



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

MARCH • APRIL
1990

INNOVATIONS ON TAP

San Jose Is Host for March NCCAA Meet

The San Jose area is proud, and rightly so, to welcome you to the completely revitalized downtown area. Many of you will see, for the first time, the newly constructed civic center and one of the most modern light-rail transportation systems in the world. Running from the new civic center

out to the Great America amusement complex, the ride alone is worth the trip.

However, since the main reason for your trip to San Jose is the 43rd Annual Spring Conference of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, let's begin at the beginning.

Registration opens on Friday, March 9, at 3 p.m. in the main lobby of the San Jose Convention Center, 145 West San Carlos Street.

On Friday night at 8:30 p.m. the open speaker meeting will hear Fran S. of Hermosa Beach, California.

Edie C. of Sacramento will head up the Young People's Speaker meeting on Saturday and Geraldine D. comes out from Blairstown, New Jersey to speak at 8:30 Saturday night.

The open speaker meeting on Sunday morning will begin at 11:30 a.m. with Cubby S. from West Hollywood, California.

Marathon meetings, both English and Spanish, begin at 5 p.m. on Friday.

The local committee has planned
(See "Conference," Page 2)

Sacrifice Is Available in Many Forms

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because AA's Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit — well symbolized by anonymity — is the foundation of them all. It is AA's proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future . . .

. . . Anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes AA life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as AA members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

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TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS*

Post Office Doesn't Need THIS Money

Each month we have a number of newsletters returned to the Good News mail box with the notation: "Return to Sender — Postage Due \$.25."

In order to obtain your new address, the staff must pay the postal clerk an additional 25 cents to obtain the newsletter with your new address label (providing you have filed a forwarding address with the Post Office.)

We need your assistance in keeping the Good News coming to you without added charges and wasted time. If we remail the copy to your new address, our lean budget is then almost 50 cents per copy poorer. It adds up to a considerable amount with each issue.

Please help us by sending us your new address if you should move, and send it in time to avoid missing an issue.

If you have any questions about your subscription, drop us a line at the address on Page 6.

**NCCAA Treasurer's
Annual Report Is
Printed on Page 5**

A GUEST EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT

Changes Occur But the Mission Stays the Same

The main activity of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, as stated in the PURPOSE, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS, is to arrange Conferences. These Conferences, quoting from the same publication, "are held for one purpose: *To carry the message.*"

The Conferences are steeped in tradition and have a reputation across the country of constant excellence. It is true that NCCAA has been in Conference production for many, many years and therefore it should be a snap to wrap a conference in a pink ribbon and present it to an admittedly tough audience.

But each Conference has its own built-in headaches, and the aspirin to heal it must come from many sources. When Sunday night finally rolls around and the local committee is basking in its own glory (or licking its wounds), the next Conference, and the next, and the next, are already on the boards. And the architect is the poor victim of a thrice yearly love-hate relationship with these local committees — the Council Chairperson.

We have been blessed over the years with dedicated and highly motivated persons at the helm of NCCAA. Most of them have left office wondering why they ever got involved, I'm sure, but every single one has contributed greatly to the job of NCCAA: *To carry the message.*

Our present Chairman, Clem te N., has announced he will not be available for another term in that office, opting instead to make a living. The time involved in steering the NCCAA cannot be understated. Clem has given unselfishly of his time and expertise, and the recent Conferences attest to that.

In San Jose, we will nominate and elect his successor. The 2-party politicians in our country would shudder at our procedures, but they work fine for us. We will all leave the Convention Center knowing the Council is in good hands, because we have an endless supply of people who can and

will take up where Clem left off. My sponsor, an old farm boy, used to bring up that old saw: "*Cream will always rise to the top.*" Clem has proved that, and his successor, he or she, will do the same. Fortunately for our us, this is our heritage.

Speaking solely for your guest editor, who has been involved in several Conference committees over the years, and who fought tooth and nail with him, I give an honest and sincere *well done!* to Clem. You did a fine job. Keep comin' back.

—JIM J., *San Jose*

Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

a great weekend for everyone who comes to town.

The delegates have the job of selecting a new NCCAA Chairman to replace Clem, who announced at the Stockton Conference last October that he would not be available for another term.

The editor of GOOD NEWS, Paula D., has rotated out of that position and also will be replaced at the Open Business Meeting for all NCCAA Group Delegates, Steering Committee members and other interested individuals on Saturday.

Group Delegates are requested to register at the NCCAA registration table in the lobby. Unless your Group Delegate is registered, you do not have representation.

Registered Delegates are also placed on the mailing lists of NCCAA and receive mailings with information on future Conferences.

Following the 8:30 Open Speaker meeting and raffle drawing on Saturday, Mike Renwick and his very popular group will supply the music for the dance. Yep, bub, even you will enjoy it.

While there is no admission for the dance, a new policy adopted at the Stockton Conference will be in force at San Jose for the first time: Badges must be worn to gain entry to the dance.

Registration areas have been expanded to make it a simple process for everyone. Sign up early and enjoy the entire weekend.

Remember, the Conference is put together for you, your Fellowship, your Group, your Area, and you can carry the message back to those unable to attend.

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

Let's Review Rules for the NCCAA Voting

The officers of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous are: the Council Chairperson, Council Treasurer, Secretary from the Coastal Area and Secretary from the Interior Area.

Only the Chairperson and Treasurer are elected offices, and the Secretaries are selected by the Chairperson with approval of the Council Delegates.

The Council Chairperson is elected at the Spring Conference of even numbered years (1990), and serves a 2-year term. The office is restricted to no more than two consecutive terms (four years.)

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 Secretaries, or in cases of necessity to any responsible AA 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 is held.

Remember, Group Delegates must register at the NCCAA table in the Convention Center lobby in order for the group to have representation at the meeting.

A New Laugh from an Old Grapevine

Before AA: How many alcoholics does it take to change a lightbulb? Two. One to screw it in, the other to take inventory.

Or, now that we're in the program: How many AA's does it take to change a lightbulb? Nine. One to do the actual job, and the other eight to identify with his experience.

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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| March 2-4
Fri. 9 a.m.-
Sun. 2 p.m. | AA PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM
of General Service
Red Lion Motor Inn
3100 Camino del Rio Court, Bakersfield |
| March 9-11
Fri.-Sun. | 43rd ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE
Northern California Council of A.A.
San Jose Convention Center
145 W. San Carlos Avenue, San Jose
Registration \$3.00 per person |
| March 31-
April 1
9 a.m. Sat.-
Noon Sun. | PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY
Watsonville Fairgrounds
2601 E. Lake Avenue
Watsonville |
| April 5-8
Thurs.-Sun. | 3rd ANNUAL GREATER PALM SPRINGS
A.A. CONVENTION
Palm Springs Convention Center
Palm Springs
Registration \$10 per person |
| April 12-15
Fri.-Sun. | 33rd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A.
Queen Elizabeth Hotel
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Registration (\$10 U.S. funds) must be
received before March 15 |
| April 27-29
Fri.-Sun. | 18th ANNUAL HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION
CONFERENCE of Northern California
El Rancho Tropicana Hotel
2200 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa
Registration \$3.00 |
| July 5-8
Thurs.-Sun. | 1990 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
"55 Years—One Day at a Time"
Seattle, Washington
Registration \$55 per person
Forms available at your Central Office |

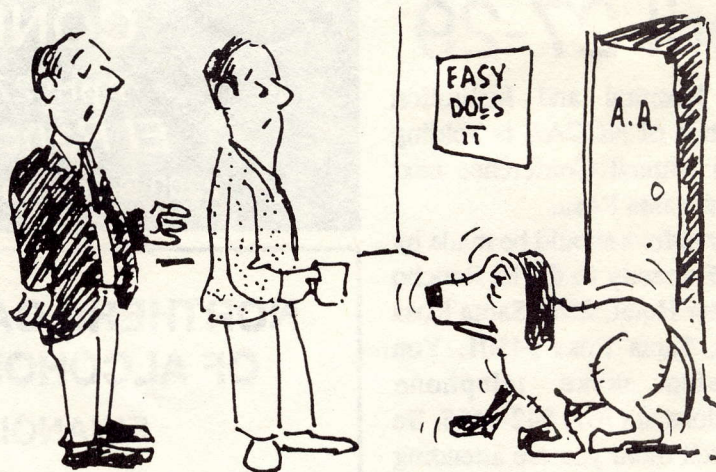
THE THIRD TRADITION**Compare Your Ideas to Bill W.'s**

A quotation taken out of context may be construed to mean something which its author had never intended. In its short form, Tradition Three states that "the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." If I should construe this to mean that a *non-alcoholic* might become an AA member simply by desiring to stop drinking, I would be mistaken.

I think that the full context of Tradition Three includes all of Bill W.'s writings on the subject; that it thus includes the long form of the Tradition which declares that "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from *alcoholism*. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

This clearly precludes non-alcoholics and it precludes outside enterprises. On the other hand, Tradition Three protects *alcoholics* from membership rules and regulations. In the words of the *12 and 12*—"AA is saying to every serious drinker, 'You are an AA member if you say so'."

This source goes on to describe an alcoholic who was also "the victim of another addiction even worse stigmatized than alcoholism." At first the group's members were "more afraid of what people might say than the trouble this strange alcoholic might bring." However, they paused to ask themselves: "What would the Master do?" Thereupon they admitted him, because, despite his complication, he was an alcoholic. Unfortunately the meaning of the anecdote is sometimes misconstrued by the



"Remember, the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking!"

omission of the following statement: "Never did he trouble anyone with his other difficulty."

It would seem safe to say that ours is a simple program for complicated alcoholics; that AA membership does not demand a prerequisite of "pure alcoholism." On the other hand, Bill's writings clearly reveal a purity of focus, a singleness of pur-

pose — recovery from alcoholism.

I, a complicated alcoholic, ought to practice AA principles in all my affairs, with due regard for the letter and spirit of anonymity. Conversely, I ought not to impose my outside affairs as other, primary purposes upon an AA group or upon the Fellowship.

—FRANK B., Napa

FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES

- 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

NorCal H&I Will Gather April 27-29

The Hospital and Institution Committee of NCCAA is holding its 18th Annual Conference next month in Santa Rosa.

Reservations should be made by April 15 directly to the El Rancho Tropicana Hotel, 2200 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa 94501. You may also make telephone reservations at (707) 542-3655. Be sure to tell them you are attending the H&I Conference for the special rate of \$55 single or \$65 double occupancy. Don't put it off any longer. You don't want to miss it.

Conference reservation forms are available at your Central Office or from your local H&I people. Now is a fine time to register.

Scheduled speaker for the Friday night meeting at 8 p.m. is Erwin K. of San Francisco. Bob C. from Los Angeles will address the Conference on Saturday at 8 p.m.

Workshops over the three days will feature H&I workers from all of Northern California as well as staff members of hospitals and institutions served by the committee.

The Conference is planned in cooperation with Al-Anon and Alateen, and the Al-Anon Luncheon is set for Saturday, April 28, at noon. Registration is required and may be mailed with a fee of \$10 per person to 786 Rose Lane, Healdsburg, California 95448.

Saturday night following the speaker meeting, there will be a dance at the hotel, with a \$5 admission collected at the door.

YOUR NEXT STOP!
18th Annual
**HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION
 CONFERENCE**
 April 27, 28 & 29, 1990
El Rancho Tropicana
 2200 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	
JANUARY 1, 1989 TO DECEMBER 31, 1989	
Balance on hand as of 12/31/88	\$ 4,034.21
Fresno Conference Income	\$18,737.17
Oakland Conference Income	13,893.83
Stockton Conference Income	19,540.32
Committee Business Meeting/Stockton	8.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,000.00
San Jose Pre-Registration	36.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$53,215.32
EXPENSES	
Chairman, Expenses/Advances	669.87
Coastal Secretary's Expense	164.80
Treasurer's Expense (to 4/89)	48.84
Treasurer's Expense (to 12/31)	147.00
Phone Expense	222.52
S.F. Central Office (3 Quarters)	215.00
Fresno Conference Expenses (1989)	8,644.86
Oakland Conference Expenses	15,411.33
Stockton Conference Expenses	11,226.81
Purpose and Structure Pamphlets	241.07
"Good News" (2 Quarters)	150.00
Printing, San Jose Conference 1990	1,396.27
San Jose Convention Center	
Pre-Payment 1990	3,900.00
NCCAA Sign	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,538.37
Balance on Hand as of 12/31/89	\$14,711.16

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