



# GOOD NEWS



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## They Served AA Very Well

*The following, by Michael A., Chairperson of General Service Board, New York, is reprinted from Los Angeles Central Office newsletter, "Hello Central."*

We were saddened by the loss of Lois Wilson, our beloved link to the earliest days of AA, on October 5, 1988.

The NEW YORK TIMES obituary emphasized Lois' role as founder of Al-Anon, but I am sure that your thoughts, as mine, will turn to her importance to AA.

In the early days, the entire future of our fellowship hung on the thread of the determination and ability of Bill W. and his co-founder, Dr. Bob, to persist in their efforts to put Alcoholics Anonymous on firm ground.

Lois Wilson is regarded by many as someone without whom her husband could not have persisted in that crucial work. Bill has referred to her as a "full partner" in the struggles and joys of those early days. Indeed, many AA's feel their lives are owed to Lois as well as Bill, Dr. Bob and Ann.

Many will remember Lois' gentle reminders, at annual conferences and dinners as recently as 1988, of Bill's last message to the fellowship: *The most essential spiritual tradition of AA is the principle of anonymity.*

## OAKLAND IS HOST

# Summer Conference Moves to Bay Area

BY THE EDITOR

I attended the Post-Fresno/Pre-Oakland business meeting in Stockton on April 9, 1989. For those of you who were not in Fresno, or are unaware of what the Steering Committee and delegates do, here is a summary of the day's business.

Keep in mind the only thing that can really be decided at this meeting is the speaker selection for an upcoming conference. The rest of the meeting is devoted to discussion of issues of importance to us as trusted servants in NCCAA in carrying the message through the conferences.

The discussion material is then put on an agenda to be brought up at the next conference where voting and change can actually occur. By discussion prior to the conference, we can be better prepared to present the current issues to you. Remember though, this is not a closed meeting. If you want to get involved in NCCAA, this is a great place to find out how.

In Fresno, the conference delegates elected a new treasurer. Diane J. of Sunnyvale, is, in my opinion, very qualified for the job and I'm sure she will be an asset to NCCAA. Congratulations, Diane!

Speakers were selected for the Stockton Conference, to be held October 13, 14 and 15, 1989. The Friday speaker is Jack G., Virginia; Saturday Young Peoples, Ken M., Dixon; Saturday evening, Hilary D., Colorado, and Sunday, Anne K., Richmond. This is a tentative list and we must await confirmation by the speakers. In the event a speaker cannot participate, Pat Y., Richmond, was selected as back-up.

The financial report from the Fresno conference was presented. Fresno put on a fine session, and it was well attended. Total income from Fresno was \$18,859.86, and with expenses of \$10,786.02, left a net of \$8073.84. The financial statement is reprinted on Page 5.

Alex M. gave a report on the status of the Oakland conference, which will take place June 2, 3 and 4, 1989. He said they were just about ready, so spread the word! A highlight of this conference will be separate marathon meeting rooms: (See "Oakland," Page 3)

## Emotions Remark Riles AA Member

Just after I got a firm grip on sobriety and a sturdy handle on the entire AA program (in about three months) I had a shocking and aggravating experience.

I was in attendance at a speaker meeting prepared as usual to enjoy the speaker. However, my plans for enjoyment were rudely destroyed. The reason? Wait until you hear! This so-called AA speaker, in front of a large audience (for those early days) of perhaps 75, made an ego-shattering statement. This is what he said:

*"Alcoholics are emotionally immature."*

What a stupid and needless thing to say in front of all those people. That he was emotionally immature was obvious. He also went on insultingly to say that alcoholics were "picked green emotionally." Green indeed—ridiculous—positively!!!

Since I was 40-plus at the time it would be clearly impossible for *me* to be emotionally immature. I tuned out the rest of this man's blathering and engaged

## Fresno Knows Where Spring Was

Spring, fun, fellowship and love. Many of us traveled through rain and snow, showers and storms, to be greeted in Fresno with beautiful, clear, warm weather to accompany the atmosphere of love and brotherhood found only in our fellowship.

myself in taking his inventory. I was *good* at this. On my way home from the meeting, I continued my inventory-taking. Suddenly the thought crossed my mind—*Why am I so upset and resentful?*

The answer sprang at me—full blown. The reason I resented his remarks was because they fit me **exactly**. It was a revolting but true fact. After mentally walking through a couple of drunks I could remember I convicted myself.

So there I was—a sober, smart-aleck, know-it-all member of AA with yet another burden to bear—*emotional immaturity*. However, over the past 33 years, I sometimes get the feeling that I am a little *less* immature emotionally and through God's grace and the AA program—*sober*. Blessed be those AA members who go about ballooning alcoholic egos.

—Paul

Very many orchards in the great valley were in bloom, strikingly beautiful against the fresh green grasses emerging from last winter's slumbering earth. God smiles on us.

The conference was well planned and executed, showing off the determination of the Fresno committee and assembled staff to assure us of neat and comfortable surroundings in a courteous and affable atmosphere.

The main speakers were of the highest caliber available (and that's **good**) keeping all attentive and entertained. The panels and workshops were well attended, informative and interest-holding.

I must comment especially on the Sunday morning service meeting (theme: **Our Primary Purpose**) which was exceptional. Don B., whom I've known for some time as being very good at presenting an idea or expressing himself in depth, really held my attention. By the way, if you don't know, Esparto is about three miles east of Capay and five miles south of Hungry Hollow. (That's my home country).

The Steering Committee and Conference Delegates meetings were lively, businesslike and productive. Our treasurer, Anne K., whose term had expired, was replaced by Diane J., a qualified accountant and ac-

(See "Fresno," Page 4)

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

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| MAY 6     | GOLD COUNTRY "ALL GROUPS DAY" fund-raiser for 1989<br>3rd annual Gold Country Round-Up, 8-Midnight, 1332 Bush Street, Angels Camp |
| MAY 20    | POST CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY OF CNCA, at Scottish Rite Temple, 2455 Masonic, San Jose   |
| MAY 26-28 | HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION 17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE at the Fresno Hilton—Registration \$5   |
| MAY 26-28 | 1st ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CONVENTION at LeBaron Hotel, 1350 N. First St., San Jose—Registration \$5                         |
| JUNE 2-4  | 42nd ANNUAL NCCAA SUMMER CONFERENCE, Oakland at Convention Center, 10th Street & Broadway—Registration \$3                        |

## H&I Conference Will Be Held May 26-28 in Fresno

The Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee of NCCAA will hold its 17th Annual Conference May 26-28 at the Fresno Hilton.

The conference will open Friday night with an 8 p.m. speaker meeting featuring Amos Read, Salem Oregon, a Class A (Non-Alcoholic) Trustee. Saturday's speaker is Tom I., Aberdeen, North Carolina and Fresno's Bernie B. will close at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Flyers are available at all Central Offices and it is not too late to register for what has become an outstanding annual AA event.

Strangely enough, many people do not realize H&I is a committee of NCCAA, although everyone is familiar with the "Pink Cans" of H&I.

AA books and literature help carry the message to those who are confined. The literature costs money and those confined have no money, so H&I gets all of AA involved in the work by maintaining the Pink Cans for literature. Literature, including the Grapevine and authorized films and tapes, are the *only* expenditures from the Pink Cans.

H&I depends entirely on donations for this work. The 1989 budget calls for \$152,700 for literature from AA World Services, another \$20,000 for monthly copies of *The Grapevine*, and \$3,250 for tapes and equipment.

During an average year, the tape librarian will copy and mail more than 300 tapes for meetings in institutions. The Pink

Cans violates no AA tradition. The money is from AA members for AA members. We are self-supporting through our own contributions. For further infor-

mation write to P.O. Box 4032, San Francisco, CA 94101. If a copy of the latest financial statement is desired, enclose a self-addressed envelope.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Financial Statement

FRESNO CONFERENCE — MARCH 1989

#### INCOME

Pre-Registration	\$ 867.00
Registration	<u>5037.40</u>

TOTAL REGISTRATION	\$5904.40
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Snack Bar	\$6173.82
Raffle	2031.50
Literature Sales	97.10
Marathon—English Speaking	518.14
Marathon—Spanish Speaking	87.16
General Service Meeting	131.43
H & I Meeting	48.00
Early Bird Meeting	161.89
Friday Speaker Meeting	773.15
Saturday Speaker Meeting	1335.20
Sunday Speaker Meeting	1159.35
Young Peoples Speaker Meeting	<u>438.72</u>

TOTAL INCOME	\$18,859.86
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#### EXPENSES

Printing	\$2012.75
Mailing	275.38
Speaker Travel	1421.81
Speaker Dinner	410.00
Speaker/Committee Lodging	733.07
Insurance	924.80
Band	650.00
Rent	1347.75
Stagehands	438.75
Guards	615.13
Raffle	191.30
Flowers	149.61
Equipment Rental	26.63
Literature	46.00
H & I Expense	18.50
Snack Bar	<u>1524.54</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>10,786.02</u>
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PROFIT	\$ 8073.84
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