



# GOOD NEWS



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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### Steering Committee Starts All NCC Action

The Steering Committee of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous held its meeting on Saturday, June 3, 1989, at the Oakland Conference. The committee meets during every conference to conduct the business of the Council.

Issues dealing with every area of the conference process are discussed and action can be taken to submit items, with the committee's views, to the floor of the Open Delegates meeting. The delegates, after discussion, may either accept or reject the matters, or may decide to table it for further study.

#### IT'S IN THE BOOK

The Purpose and Structure Booklet outlines this process:

"The primary purpose of this Steering Committee is to conduct the business of the Council. Any AA member may attend any NCC Steering Committee Meeting, but does not have a vote. Only members of the Steering Committee are to present motions, and to vote on these motions. Any business to be discussed at the meeting should be brought to the attention of the Council Chairperson in advance, to allow time to prepare the agendas for the Steering Committee Meetings. Any action of the Steering Committee, (See *Steering, Page 2*)

### Oakland Meeting Had Something For Everyone

The first weekend in June is a bit early on the calendar to qualify as a "Midsummer Night's Dream," but don't tell *our people* that. A whole bunch of us enjoyed a weekend of fun, business, socializing and pleasant visiting at the Conference in Oakland.

The East Bay people, with the able guidance of Alex M., gave us a memorable visit. God gave

(See *Oakland, Page 4*)

### Stockton Is Burning the Midnight Oil

Good coffee, good food and good fellowship awaits you at the 42nd Annual Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous Fall Conference in Stockton. Held October 13, 14 and 15 at the Civic Auditorium, 525 N. Center Street in Stockton, this year's conference promises to be the best yet.

In addition to workshops, there will be topic-assigned marathon meetings, service meetings, a Saturday night dance, drawing with great prizes, Spanish-speaking meetings, and of course fellowship.

The main speakers will be Don G., Los Angeles on Friday; Ken M., Dixon as the Young Peoples speaker Saturday afternoon; Jack G. from Ft. Collins,

(See *Stockton, Page 4*)

### Bill W.'s '43 Visit Suggested GSO

Part I of "History" by former California Northern Coastal Delegate Dean K.

After Bill W.'s visit to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1943, a personal correspondence and a special kind of friendship developed between him and Nic N. of Oakland. Nic had a brother and sister in Washington, D.C., and each year made at least one trip east to visit with them (wartime restrictions permitting), and also visited Bill and Lois at their home in New York state. Much of the correspondence concerned Bill's plan for what later developed into the General Service Conference as we know it today. (See *Page 3*)

## Steering Committee's Work Helps Line Up Conferences

(Continued from Page 1)

including motions passed by this committee, is brought to the Open Delegates Meeting at the Conference for the approval or disapproval by the Council Delegates."

As is customary at the conferences, bids were made from various areas for upcoming NCC conferences. First was a bid from Kevin D. of Santa Rosa for October 11-13, 1991. The bid was tabled at this time pending more information from the hotel site. It will be resubmitted in Stockton, and brought to the floor for a vote.

This is the only vacancy left in 1991 still open for bid. If your area would like to bid for this weekend along with Santa Rosa, you should be prepared to do so at the Stockton Conference. An updated list of other conferences and open dates is printed on Page 5 of this issue of GOOD NEWS.

Dennis T. of Fresno also pre-

sented a bid. The motion was made, passed and later approved by the delegates, to return to Fresno on the second weekend in March 1991. The host hotel has not yet been confirmed.

The third and final bid was submitted by Daryl R. of San Jose. His original bid was for a June weekend, but in light of a conflicting affair in the area, in a

spirit of cooperation, he altered Santa Clara County Zone 34's bid to cover the Fall 1992 conference. The bid was accepted by the delegates and the conference will return to San Jose.

As you can tell, conferences are bid well in advance, so if you would like to put in a bid from your home town, show up at any of the business meetings, or pre/post conference meetings, with the necessary information. We will try to carry the message through a conference in your area.

In addition to selecting upcoming conference sites, we also noted a change of speakers in the next NCC Conference to be held in Stockton, October 13, 14 and 15, 1989. Hillery D. was unable to fulfill the commitment, so Don was selected for Friday night, Jack G. was moved

to the Saturday night spot, and Anne K. will be the Sunday speaker.

There has been ongoing discussion of the Structure and Purpose Booklet. Anne K. is now heading a committee to discuss the need for revisions. She is holding the first meeting on July 9 at the Richmond Alano Club, 84 Broadway, Richmond at 10 a.m. If you are interested in recommending changes or additions, please attend. Your knowledge is important and we appreciate input on how NCC

**The primary purpose of the Steering Committee is to conduct the business of the Council**

can be improved for next time.

The final topic for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting concerned GOOD NEWS. The editor reported receiving a non-profit bulk rate permit for the newsletter. The cost of address correction returns is quite high, so the subscriber needs to take seriously the responsibility of informing the editor of any change of address. As a bonus for the newsletter, the long-lost office typewriter has been found.

The Pre/Post Conference Meeting in Stockton was scheduled to be held on June 25, after our publication deadline. We will keep you informed and update the information as quickly as possible.

The next Conference is in Stockton, October 13, 14 and 15. We hope to see you there.

### 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

## Early Friendships With Bill W. Were Root of NCCAA

(Continued from Page 1)

At the same time many requests for information about group operation and personal pleas for help were pouring into the San Francisco and Oakland post office boxes. In June 1946 the Oakland groups had opened their first Central Office, and in January 1947 the San Francisco Central Office was established. Out of these discussions and organizational structures, a decision was finally made to form some sort of informational organization for AA groups in Northern California only.

Among those involved in these discussions were John C., Fred C., Ray H., Bob G., Pete B., Les F., Don H. and Clarence R., all of San Francisco (Clarence was the San Francisco mayor's son); Nic N. of Oakland, Ed A. of Alameda; Horace B. of Marin County; Dave D. of Palo Alto; Ray P. and Vic S., of Sacramento.

The upshot of these discussions was an organizational meeting called March 23, 1947 at the Oakland Alano Club, 423 15th Street, which was attended by representatives from most of the AA groups in Northern California at that time. This organization was named at that time as the *Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous*, with a mailing address of the San Francisco Central Office, and had Bill W.'s good wishes. The first secretary-treasurer was named Clarence R., of San Francisco.

At the Council's third meeting in Sacramento September 14, 1947, representatives showed up from AA groups in

Reno, asking to be included in the organization, and the name was then changed to *Northern California & Nevada Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NC&NCAA)*. When Nevada elected their first Conference Delegate in 1955, the Reno groups withdrew from the Council, and the name reverted back to the original form. In this connection, an effort was made in early 1948 to form an organization for the northwest quadrant, and a meeting was called at Seattle.

The only representatives were from Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. At a later meeting a representative from Alaska showed up, and efforts were made in vain to contact persons from the other states enumerated above. Out of this first organization effort grew the *Pacific Northwest Conference* as we know it today.

The first official conference of the NC&NCAA was held in March 1948, again at the Alano Club in Oakland. For this momentous occasion Bill W. was asked and accepted as the featured speaker, his second visit to the west coast. Thereafter conferences were held quarterly for the years in various areas.

When plans for the finalizing of the General Service Conference were made available in late 1950, Bill W. asked that each Area named elect a Conference Delegate for Panel No. 1, to meet in New York City in April 1951. Members of the Council decided that its organization was the proper forum in which to elect such a delegate, and planned its

1951 Conference to include this business.

Bill W. had announced he would visit the West Coast in early 1951 to attend the election procedures at least in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and the Council requested him to be its keynote speaker on this occasion. Bill accepted, and plans were laid for the 1951 NC&NCAA Conference to be held in San Francisco March 20-21, 1951, at California Hall. This was publicized in the first issue of *GOOD NEWS* in January 1951.

Because of the population in Northern California, it was determined there would be two Panel—one consisting of the western half and one consisting of the eastern half of Northern California. This was the first NCC Conference which was not held on a weekend; but because of the importance of this particular business, it was felt important to call the Conference as quickly as possible. Therefore, the Conference was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20 and 21, 1951, at a time when hundreds of AA members dropped their business affairs and traveled miles to take part.

The principle point of discussion, chaired by Walter H. of Santa Rosa, was the future relations between AA and the growing Family Group movement. The question had been raised by Nic N., the General Service Conference Delegate. Nic also announced the need for material support for the New York office and the AA *GRAPEVINE*.

(To be continued in next issue)

## Stockton . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Colorado is Saturday night speaker, and Anne K., San Pablo, Sunday morning.

Pre-registration forms are available through your local Central Office and on the conference flyers. Special rates are available at the following hotels only if NCCAA or AA is mentioned at the time of reservation, not registration:

The host hotel, the Plum Tree Plaza, (209) 474-3301; Vagabond, (209) 948-6151; Best Western Stockton Inn, (209) 931-3131, and Comfort Inn, (209) 466-2711.

Information regarding attendance and/or participation is available by contacting Delta Central Office, 1235 N. Center Street, Stockton, CA 95202, or telephoning (209) 464-1594.

The local conference committee is hard at work preparing for the finest conference held in the San Joaquin Valley. One feature we are especially proud of is the inclusion of interpreters for the hearing impaired with a special seating section. Progress is slow but steady, marginal disorganization being the key. The host committee will have area maps available for locating restaurants and lodging. Non-smoking areas are available for main speaker meetings and we are working on separate non-smoking marathon and Spanish-speaking meetings as well.

We look forward to seeing all of you in October. We need you to make this the great conference we feel confident it will be. Come share the message of recovery, unity and service.

—Marion L., Chairperson

**FROM BILL W.:**

## A Viewer- With-Alarm

I went through several fruitless years in a state called "viewing with alarm for the good of the movement." I thought it was up to me to be always "correcting conditions."

Seldom had anybody been able to tell me what I ought to do, and nobody had ever succeeded in effectively telling me what I must do. I had to learn the hard way out of my own experience.

When setting out to "check" others, I found myself motivated by fear of what they were doing, self-righteousness, and even downright intolerance. Consequently, I seldom succeeded in correcting anything. I just raised barriers of resentment that cut off any suggestion, example, understanding, or love.

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## Oakland . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

us real summer weather to enjoy, including a view of the greater bay area from the convention center, afternoons, evenings and nights, a picture we inlanders can really appreciate.

The business meetings were lively and productive. The workshops were very well presented and attended. We, as a group, are very serious about our AA program.

The main speakers were well selected and excellent in the art of "passing it on." Sean W. of British Columbia is proof to us that there is life after alcoholism. He not only has gained the better life than was available before as most of us have, but has achieved a special share of fame and fortune after becoming one of us. He and other successful members remind us that God does give each of us, through our program, the possibility of achieving our individual potential. Thanks again to the committees for their hard work. This always pays off at a conference.

—Don S.,  
CCFAA Delegate to NCCAA

## FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES:

- STOCKTON—October 13, 14 and 15, 1989.
- SAN JOSE—March 9, 10 and 11, 1990.
- REDDING—June 1, 2 and 3, 1990.
- SACRAMENTO—October 19, 20 and 21, 1990.
- FRESNO—March, 1991.
- OAKLAND—June, 1991.
- OPEN—October, 1991.
- MONTEREY—March, 1992.
- OPEN—June, 1992.
- SAN JOSE—Fall, 1992.

## Bill W. Prepared For AA Changes

Recently the GRAPEVINE raised the question, *Is AA Changing?* True, there have been changes such as the development of the Twelve Steps from the Oxford formula; the establishment of the Service Board, and the creation of the Conference. Change can be beneficial but change can also be detrimental. As usual, Bill W. had a word for it, as follows:

"The *status quo* can only be for today. Change we must; we cannot stand still. Does this mean . . . to tinker with our basic principles? Should we try to amend our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? Here the answer would seem to be 'no'. (We) believe that AA's Steps and Traditions do represent the approximate truths which we need for our particular purpose.

"So then, if our basics are so firmly fixed, what is left to change or improve? The answer will immediately occur to us. While we need not alter our truths, we can surely improve their application. We can constantly step up the "practice of these principles in all our affairs."<sup>1</sup>

Unchanging Traditions are the criteria for testing all proposals and motions. Bill's essays in the 12 and 12, the Concepts, and other writings clearly expound Tradition. His credibility is endorsed as follows:

"To say that Bill was the sole author of the Traditions is both true and untrue. He was . . . not

## Gold Country Roundup Is Part of Fall Schedule for your AA Trips

the sole author of the experiences from which they evolved, but he was the person who interpreted and culled meaning from these experiences. The mean-

**Change we must; we cannot stand still**

ings as derived by Bill subsequently became the backbone of the Traditions."<sup>2</sup>

May we not add that any call for a change is first of all a call for reflection on the Traditions?

—Frank B.

<sup>1</sup>Excerpted from Page 321 of *The Language of the Heart*, with permission of the AA Grapevine, Inc.

<sup>2</sup>Reprinted from Page 306 of *Pass It On*, with permission of AA World Services, Inc.

Thar's gold in them thar hills, pardner!

The Third Annual Gold Country Round-Up will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 9, 10 and 11 at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds in Angels Camp, California.

Registration is \$6 and includes all the events taking place, free coffee throughout the weekend and admittance to the Saturday night dance featuring a live band.

A full course barbecue dinner is scheduled for Saturday night. Dinner tickets may be purchased separately at the Round-Up.

To Pre-Register or to obtain more information, contact the Chairman, P.O. Box 2933, Arnold, CA 95223.

The Santa Clara County Intergroup AA Newsletter provides the following for other weekend excursions to meet with others on the program:

**AUGUST 13:** *Santa Clara County AA Unity Day*, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Milpitas Community Ctr., 457 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas.

**SEPTEMBER 3:** *Annual Unity Day Picnic of Intergroups of AA from Santa Clara, Tri-Valley and East Bay*, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hidden Valley Ranch, Fremont. Adults \$5, 6-16 \$2, under 6, free.

**SEPTEMBER 17-17:** *Sobriety By the Sea 3rd Annual AA Rally*, Cultural Center, 1001 Front Street, Crescent City. Registration, \$5 for one day, \$7.50 for both days.

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