



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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EDITORS NOTEBOOK

At the next N.C.C.A.A. Conference elections will be held for the position of Council Chairperson. This will take place in San Jose on March 9, 10, and 11. The actual election will be on Saturday March 10, and the procedure will be as follows.

This will be excerpts from the Purpose, Structure, and Functions Booklet for N.C.C.A.A.

THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

The Council Chairperson is elected at the Spring Conference of the EVEN number years, and serves a two (2) year term. This office is restricted to no more than two (2) consecutive terms. (4 years).

It is recommended that the Council Chairperson have a minimum of 5 years continuous sobriety and a Service Background.

The Council Chairperson should have the time available to perform the duties of conducting the business of the Council in presenting the three Conferences each year, and work closely with the Treasurer and Secretaries.

The Council Chairperson may delegate any, or all, of the Chairperson responsibilities to one or both of the Secretaries, or in cases of necessity to any responsible A.A. member. The Council Chairperson shall, however, assume full responsibility for any functions so delegated. If the Chairperson is unable to assume the duties of the Council, one of the Secretaries will act as Chairperson until a special election can be held.

THE SECRETARIES

The newly elected Chairperson will have a reasonable period of time after the election, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to select the Secretary from the Coastal Area and the Secretary from the Interior Area. It is recommended that the secretaries have a minimum of two years continuous sobriety and a service background.

REMEMBER--If you are interested in running for this position, you must be nominated through the steering committee. No new nominees will be taken on the floor of the Delegates meeting.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

The Steering Committee of the Council will sit as a Nominating Committee for the purpose of accepting nominations for the Election. The role will be called of all Steering Committee Members, who may or may not place a nominee. After the role 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 (3) three. Those nominees selected will then be voted for at an election held at the N.C.C. Open Delegates Meeting of this same annual Spring Conference.

WHO CAN VOTE?

All registered N.C.C. Delegates are eligible to vote in this

election. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the total vote will elect. Balloting will be by secret ballot. If after two (2) ballots, no nominee has fifty-one percent (51%) of the total vote, the nominee with the least votes will be eliminated and

voting will continue until one nominee has fifty-one percent (51%) of the total vote cast.

My rotation will also be effective at this conference so the position of Editor for the Good News will also be open.

PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

We read that A.A. is more than a set of principles, that it is a society of alcoholics in action. This is like saying that yes, A.A. is a set of principles, but it is a great deal more besides. Action is characteristic of healthy A.A., and this action consists of principles in practice.

First of all, there are the two cardinal principles - Identification in depth, and, Deflation in depth. They permeate the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts. They permeate Recovery, Unity and Service. They constitute basic humility.

Step Twelve is the junction of Recovery and Service. It is both a recovery principle and a service principle. It is like a hinge connecting recovery and service. And the screws which hold the hinge in place are the Twelve Traditions. Unity is essential to both Recovery and Service.

Unity is essential to Recovery for,

without a group, most of us would perish. Unity is essential to Service for, without a consistent, unchanging message, the groups would be at cross-purposes.

"Carrying the message" is not only service in action but it can also be a sobriety-saver for the Twelfth Stepper. We are told that, when other measures fail, nothing will insure sobriety as much as working with another alcoholic.

Perhaps a fruit of sanity-restored is the realization that Unity and Service are essential to Recovery. Then the natural instinct of self-preservation becomes a power to stimulate action and to overcome apathy. However, Unity and Service not only sustain recovery, but they complement each other as well.

Tradition identifies our primary purpose; Service provides for its communication. Tradition de-emphasizes property, money and

prestige; Service provides stewardship for prudent resources. Tradition applies to the individual groups; Service extends this application to the groups united. Tradition articulates each group to our common welfare; Service articulates our totality to the welfare of each group. The Traditions are versatile principles, valid for two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety; just as valid for service committees and international conventions.

Trusted servants have no greater responsibility than to apply the ungarbled meaning of Tradition to current A.A. affairs. And elder statesmen and stateswomen ought to be well versed in Tradition as expounded in Bill's writings. For it is to them the groups turn in need. It is to them our trusted servants turn for service sponsorship.

Frank B.

THERE AIN'T NO FAIRY DUST . . .

Instant coffee, instant oatmeal, four-course meals that can be microwaved in 4 to 6 minutes using the high setting. Everything in today's world convinces us we have a right to the "quick fix."

Having trouble with your spouse, get a divorce; don't like the boss, walk out; don't like your neighbor, move; a guy on the freeway irks you, shoot him; another country does something we don't like, nuke 'em -- that will only take a few minutes, 4 to 6 at the most, on the right setting.

But Alcoholics Anonymous isn't like that. A.A. is for the long haul. It offers no "quickie" solutions, and that is very frustrating for an alcoholic. He wants quick sobriety, peace of mind, all bills paid, and all problems solved -- all at the same time, while we are drinking our instant coffee. We want A.A. to make all the bad things go away--RIGHT NOW!

But that is not sobriety in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous--that's magic. We think coming to A.A. and giving up drinking means we get a magic wand. Solve all our

problems by saying a quick prayer, sort of like a sorcerer says a spell. Just sprinkle some fairy dust and have the problems disappear.

The plain truth is, THERE AIN'T NO FAIRY DUST. At least not in following the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. What there is, is a bumpy road, potholes to the left and potholes to the right. The Big Book makes it clear that we have a long period of reconstruction ahead. If we want what this program can make possible for us, we have to take the lead on that road for our own recovery. What is more, we have to take it every day.

We cannot expect any easy answers and quick solutions to our problem. It takes a long time commitment to follow this program, if we are to find real peace of mind and joy in living. That is what being sober in A.A. is all about--whether we like it or not. But we wouldn't trade it for all the fairy dust in the world.

Eve S. (Coastal Bender, Corpus Christi, TX)

THE EMPTY CHAIR

I didn't know him well, really. We were both newly sober. He had a soft voice and quiet charm about him that added something to my day. I had begun to look for him each morning. When he offered me a doughnut the other day, I told him I was on a diet.

He said, "That's a real good idea. And why don't you also quit smoking, and change jobs, and look for a relationship?"

And we both laughed. He was so young.

Funny, funny Paul! I liked his humor. He made me laugh a lot. He was doing so well. Paul, what happened? Didn't you know this is a killer disease? I didn't want you to die!

They told me I shouldn't be shocked; that this happens sometimes. They told me we have three ways to go, and some of us will pursue it into the gates of insanity or death.

It just sounds so cold and stark.

And they told me that some of us will have to die so that others may recover. These are the facts for us, and it scares me.

Dear God, please let me be one of those who will recover!

TRYING TO DO THE JOB ALONE

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block number 3 of the accident reporting form, I put "trying to do the job alone" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the date of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six story building. When I completed my work, I discovered that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley which fortunately was attached to the side of the building, at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the the 500 pounds of brick. You will note in block number 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 135 pounds.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate, up the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my

rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep in the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground, and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighs approximately 50 pounds.

I refer again to my weight in block 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks, and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the bricks, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel six stories above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope. The empty barrel weighed more than the rope, so it came back down on me and broke both my legs.

I hope I have furnished the information you require as to how the accident occurred.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 19-21 ALL CALIFORNIA YOUNG
PEOPLE'S ROUND-UP
Holiday Inn Center
2233 Ventura
Fresno, CA
REGISTRATION: \$12
(includes coffee and
dances)

FEBRUARY 16-18 SPRING FLING
Red Lion Motor Inn
Hwy 80 & Arden
Sacramento, CA.
LIMITED REG. TO 2800

MARCH 9-11 43RD N.C.C.A.A.
SPRING CONFERENCE
San Jose Convention
145 W. San Carlos Av.
REGISTRATION: \$3

MARCH 16-18 6TH ANNUAL HIGH
DESERT CONVENTION OF
A.A.
Holiday Inn
I-15 & Palmdale Rd.
Victorville, CA
REGISTRATION: \$8

MARCH 31-APR 1 PRE-CONFERENCE
ASSEMBLY
Watsonville Fairgrnd
2601 E. Lake Ave.

APRIL 27-29 18TH ANNUAL H & I
CONFERENCE
EL RANCHO TROPICANA
220 SANTA ROSA AVE.
REGISTRATION: \$3

JULY 5-8 1990 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
"55-YEARS ONE DAY AT
A TIME"
Seattle, Washington
REGISTRATION: \$55

FUTURE N.C.C.A.A. CONFERENCE SITES

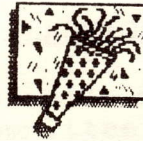
SAN JOSE - MARCH 9-11, 1990
REDDING - JUNE 1-3, 1990
SACRAMENTO - OCT. 19-21, 1990
FRESNO - MARCH, 1991
OAKLAND - JUNE, 1991
OPEN - OCT., 1991
MONTEREY - MARCH, 1992
OPEN - JUNE, 1992
SAN JOSE - FALL, 1992



HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

**GOOD NEWS**

Newsletter of the
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of Alcoholics Anonymous**

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