



GOOD NEWS



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1948

Published Bi-Monthly in Sunnyvale, California
By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

SEP • OCT
1989

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stockton Pre/Post Is Making Suggestions

There were 13 tapes submitted for the speaker selection committee to hear. They were all excellent choices, but the committee narrowed the choices to seven, most coming from the LA area. Recommended were:

Friday, Fran S., Redondo Beach with Chuck H., LA, as backup; Saturday, Geraldine O., NE and backup, Chuck H; Sunday, Cubby S., LA, with Terry R as back-up.

Marianne reported for the upcoming Stockton Conference. The conference will be held at the Civic Center October 13, 14 and 15. The hosting hotel name, formerly the Ramada Inn, has been changed to the Plum Tree Plaza. There will be a shuttle service available to travel from the hotel to the conference center. Also, the Stockton Conference will provide smoking and non-smoking marathon meetings. The committee is also working on having a person in the program sign for the hearing impaired during the main speaker meetings.

There was a suggestion made by Alex M. to raise registration to five dollars. There will be a

(See Stockton, Page 4)

Bored With Your Life? Go to Jail!

The following is reprinted from a circular produced by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., CARRYING THE MESSAGE INSIDE THE WALLS.

Q. Why should I speak at a prison or jail? I've never been locked up.

A. It is a chance to share your experience, strength and hope with other alcoholics, many of whom can get to only one meeting a week. You can get acquainted with potential future members of your group and nearby groups. It offers an unlimited supply of Twelfth Step work. In many cases, you will be the first AA speaker that an
(See Jail, Page 5)

Al-Anon Was a Discussion Topic

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

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 Grapevine.

He also revealed the coming visit to the San Francisco Bay Area on October 29 and 30 of Bill W. and Bernard Smith, non-alcoholic Chairman of the General Service Board, to accept the *(See Page 3)*

Notice from the NCCAA Treasurer

I will not be publishing the Financial Statement for the Oakland Conference and the Mid-Year Income Statement as there is still one bill outstanding from the Oakland Conference.

I hope to have them for you in Stockton.

—Dianne Johnston
NCCAA Treasurer

Don't Delay!

Mail in your registration today for the

**Stockton
NCCAA
Conference**

THE READERS WRITE

Big Book Conference Should Look at Option

Current General Service workshops are addressing possible changes and revisions of the BIG BOOK. Bill Wilson wrote the First and Second Editions. The Third, 1976 edition, appeared after his death. It added stories touching on the drug problem.

One story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," would seem to indicate that AA's *one primary purpose* tradition is passé. It would seem to give a green light for transforming groups into dual-purpose entities, despite Bill's warning that, if we don't stick to our sole purpose, sobriety, we shall almost surely collapse.

Let's recall this Third Tradition and forget about a Fourth Edition. Let us reinstate the Second Edition. Let's realize that there are no end of new stories in THE GRAPEVINE, at speaker meetings, and on audio cassettes.

And let's not fall for the bait of a "gender-neutral language BIG BOOK. Let us never set a precedent for tampering with the first 11 chapters. And may we address limited reading skills with pamphlet and audio/visual material. Over the past 26+ years, I can't recall any limited reader making a special request. So let's realize that publishing is not an end in itself.

The Conference Charter prevents our Conference alone

Your letters and comments are always welcome in the pages of the Good News

from changing Article 12 of the Charter, or the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions. We ought to request that no revisions or changes in either the 1955, Second Edition of the BIG BOOK, or in TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, or in ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE, or in TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE may be made without the written consent of three-quarters of the AA groups.

Many of us realize that we have the same disease as the Washingtonians had. Identification in depth is basic. Sharing the common problem and the common solution is basic. Unity is basic. Our primary literature is basic. Let us not change our basics. Let us not become latter-day Washingtonians.

—Frank B.

Good News Policy

The GOOD NEWS is the newspaper of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous and therefore is a vehicle for you, the members and supporters of the Council to express your views. The views expressed here are those of the writers, and are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous or NCCAA as a whole, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the GOOD NEWS.

If you would like to contribute articles for the GOOD NEWS, we welcome your participation. The guidelines are as follows: "It (GOOD NEWS) reports the activities of the Council, Hospital and 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... News of activities of the Groups in Northern California..."

Long-Time Secretary of San Francisco Central Office Buried in Marin

Paul N. Gardner of Mill Valley died unexpectedly on June 29, 1989. Paul was a past secretary of the San Francisco Central Office where he was of service for over 13 years. He also produced a monthly newsletter that many of us enjoyed. Paul had been a member of AA for 42 years.

Paul's friends are counted in the thousands and the Fellowship is saddened at his death.

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

Al-Anon, Finances Were Early Conference Subjects

(Continued from Page 1)
Lasker Award, conferred by the American Public Health Association at its 79th annual convention in the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House. Incidentally, at this September session, Jack I., of San Francisco, was elected as the new chairman of the Council, and immediately named a committee to arrange for the October 29th meeting in San Francisco.

The next significant Conference of the Council was September 8-9, 1951 at the Monterey County Fairgrounds auditorium. Upwards of 400 AA's were in attendance from all of Northern California. The five Peninsula AA groups — Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Cypress and Seaside — proved outstanding hosts.

The opening event was an open house and dance in the Pacific Grove Women's Club Saturday night, September 8. The regular Council sessions opened Sunday morning at the County Fairgrounds. A feature of the afternoon session was an address by Mickey A., a member off the Al-Anon Group of the East Bay, the non-alcoholic spouses of AA members of that community. Mickey was the first non-apcoholic wife to be asked to appear on a Council program.

The NC&NCAA committee which planned this event was Chairman, Ed A., Alameda; Bob R., chairman of the San Francisco Central Committee; Fred C. of San Francisco and Marin County; Ed N. of San Mateo; Nic

N. of Berkeley; Jack F. of Santa Cruz, and Kay P., secretary of the Council. Tentative plans for the Fourth Annual NC&NCAA Conference were to have four speakers in the afternoon on four phases of the AA program — admission, inventory, spiritual, and carrying the message. These were to be followed by election of representatives to the Council by different districts, and closing remarks by Bill.

The committee named to arrange for these meetings was Kay P., outgoing chairperson; Jack I., incoming council chairman; Ed A., Alameda County;

***The topics
have not really
changed much
over the years***

Eddie N., San Mateo County; Jack F., Santa Cruz County; George C., Marin County, and Al H., San Francisco County. Its first accomplishment was to obtain the War Memorial Opera House for Monday night, October 29, 1951.

To meet the expense of such an ambitious project on short notice, groups were asked to contribute sums commensurate with the number of tickets ordered. About 160 Group Secretaries were asked to place their ticket orders at the earliest possible date to insure seats. This was necessary, not only because of the short notice, but because 800 seats were reserved for

those attending the Public Health Convention, who were to be present as AA's guests.

The program for Monday night was set up as follows: Chairman, Jack I., San Francisco, and Invocation, Monsignor Lyons of San Mateo, one of AA's non-alcoholic friends on the Peninsula. Speakers were to be Bernard Smith and Bill W. In recent months Bill had been forced to decline all invitations to AA area meetings due to ill health. However, because he would be here for presentation of the Lasker Award anyway, and because he felt AA should publicly express its gratitude for the honor, he indicated that he and Bern Smith would be willing to attend an area meeting at the same time.

The San Francisco neighborhood AA groups which met regularly on Monday and Tuesday nights canceled their meetings for October 29th and 30th so their members might attend the Opera House gatherings. The Alano Club held open house all day Monday and Tuesday for visiting AA's and their families. Tuesday night's meeting therefore was solely a health convention session., at which Bernard Smith accepted the award (declining any monetary award), and Bill W. spoke a few words of thanks in behalf of the membership of our society of recovered alcoholics. The Monday night meeting was a truly AA meeting, to which visiting doctors and health service workers were invited as AA's guests.

(To be continued)

Just Cut Away What Isn't You

We hear in AA, "God will never give you more than you can handle." My problem is that I try to handle more than God gives me—like other people's problems and lives. Like problems that weren't there until I created them.

Saving people from themselves is one of my favorite misapplications of Step Twelve. Is God giving me more than I can handle? Or is He letting me contact my humanity and feel my own pain? Maybe then I'll develop the willingness to let go of what does not belong to me.

Someone once asked Michaelangelo how he carved the statue of David. The reply was, "Simple, I just cut away everything that wasn't David." I think becoming real is like that, too.

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It Could Have Been If You Say It's So

A very inebriated gentleman fell off a second story balcony with a "thud" on a very dusty parkway. A crowd gathered immediately around the tipsy one but was soon parted by an officious policeman. He looked at the stew who was feebly dusting himself off and asked, "What happened?" Our hero replied, "I don't know, I just got here myself."

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FROM DR. BOB: 12 Steps Have Not Needed Changes

Much has been written, much has been said about the Twelve Steps of AA. These tenets of our faith and practice were not worked out overnight and then presented to our members as an opportunist creed. Born of early trials and many tribulations, they were and are the result of humble and sincere desire, sought in personal prayer for divine guidance.

As finally expressed and offered, they are simple in language, plain in meaning. They are also workable by any person having a sincere desire to obtain and keep sobriety. The results are the proof. Their simplicity and workability are such that no special interpretations, and certainly no reservations, have ever been necessary.

*Dr. Bob, THE GRAPEVINE, 1948
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Stockton . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

motion presented at the Stockton steering committee meeting.

Clem is in need of people to be readers for the upcoming conferences. Please submit names at the upcoming conferences to any member of the committee or a delegate. We prefer the people to be conference goers.

We have been investigating having a hospitality suite at the upcoming International Conference. The conference will be in July, 1990 in Seattle. There are two options available: \$700 a day for a hotel suite or free space at the meeting site. We will provide you with more information as the date of the International Conference grows near.

These were the major issues discussed at the meeting. Remember, Stockton, October 13, 14 and 15, 1989. Hope to see you there.

The Stockton Conference Committee requests you make your reservations now to assure yourself the finest accommodations for a more enjoyable conference.

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.

Jail Is Great Place to Spend Time **Makes Sense to Me**

(Continued from Page 1)
 individual hears.

Q. But how can inmates identify with me? I've never been locked up.

A. Let your AA story speak for itself. Tell it like it was. Remember, your audience is more interested in learning how you stay sober than in hearing how you got drunk. Talk about the program of recovery and the Twelve Steps. In your story, talk about the loneliness, hopelessness, and fears—they will identify with you. Don't apologize for not having been arrested—yet. It's nothing to be ashamed of.

Q. Don't most of the inmates come to meetings for cigarets or to work an angle with the parole board?

A. In AA, we learn not to question anyone else's motives. Why did you go to your first AA meeting? Did you have an honest desire to stay sober? Most inmates are like most newcomers to AA. Many of them do not really believe they are alcoholics. Many of them are "shooting angles," just as many of us were when we first came. Some of these individuals may never get the program, but you might be responsible for the program's getting some of them.

Q. I don't feel comfortable talking to criminals. I never did any of those things, even when I was drunk.

A. Remember: "I am responsible." Talk to them as fellow alcoholics, which they are. Don't forget, you haven't done any of those things *yet*—or at least, any

that you remember! Most of them would never have committed the crimes for which they are serving time if it had not been for their drinking. Some of our sober AA members served time for murder and other major crimes.

Overheard at a newcomers meeting in a Mississippi River town:

"Hi! My name is Guy, and I'm a diabetic. I'm also an alcoholic. Does that make me a diabolic?"

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COMING EVENTS

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|-------------|--|
| SEPT. 1-3 | 12th Annual Sierra Nevada Roundup of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nugget Hotel and Convention Center, Sparks, Nevada. |
| SEPT. 3 | Annual AA Picnic of the Intergroups of Santa Clara, Tri-Valley and East Bay. Hidden Valley Ranch, Fremont. |
| SEPT. 8-10 | 3rd Annual "Gold Country Roundup" of Alcoholics Anonymous. Calaveras County Fairgrounds, Angels Camp. |
| SEPT. 16-17 | 3rd Annual AA Rally--Sobriety By the Sea. Cultural Center, Crescent City. |
| SEPT. 21-24 | 3rd Annual Big Book Seminar. El Rancho Hotel, West Sacramento. |
| OCT. 6-8 | 38th Annual Southern California AA Convention. Town & Country Hotel, San Diego. |
| OCT. 13-15 | NCCAA 42nd Annual Fall Conference. Civic Auditorium, Stockton. |
| NOV. 3-5 | 10th Annual CCYPAA Conference By the Sea of Alcoholics Anonymous. Conference Center, Monterey. |