



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

JULY - AUGUST
1991

N.C.C.A.A. History Continues—

(This article continues on from the May - June issue and was found in the archives of the N.C.C.A.A. and has probably been seen in the GOOD NEWS before. It is being rerun now as a service to those who may not have seen it.)

The NC&NCAA committee which planned this event (Monterey County Fairgrounds Auditorium, September 8-9, 1951) 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 4th Annual NC&NCAA Conference were for 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 these meetings was Kay P., outgoing chairperson; Jack L., incoming council chairman; Ed A., Alameda County; Eddie N., San Mateo County; Jack F., Santa Cruz County;

(See HISTORY, Page Three)

**Please Mention N.C.C.A.A.
When Registering at
Your Favorite Hotel**

Oakland Hosted Great Conference For Those Who Showed Up

Those of us that came to Oakland for the 44th Annual Summer Conference were treated to a better than usual conference, thanks to C.J. R. and her hard-working crew.

Anne K., San Pablo, opened the Friday afternoon Kick-Off meeting with a discussion of the early days of N.C.C.A.A. and featured such outstanding panelists as Bill S., of Stockton, Nina S. of San Francisco, Paula DiM. of San Jose, and Terry D. of Yuba City. Thanks again, Anne for putting this together and getting us off to a flying start.

The Host Committee was more visible than ever as they greeted

new arrivals, gave directions, and saw that everything ran smoothly. Raffle salespersons were everywhere and the Hospitality Room was well attended.

A lively dance was held Saturday night after the raffle to the music of M.D. Mobile Music, a local disc-jockey. The dance was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We should give special thanks to our Speaker Selection Committee who outdid themselves with a wonderful slate of outstanding speakers. Thanks again to all who helped make this a great conference. Those that missed this one missed a good one.

It's Redding Time Again As The Council Goes North

The 44th Annual Fall Conference will be held on October 18, 19, and 20, 1991 at the Redding Convention Center. Host Committee Chairman Jim R. of French Gulch announced that preparations are being made and all will be ready.

Speakers for the event will be Jimmy S., from Lincolnton, Georgia on Friday night with Ce Ce G. from Los Gatos speaking at the Young People's Meeting on Saturday afternoon.

Vince Y. and Pat Y., of Pasadena

will speak Saturday night and Sunday morning. The usual popular dance will be held Saturday night following the raffle to the music of "Double Tyme" a local live band. Signing for the Deaf will be provided for the speaker meetings.

The Holiday Inn will be the host hotel and will hold a block of rooms until Sept. 18. Please Pre-Register now to have your badge waiting.

Al-Anon will be convening a week earlier, Oct. 11, 12, & 13 at the Holiday Inn on Hilltop Drive.

Hospital & Institution Corner

Alert! Alert!

Hospitals and Institutions mailing address has changed. The Post Office of our old address has been torn down due to earthquake damage. Please note our new address:

H & I Committee
P.O. Box 192490
San Francisco, CA
94114-2490

We have had some reports of mail being sent back from the post office so if this has happened, please send it to the new address.

Jeff S. from San Francisco has been elected our new General Chairman for the Hospitals and Institutions Committee of Northern California. Jeff formerly served as Public Information Chairman. The general chairman serves a two year term which can be extended to a second term by the Third Legacy.

Region 30 which is made up of the counties of Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, and Amador has been divided into two Regions: Regions 30 and 40. Further details will be in the next Good News.

The H & I Committee approved its 1991-1992 budget of \$280,000. This money comes from the spare

change you put in the Pink Cans. Approximately 95% of the money goes directly to pay for literature to patients and inmates who are confined. Often these alcoholics can only have one meeting a week, so the literature is greatly appreciated and used. Thanks for your support.

A reminder, the Pink Cans should be passed separately from the basket at your meeting. The H & I committee does not want to take money that was meant to support your meeting. By passing the can separately and explaining the purpose of the Pink Can, it is our hope that this will avoid that confusion.

If you are interested in joining H & I, attend the monthly area meeting where you live. There is always a need for more members and more meetings. The rewards are great. Remember "Get High on H & I."

DAVE P. — SANTA ROSA, CA

Gold Country Round-Up Coming September 6, 7, 8

The 5th Annual Gold Country Round-Up will be held in Angels Camp the second weekend in September, the 6th, 7th, and 8th from Friday night at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday at 12:00 noon.

The Saturday night speaker will be Johnny H. from Downey, CA and his wife, Debbie, will be the Saturday afternoon speaker. There will be Marathon Meetings throughout the weekend. A chicken and steak BBQ dinner will be featured on Saturday night, along with free coffee and plenty of fellowship.

There is parking and camping at the Fairgrounds in Angels Camp, Frogtown. Please write to P.O. Box 345, Angels Camp, CA 95222 for information or to pre-register.

SUBMITTED BY KATE C.
—ARNOLD, CA

BEAUTY

On page 574, the Big Book attributes to Father Ed Dowling ("an early . . . friend of AA") the following: "Alcoholics Anonymous is natural . . . at the point where nature comes closest to the supernatural, namely in humiliations and in consequent humility. There is something spiritual about an art museum or a symphony . . . There is something spiritual about AA too . . ." (Reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.)

A non-AA friend of Father Ed spoke of Art as the presentation of the Beautiful in such a way that the observer sees, appreciates and enjoys it. He stated that most people miss the beauty around them; that the artist discovers it and translates it into a medium that makes the observer capture it, and, having captured it in art, he may likely find it in the world around him; that good art is good morally; that it appeals to the whole person; that it is perceptible to the senses and overflows into the emotions; that it leads to contemplation, stirs and (at least partially) satisfies the higher faculties.

In recovery, the humiliation of drunkenness is followed by the peace of humility. And AA, like good art, is spiritual. Many discover that, in recovery, they inherit *Ars Arguendi et Persuadendi* (the Art of Convincing and Persuading). In AA it is called the language of the heart. The founders of N.C.C.A.A. set about exploiting this inheritance for the common good of all groups. They recognized that certain recovered members were gifted with an art of addressing large audiences, an art of communicating the message in such a way as to be understood and received by many hearts.

To this day the Council provides a forum where many ears may listen to such speakers. Of course it is to be

(See BEAUTY, Page Three)

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

History (From Page One)

George G., Marin County; 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; 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

Beauty—

(Continued from Page Two)
 realized that such talent incurs grave responsibility. May it be exercised with humility. May its expression be respectful of spirituality avoiding blasphemous, foul, vulgar language. May it present the beauty of AA in an eloquence enabling the audience to capture it, and, having captured it, to also find it in the outside world. May it bless and inspire both the speaker and the audience. May it make easier the path of spiritual progress in AA and "in all our affairs."

BY FRANK B. — NAPA, CA

Area Meeting at the same time.

The San Francisco neighborhood AA Groups which met regularly on Monday and Tuesday nights cancelled 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 recovering alcoholics. The Monday night meeting was a truly AA meeting, to which visiting doctors and health service workers were invited as AA's guests.

At its inception, membership in the council was limited to AA members only. The Council held

(See HISTORY, Page Five)

GOOD NEWS STILL NEEDS HELP

The GOOD NEWS is still seeking new subscribers and renewals. While we are now basically financially sound, we still need more support. Please check the expiration date on your mailing label and renew if necessary.

We also need you to send articles of interest, news of special events in your area, humor, or whatever you feel like writing. Please let us hear from YOU. It's YOUR newsletter but we need YOUR help.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR GOOD NEWS FROM 11/28/90 TO 6/30/91

BALANCE IN BANK NOV, 28, 1991		\$64.94
Deposits from subscriptions	341.50	
Subsidy from NCCAA	<u>300.00</u>	<u>641.50</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$706.44

EXPENSES

* Post Office Box Rent	00.00	
Permit Bulk Rate	75.00	
Printing	296.33	
Mailing costs	<u>68.90</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>440.23</u>
BALANCE IN BANK, JUNE 30, 1991		\$266.21

COSTS TO PRINT AND MAIL AN ISSUE:

Printing	\$108.00
Bulk Rate Mailing Costs	25.00
Portion of P.O. Box Rent	6.50
Portion: Cost Bulk Rate Permit	12.50
Cost: Remailing Address Changes	5.00
Laser Prints for Reproduction	<u>7.00</u>

\$164.00 X 6 Issues = \$984/yr.

TOTAL COPIES MAILED EACH MONTH	253
NO. OF COPIES SENT WITH EXPIRATION OF 1990	55
NUMBER COPIES SENT WITH EXPIRATION OF 1991	160
TOTAL CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS PLUS 38 EXCHANGES	198

* Payable August 1, 1991: \$49.00

Fellowship In The Fellowship

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

In my mind, this Step is a profound spiritual directive. To me it says, a significant change has occurred in my spiritual being and I can no longer function on the same level as in my drinking days. Back then I existed to be better than you, have more than you, win at all costs, and not be responsible for any of my actions. "I've got mine, you go to blazes."

When entering the doors of the fellowship, I was approached by people who had awakened spiritually - I could see it in their eyes and in their actions. They had worked

***"I've got mine —
You go to
blazes!"***

through the Steps of the program and had become aware, awake and alive. From the depths of despair, anguish and torment they had risen to new heights of joy and fulfillment. The excess baggage from the past that weighed them down and kept them in darkness had been lifted and they had been returned to the grace of our Higher Power - a grace they had hidden from but not been hidden from them.

The simple steps of the program that remove the black veil of deceit and leave us naked in the world. No more can we get, take, punish, hurt, or use others. We are now vulnerable . . .

Whoops, I digress! I forgot about the pop-up walls!! Yes, the pop-up walls. I believe that we are gifted with protective pop-up walls that activate the minute that we even come close to being vulnerable.

That's what this Step is all about. As soon as we have a "spiritual awakening," WE MUST GET INTO ACTION. Action that is spelled out in the "tried to carry this message to alcoholics" and "practice these principles in all our affairs" part of the Step.

I love this fellowship. I can state my opinion and you can disagree and we can still be friends. It is my opinion that many of us have a spiritual awakening and before we get into action, the pop-up walls activate. To begin with, the step says "carry this message to alcoholics" which means "each other" - the word "suffering" is not to be found, yet many folks that I come in contact with are waiting for a "suffering alcoholic" so they can carry the message. We all need to learn from each other's experience - that's what fellowship is all about. No one is special or better than any other - we are all the same with different levels of experience and awareness to share. Sometimes "12 Step work" means working with "wet ones" but many times it means working with our friends and acquaintances "passing it on." So many times I've heard members put qualifications on "working with others." I'm glad that the members that I first met put fellowship ahead of pride and ego. If they "hadn't had time," I'd be dead today.

The principles of the program are a guide to living. Even though I've kinda "got mine," I believe that satisfaction comes when you've "got yours" (which is a spiritual "got mine"). The steps tell me that I must get out of self if I am to survive. That is "these principles." Every step says "GET OUT OF SELF!" The body, heart and soul will survive, the mind may have a problem. Long lasting peace of mind and sobriety are gained by

NOT falling back into our old behaviors. I can't think of anything more painful than living like I used to without alcohol to deaden the pain. I do know a few people that are still doing things the way they used to and even though they are "fine, thank you" I can see the pain behind their eyes and in their actions. I hope and pray they don't drink again. Denial is a powerful aphrodisiac and it has won many souls.

I don't know if this has made any sense. It is a series of thoughts about

***"Denial is a
powerful
aphrodisiac"***

the 12th Step and about fellowship. AA will survive. This is the only organization in the world that the individual is greater than the whole. Wouldn't it be grand if everyone was in service for their own good, not for AA. How much greater would the whole be because one person tried to better himself?

I, for one want to be more giving - for in giving I gain much and AA prospers even more. If I am a taker, I will certainly do O.K., but I don't think AA will get any better because I am a member - but I'll do just fine. Little ideas like AA is free and somebody else can help the drunk are what "takers" think! We must be "self-supporting" and "I am responsible" are "Giver" thoughts.

Let's all get well together in the fellowship of the spirit putting aside our I.Q., social status, portfolios, community. Remember - not long ago, we were one of them! If you weren't, God Bless and good luck.

BY DARYL R.
SAN JOSE, CA

History

(Continued From Page Three)

quarterly sessions, which were devoted primarily to group business, new approaches to AA, and renewal of old acquaintances. The Fall quarterly meeting then was considered the council's "Annual Meeting". However, in 1951 it was determined to change the annual conferences to

open meetings so that AA members, families and friends all could attend. Immediately attendance at these annual meetings picked up to 2,500 or as many as 3,000 on occasion. The core of the council still consisted of two representatives elected from each group which wished to participate, and this was considered its steering committee.

(To be Continued)

Taken from the "History" by Dean K., Past Delegate California Northern Coastal.

HUMOR

An irate girl stormed into the meeting room, threw up her hand, and shared how really angry she was with her sponsor. Seems she had a certain problem that she desperately needed to talk about, and she had called her sponsor only to be told that the sponsor had moved! A year ago.

(From THE GRAPEVINE, 1991, with permission)

WE . . .

(The first word of the First Step)

When I was drinking all I could ever think about was "I, I, I," or "Me, Me, Me." Such painful obsession of self, such soul sickness, such spiritual selfishness bound me to the bottle for more than half my life.

The journey to find God and to do His will one day at a time began with the first word of the First Step . . . "We." There was power in numbers, there was strength in numbers, there was safety in numbers, and for an alcoholic like me, there was life in numbers. If I had tried to recover alone I probably would have died. With God and another alcoholic I have a divine purpose in my life . . . I have become a channel for God's healing love.

From Daily Reflections by A.A.W.S., Inc. with permission

Coming Events—1991

- | | |
|---|--|
| August 29 -
September 1, 1991
Thurs. - Sunday | 34th. ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A.
San Francisco Hilton
1 Hilton Square, San Francisco, CA
Registration: \$12 - pre-registration
\$15 - at door - per person |
| August 30 -
Thru
September 1, 1991
Friday - Sunday | 14th. ANNUAL SIERRA NEVADA A.A. ROUND-UP
John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel
1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada
Registration: \$10 per person |
| September 6, 7, & 8
Friday 5:00 p.m. thru
Sunday 12:00 noon | 5th. ANNUAL GOLD COUNTRY ROUND-UP ANGELS CAMP, CA
Write to P.O. Box 345
Angels Camp, CA 95222
For information or to Pre-register |
| September 20 - 22
Friday thru Sunday | 1991 ARIZONA AREA CONVENTION
Mesa Hilton Pavilion
1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ
Registration: \$8.00 Pre-registration
\$10.00 at the door, per person |
| October 18, 19, & 20
Friday thru Sunday | 44th. ANNUAL N.C.C.A.A. FALL CONFERENCE
Redding Civic Auditorium
Redding, CA
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER EARLY |
| October 31 -
November 3, 1991
Thurs. thru Sunday | 30th. ANNUAL HAWAII A.A. CONFERENCE
Sheridan Waikiki Hotel
Honolulu, Hawaii
Registration: \$70.00 per person |

N. C. C. A. A.

CONFERENCE DATES

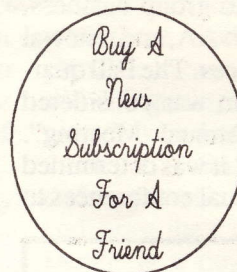
- REDDING-Oct. 18, 19, 20, '91
MONTEREY-Mar. 27, 28, 29, '92
SANTA ROSA-June 26, 27, 28
1992
SAN JOSE-Oct. 16, 17, 18, 1992

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