and at 11 there will be a workshop on how to start and maintain archives. There will also be an NCCAA Steering Committee meeting at 11 a.m. for Steering Committee members.

SESSIONS ALL DAY

The afternoon will begin with a 1 p.m. General Service Speaker Meeting. At 2:30 the NCCAA open business meeting will be conducted. If your group has an

(See "Fresno," Page 5)

We Just Thought We'd Ask

It's time again for us to ask you for your support for the *Good News*.

Once again, or still, we at the *Good News* are struggling. We are attempting to bring you a paper of interest that you will enjoy reading, but we cannot do this without your help.

If you would like to read new, updated and original material in the *Good News*, you will have to do your part and help supply it.

Unfortunately, we are receiving little or no input at this time, and important news is being missed.

(See "Help Wanted," Page 4)

Council Treasurer's Office Will Be Filled at Election

(Continued from Page 1)

bookkeeping. The Treasurer should have the time available to be responsible for all Council funds and to work very closely with the Council Chairperson. A financial report of each conference is to be prepared and presented at the Pre-Conference meeting following the Conference.

"A financial statement as of June 30 and December 31 of each year is to be prepared. Each of these financial statements will be reviewed and approved at a meeting of all the officers of the Northern California Council, as soon as possible after completion, and each is to be published in the next following issue of the GOOD NEWS.

"The books of the Council shall be available to any AA member or Group for inspection at any time.

"The Treasurer may delegate any or all of the above responsibilities to one or both of the secretaries, or in case of ne-

cessity, to any responsible AA member. The Treasurer, shall, however, assume full responsibility for any functions so delegated. If the Treasurer is unable to assume the duties of the Council, a temporary Treasurer will be selected by the Chairperson until a special election can be held."

The following gives an idea of the responsibilities involved in the Treasurer's job, and the Council's recommendations for qualification. The election procedures are as follows:

"The Steering Committee of the Council will sit as a Nominating Committee for the purpose of accepting nominations for the election. The roll will be called of all Steering Committee members, who may or may not place a nominee. After the roll of the members has been called, the nominations are considered closed. The Nominating Committee will then discuss the qualifications of the nominees and select a slate of nominees, recommended to be at least three. Those nominees selected will then be voted for at an election held at the NCC Open Delegates Meeting of this same Spring Conference. All registered NCC Delegates are eligible to vote in this election.

"Fifty-one per cent of the total vote will elect. Balloting will be by secret ballot. If, after two ballots, no nominee has 51% of the total vote, the nominee with the least votes will be eliminated and the voting will con-

tinue until one nominee has 51% of the total vote cast."

The Steering Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 11, 1989, at 11 a.m. The Open Delegates meeting will be the same day at 2:30 p.m.

If you are interested in this position, or know of someone who is, please come and participate in the election. Remember, no new nominees will be accepted at the Open Delegates meeting. You must go through the Steering Committee. So, if you want to be nominated, you must ask a Steering Committee member to do so.

The Steering Committee consists of the following:

- Council Chairperson, Council Treasurer and the Secretaries
- The Zone Chairperson of each Zone
- The Tape Librarian
- All Past Chairpeople of the Council or Past Council Secretaries (as they were known before the revised procedures)

Plus one representative from each of the following:

- The Good News
- H & I Committee
- Young Peoples Group
- General Service Coastal Area and General Service Interior Area,
- Each Central Office or Intergroup

Please come and get involved. This is only one of the interesting things that happens in the NCCAA. There will be other business discussed on Saturday, and you will be given a chance to be heard and express your opinion. This is your golden opportunity to help.

GOOD NEWS

Newsletter of the
Northern California Council
of Alcoholics Anonymous

Articles of interest to our readers are welcomed and may be mailed to the editor at:

Post Office Box 64090,
Sunnyvale CA 94088-4090

Deadlines for Material

December 10 for January-February
February 10 for March-April
April 10 for May-June
June 10 for July-August
August 10 for September-October
October 10 for November-December

AA HISTORY — THE CONCLUSION**Dr. Bob and Bill Leave Priceless Legacy**

This is the conclusion of a series on the history of AA and the formation of the 12-Step program. This article probes the later years of the co-founders.

By J. S. Rudolph

The year 1939 was a low point. *Alcoholics Anonymous* was published, but only two book orders came in. Bill and Lois were evicted from their Clinton Street home because they could not meet the mortgage payments. For the next two years they lived out of suitcases as peripatetic houseguests of other members of the AA fellowship. Dr. Bob was also hard up, and he was 60 years old now. What's more, two early members, Ebby T. and Hank, went back to the bottle.

But nobody gave up. Dr. Bob, for example, went into cahoots with Sister Ignatia to secretly treat alcoholics at St. Thomas Hospital. Hospitals did not want to admit drunks, partly because they did not yet see alcoholism as a medical problem, and partly because the indigent drunks never paid their bills. Sister Ignatia quietly put Dr. Bob's cases in the flower-arranging room. Between 1939 and his death, Dr. Bob treated 4,800 alcoholics at St. Thomas, and the program there went from surreptitious to officially structured.

SUCCESS CAME RAPIDLY

It was actually some of the much-feared publicity that got AA on the move. Positive articles in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and in the *Saturday Evening Post* caused a terrific jump in membership — from 2,000 to 8,000 in ten months. Correspondence began pouring in to the *Big Book* publisher, i.e., to Bill in New York.

The rapid growth caused a further evolution of the program. Meetings began splitting off and proliferating at such a rate that rotating leadership on a seniority basis worked best for local groups. The old communal open-door visiting of the small fellowship gave way to personal sponsorship of newcomers.

The organization was soon at a crossroads. Should it move toward centralized authority and tight structure? Or toward decentralization and local autonomy? It is interesting that Bill W., with

his fondness for being "number one man," never considered taking advantage of his personal charisma. He felt strongly that democratic decentralization was the way to go.

One AA member wrote out an ambitious plan to set up three AA corporations, with a lengthy list of 61 rules for membership. Dr. Bob was not impressed, and sure enough, the member wrote again in a year, admitting the unworkability of his plan and submitting as a lesson learned, the now well-known Rule #62: "Don't take yourself too damned seriously."

Personal visits by the founders to all the groups springing up across the country were no longer physically possible, so Bill went to work on another book. The Twelve Traditions of AA gradually developed as the mail showed questions and problems that appeared repeatedly in the membership. The Traditions were intended as guidelines for local meetings.

The Wilsons finally got their own home, in Bedford Hills, New York, in the spring of 1941. They named it "Stepping Stones."

DEPRESSION AND ILLNESS

Bill himself fell into a terrible depression in the mid-forties. He was not drinking, though friends baffled by his withdrawal, thought he might be. He tried psychotherapy, osteopathy and innumerable other therapies. Nothing seemed to help, and he did not really emerge from depression for 10 years, although he never stopped working.

Anne Smith developed cataracts and slowly went blind. In 1948 Dr. Bob's cancer was diagnosed. In 1948, Anne died of pneumonia and a heart attack.

Bill pushed the rapidly failing Dr. Bob to agree to the concept of a General Service Conference to accept the 12 Traditions, so that the founders could leave AA strong and self-reliant. Bob agreed.

His last words to Bill before his death (Nov. 16, 1950) repeated his life-long advice, "Remember, Bill, let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple!"
(See "Co-Founders," Page 4)

THE READERS WRITE

Old-Timers or Elder Statesmen?

To become an old-timer, don't drink and don't die. To become an elder statesman (a generic term that includes our excellent stateswomen) takes a little more doing. Over the years they have accepted many service jobs. More recently they have bowed to rotation.

INFORMED CONSCIENCE

Versed in AA literature, especially that authored by Bill W., they have cultivated an informed conscience. Placing principles before personalities, they are not people-pleasers; nor do they force opinions down anyone's throat.

Bill W. was their prototype. In 1955, the Conference became the successor to our co-found-

ers. Even so, it continued to be the recipient of Bill's counsel.

Are not our rotated statesmen one of our most unused resources? Their role ought not to be vague. Under Tradition Two, they are qualified as follows:

"They become the real and permanent leadership of AA. Theirs is the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge and humble example that resolve a crisis. When sorely perplexed, the group inevitably turns to them for advice. They become the voice of the group conscience. In fact, these are the true voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. They do not drive by mandate; they lead by example . . . our group

conscience, well-advised by its leaders, will be in the long run wiser than any single leader."*

—By Frank B.

(*TWELVE STEPS & TWELVE TRADITIONS, P. 135, with permission of AA World Services, Inc.)

Co-Founders Die

(Continued from Page 3)

Dr. Bob's funeral service was conducted by Dr. Walter Tunks, the minister who, 15 years before, had given Bill Wilson 10 phone numbers to call.

Bill W., while he tried to ease himself out of AA leadership, kept searching for improvements in the treatment of chemical dependency. He was sure at one time that lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) could help the alcoholic by giving him the spiritual experience that he sought in alcohol but couldn't find there. Under the supervision of doctors who were experimenting with the substance, Bill even took some "trips" himself.

He was also enthusiastic about vitamin B-3 or niacin, as a help during detoxification and for emotional disorders. He promoted the wonders of niacin to the end of his life. Bill spoke for the last time from a wheelchair, at the 35th Anniversary Convention of AA at Miami Beach in 1970. He died of emphysema, on his and Lois' 53rd wedding anniversary, January 24, 1971. His gravestone in East Dorset, Vermont, simply says, William G. Wilson, 1895-1971."

Reprinted from SOBER TIMES

Help Wanted: No Experience

(Continued from Page 1)

The guidelines for the *Good News* are as follows:

The *Good News* is the newspaper of the Northern California Council. It reports the activities of the Council, Hospital & Institution Committee, General Service, and other articles of interest to AA 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.

The subscription price is set to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Please help us cover all of these areas so the *Good News* does not have to be a reprint from the *Grapevine* or other sources which have already been circulated elsewhere.

The deadlines for material are listed on Page Two, so please keep them in mind when you send material.

We hope you will find time to share your interests with all of us.

Fresno Promises a Great Conference

(Continued from Page 1)
 NCCAA Delegate (and your group should have an NCCAA Delegate—Editor), you should insist that he or she attend this meeting. If your group does not have delegate, you might ask during your next business meeting why you are not represented.

At 3:30 p.m., the Young Peoples Speaker Meeting will be taking over the auditorium and, as always, there should be a lot of energy. Scott L from Placerville will be the speaker.

After the dinner break, at 8:30 p.m., the speaker will be Albert M, from Dallas, Texas, followed by the drawing for the raffle prizes and the dance. This year's band is *Shout*, which has played to very enthusiastic crowds at previous NCCAA Fresno Conferences. Sunday morning will

commence at 9 a.m. when the registration area re-opens and marathon meetings start up again. At 9:30 the Alcoholics Anonymous service meeting will have as its theme: "Our Primary Purpose." At 11 a.m., the Conference will have its closing speaker, Eve M from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who has over 44 years sobriety in our pro-

gram. Her message is more than inspiring.

We would like to invite everyone to the Conference. As you can see, there will be something for everybody. Remember, Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous may be 42 years old, but it belongs to each and every one of us; let's use it often.

Dr. Bob Liked This Humility Definition

These words were inscribed on a plaque on Dr. Bob's desk:

"Humility is perpetual quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am despised, it is to have a blessed home in myself where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness when all around and about is seeming trouble."

From DELTA INTERGROUP, Stockton

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Financial Statement

7/1/88 to 12/31/88

Adjusted Balance on Hand as of 7/1/88 \$6742.36

Redding Conference Income	\$6808.46
Fresno Conference Pre-Registration	77.00
Committee/Business Meeting (Stockton)	17.65

TOTAL INCOME 6903.11

Expenses:

Chairman, Expense Advances	750.00
Coastal Assistant Expense	112.40
Interior Assistant Expense	60.00
Treasurer's Expense	255.00
Telephone Expense	39.00
Mailing Expense	404.41
San Francisco Central Office	225.00
Redding Speaker Travel	1309.00
Redding Raffle	169.48
Redding Dance Band	300.00
Redding Miscellaneous Expense	115.72
Insurance (Redding)	1027.90
Redding Auditorium Rent	512.00
Redding Speaker Dinner	357.65
Redding Lodging	837.56
Redding Decorations and Plant Raffle	260.55
Printing (Redding and Fresno)	1937.20
San Jose Water Service Expense	338.39
Fresno 1989 Deposit on Band	90.00
Oakland 1989 Deposit on Band	100.00
Oakland 1989 Deposit, Convention Center	410.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS SINCE 6/30/88 (9611.26)

BALANCE ON HAND AS OF 12/31/88 \$4034.21

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