



GOOD NEWS



Est.
1948

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

SEPT. - OCT.
1991

Are you ready for a Romp to Redding?

If you enjoy listening to excellent speakers who travel many miles to share their messages of hope and joy with a little humor mixed in, if you like to meet and fellowship with other members from all over Northern California, we hope you will join us in Redding for the NCCAA Conference. For this conference we have asked a husband and wife duo from Pasadena to be our Saturday night and Sunday morning speakers, Vince and Pat Y., respectively. Jimmy S. the Friday night speaker, will be coming all the way from Lincolnton, Georgia to share his message with us, and the Young People will enjoy hearing Ce Ce G., of Los Gatos, California on Saturday afternoon. For the "young at heart who enjoy tripping the light

fantastic," music for the Saturday night dance will be provided by the Double Tymes Band.

George W. of Fortuna, CA will be the General Service speaker on Saturday. His topic will be "Recovery Through Service." There will also be a General Service panel on Sunday morning that will discuss the "Joy of Living."

You can be sure that Jim R. of French Gulch and the other local committee members are busily planning every little detail to ensure that this will be the best conference ever in Redding.

Where can you go in today's world and take part in a weekend of fun, fellowship, and a real spiritual uplift in God's country—all for a \$5.00 donation?

N.C.C.A.A. History Conclusion—

(This concludes a four-part series as found in the N.C.C.A.A. archives 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 5th Annual conference of the council was held March 15-16, 1952 at Governors Hall, the State Fairgrounds at Sacramento. The purpose of this meeting was twofold. Firstly, was the organization of Panel 2 of the General Service Conference, which consisted of AA groups in the interior communities of Northern California (primarily Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley), and the election of a Conference Delegate from that Area. Secondly, was to hear an important speaker, Father Ralph P. (also known as Father John Doe, author of the widely read "Golden Books"). Father P. had joined AA in 1943 in Indianapolis, and in 1947 the archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Indianapolis released him from all parish work so he could devote his full time to AA. A second important speaker was Marian M., a member of the New York Headquarters Office staff, who Bill W. had recommended when he was in San Francisco in 1951. Marian had recently suffered a serious illness and had been granted a special dispensation by her doctor to appear and speak at this 1952 Annual Conference.

Pink Can vs. the 7th Tradition . . . There's Really Not Any Contest

The quarterly general business meeting of the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee of NCCAA, held August 18 in Martinez, addressed a subject which causes mixed emotions . . . and usually strong ones . . . whenever it comes up.

The opening gun usually goes something like, "H&I takes too much money away from Central

Offices" or "H&I has too much money; no wonder their expenses are so high" or many others.

The discussion at the business meeting followed a reference to the H&I financial statement published in the SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER, at the meeting of Central Office Managers and Secretaries.

It is no secret the Santa Clara County AA members are always among the most generous supporters through the Pink Can. We are now, and always have been.

(See NO CONTEST, Page Three)

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

(See HISTORY, Page Three)

Hospital & Institution Corner

The H & I General meeting was held in Martinez at the Veterans Hospital on August 18 at 11:00 a.m. The next steering meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12 at 11:00 a.m. The next General Meeting of H & I will also be there on Sunday, November 17 at 11:00 a.m. The Veterans Hospital will be closing in January of 1992 so stay tuned for the location of next years meetings.

As announced in the last article, there was a division in Region 30, to Regions 30 and 40. Region 30 is made up of Areas 31 Glenn and Butte, 34 Placer, 35 Yuba and Sutter, and 36 Nevada and Sierra Counties. Region 40 is made up of Areas 41 Amador and Calaveras, 42 Yolo and Sacramento, and 43 El Dorado Counties.

The H & I treasurer asks groups to please not send cash or coin through the mail. Many times the mail will arrive with the envelopes already opened and nothing in them. If possible, please try to send in the money collected monthly or semi-monthly to avoid unnecessary paperwork. The H & I treasurer also requests that you please enclose a self-addressed envelope so that he may return a receipt and the monthly treasury report. This al-

lows more money to be spent on literature and your contributions to be better spent. As of July 31, 1991, the H & I Committee has received a total of \$180,330 !! We would like to thank Northern California for your support. MANY THANKS!

Brian M. from San Francisco is our new Grapevine Distributor and announced that the new Spanish Grapevine is in great demand. The Spanish Grapevine comes from Mexico and is published quarterly. Currently the H & I Committee subscribes to 400 Spanish and 2,200 monthly English issues of the Grapevine. The Northern California H & I Committee is the largest subscriber to the Grapevine.

A Regional Meeting will take place after the Saturday H & I Speaker Meeting in Redding on October 19. This will give the northern H & I members an opportunity to meet with Jeff S. from San Francisco, our General Chairman and other members of the H & I Steering Committee.

The Northern California Hospital and Institution has received official tax exempt status from the State of California. We are still awaiting word from the IRS. JOIN THE EXCITEMENT OF H & I.

DAVE P., SANTA ROSA, CA

Beginnings

In Step One Bill W's spiritual sponsor recognized "an exercise in humility... a declaration of dependence"; in Step Two - "the alcoholic explicitly declaring this dependence on God." Bill spoke of two cardinal principles, identification in depth and deflation in depth. Alcoholism in practice leads to humiliation thus exposing inordinate independence and self-reliance. We read that "Self-reliance was good as far as it went, but it didn't go far enough." Humility is reality and truth. No one is an island. No one can go it alone. AA goes a step further by witnessing to the belief that sobriety depends upon a Greater than human Power. The very helplessness of alcoholism longs for a Higher Power. Deflation can induce humility as long as identification induces hope. Hopefully, none of these words will be so construed as to make spirituality repulsive. Permit me to borrow the following from an "outside" source:

"Faith works as a divine attraction, not a compulsion destroying human liberty." Perhaps the process of Faith is one of letting go and letting God, with consequent serenity and dependence upon God. Many members speak of their Higher Power as a loving, all-powerful (See BEGINNINGS, 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

Important Role Played By N.C.C.A.A. Delegates

Does your group have delegates to the N.C.C.A.A.? Each group is allowed to have two delegates registered at our Conferences.

These delegates, when registered, vote on important Council matters and are put on our mailing list and receive conference information, flyers and lists of hotel accommodations prior to each conference from the Interior Secretary. It is then important that news of our confer-

ences is carried back to the groups by these delegates. The Postal Service is now enforcing regulations that do not allow Central Offices to include flyers of our conferences in their newsletter mailings. In the past, this was an important service that is no longer available so the duty of carrying the message falls heavily upon the delegates. Be sure your group's delegates are registered and come to Conference!

History Concludes— (Continued from Page One)

Once again, admission tickets were required for the principal meeting on Saturday night, March 15th. Although these tickets were not "sold", there was a contribution expected. This was held in the Main Ballroom of Governors Hall at the Fairgrounds. The meeting was chaired by Floyd B., of Roseville, and the invocation was given by Dr. Robert Ferguson, pastor of the Fremont Presbyterian Church of Sacramento, a staunch friend of AA. This meeting was followed by a reception and buffet supper in the nearby Little Theater.

The Sunday morning session also was held in Governors Hall. It opened with registration of delegates, i.e., the authorized representatives of the groups in Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley. At the time of registration these representatives also were to signify whether or not they would be available for service on Panel 2, or as Delegate to the New York Conference. The meeting was chaired once more by Bob R., of the West Portal Group of San Francisco. Bob was invited to act in that capacity because of his experience in conducting the organization meeting of Panel 1 in San Francisco in March 1951. Marian spoke once more on the third legacy and the general services performed by the New York Office. Floyd B., of Roseville, was elected as the first Conference Delegate from Panel 2.

An interesting highlight of the NCC was the Fall Conference held in 1955 in Watsonville. Because of insufficient housing in hotels and motels, the Watsonville chamber of

Commerce persuaded non-alcoholic citizens to open their homes to AA members for housing, and this created situations which had never existed before, or since.

The last NCC Conference held in a smaller community was in 1968 in Santa Cruz. An amusing sidelight of this Conference was that the host hotel, where the Conference was held, put on an additional bartender and two additional cocktail waitresses for the Saturday night dinner. After about 45 minutes of no business, the bartenders closed down the bar, and the cocktail waitresses began helping serving dinner in the hotel dining room.

Beginning about 1971 the members in attendance at the NCC Conferences became so large that it no longer was possible to hold Conferences in the smaller communities. This was not only because of lack of hotel and motel facilities, but the fact that the auditoriums or convention centers could not hold the crowds. About this time discussion at the NCC business meetings began to center on reducing the number of Conferences each year from four to three, and limiting the cities in which the Conferences would be held to those having adequate hotel and convention facilities. After considerable discussion, the Conferences then were reduced to three each year, and a city bidding for a future Conference must insure that there would be adequate facilities for presenting the conference.

(This concludes the article taken from the "History" by Dean K., Past Delegate California Northern Coastal.)

Beginnings—

(From Page Two)

erful, forgiving God of unconditional love. In this regard, AA history has preserved certain extracts from Francis Thompson's ode, *The Hound of Heaven*. Some of these are presented as follows:

"Lo, all things fly thee, for thou flyest me! . . . and human love needs human meriting: How hast thou merited - Of all man's clotted clay the dingiest clot? . . . Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee save Me, save only Me . . . All which I took from thee I did but take, not for thy harms, but just that thou mightest seek it in my arms. All which thy child's mistake fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home: Rise, clasp my hand and come! . . . Is my gloom, after all, shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?"

FRANK B., NAPA

. . . No Contest

(From Page One)

WHY THE COMPLAINT?

Those of us who read the SANTA CLARA COUNTY INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER, and we all should, have an excellent opportunity to compare the Intergroup Central Office income with the H&I income, and the comparison is really quite interesting.

The spread seems to be widening somewhat. There are times when the bottom line for H&I comes close to exceeding that of the local Central Office.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

First and foremost, the writer is speaking only as an individual and the following statement sounds like heresy from an H&I treasurer or any other kind of treasurer: *H&I doesn't need that kind of money!*

The PINK PAMPHLET, which spells out the policy and procedures under which H&I operates, annually up-

(Continued on Page Five)

**Are you ready for
Monterey? Coming
March 27 — 29, 1992**

FIFTH TRADITION

Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

'The Only Help We Have To Offer'

I drank for a long time and couldn't stop. I tried everything. One day, in the midst of planning to take a trip, I called AA. I told the woman who answered the phone that I was an alcoholic going on a trip and needed a ride. I was afraid to drive to the bus station because I was too drunk, and I couldn't call my parents because they were mad at me about my drinking. The woman told me politely that AA wasn't a taxi service and to call back when I wanted to stop drinking.

I did call back and two wonderful women came to my house. They said and did all the right things and I found myself at my first meeting.

At meetings, I began to hear the message of recovery. But I became distracted when I noticed the abundance of single men at every meeting. "This must be the answer," I thought. "I'll find a man to take care of me." So I pursued that avenue of "recovery" for a time until I became convinced that it wasn't working. Again I returned to AA, this time to listen to the real message of recovery. And I heard it.

Without exception, everyone who had anything I wanted talked about having developed a relationship with a power greater than himself as the result of taking the Twelve Steps. The Big Book quotes Dr. Silkworth as saying, "The message which can interest and hold these alcoholic people must have depth and weight." That's what recovery through the Twelve Steps had for me.

I needed a job. I told people at meetings that it would be easier for me to stay sober if I had a job (and a husband and some friends). They told me that my job was to stay sober. God would take care of the other things when I was ready.

I found a home group because somebody told me I should. I was

there at the once-a-week meeting. Soon I discovered that the members met other days at each other's homes and sometimes went places together. I thought this might be the social life that had long eluded me. What a surprise to find out that these gatherings in their homes were group business meetings and studies of the Traditions. Their excursions were visits to small AA groups in outlying communities where they shared their experience, strength, and hope. When they went out for coffee or meals after meetings, the primary topic of discussion was Alcoholics Anonymous. Recovery, unity, service, and the Twelve Steps seemed to intrude into everything we did together! I ended up learning many valuable social skills by hanging around with these people, but social growth was never our purpose in getting together.

When my home group elected me to represent them at the local central committee, I learned about another part of our Fellowship. This committee, in addition to providing a twenty-four-hour answering service, meeting directories, public information, and a forum for discussion of group problems, had a social committee with its own bank account and fun-filled calendar. But to my surprise, as social as their activities were, they always featured AA meetings and speakers, and whether decorating a hall, mopping a floor, or carving a turkey, they always talked about recovery through the Twelve Steps and carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffered among us or who hadn't found us yet.

The man who encouraged my participation in general service tried to attract me by describing the wonderful assemblies I'd attend out of town and all the new friends I'd

make. He was right, but once again I found that what held us together at those assemblies was our focus on service to Alcoholics Anonymous and how to better carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic.

One day while taking calls for our local AA answering service, I got a call from a woman who wanted someone from AA to come see her drunken neighbor who hadn't cleaned her house in ages. "You've got to get someone out here to clean up her house. Don't you people try to help drunks?" I was reminded of my first call to AA looking for a taxi service. Now I know through experience that we're not simply here to "help." The primary purpose of an AA group is to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. The only help we have to offer is the AA program of recovery. We don't offer taxi service, housekeeping, assertiveness training, marriage counseling, jobs, money, mates, or any of the dozens of other services and solutions that each of us thought would solve our problems.

If Alcoholics Anonymous had provided me with a social life, a job, and a husband, I'd have had no reason to place my reliance upon God. If they had done anything other than carry the message of recovery, I might have missed it. Thank God that's all AA does.

Each of us, having had a spiritual awakening as the result of the Twelve Steps, tries to carry this message to the alcoholic who wants it. This is how I stay sober. And if you keep coming back, you don't have to drink again either, if you don't want to.

BY BARBARA M., EUREKA, CA

Reprinted from THE GRAPEVINE, 1990, With permission.

... No Contest

(Continued From Page Three)

dates the PINK CAN LETTER explaining the fundraising for this organization. The procedure has not changed since the *Pink Can* came into use. The updating covers the extended use of the funds.

Among other items, the letter has this to say:

- Literature carries the message to those who are confined. The literature costs money, lots of money. Those who are confined don't have money.

- Since AA is self-supporting through its own contributions, the only purpose of the *Pink Can* is to purchase literature from AA World Services, maintain a tape library, print or procure meeting schedules, and for some committee general expenses. (Unfortunately, it costs money to raise money, regardless of the source or destination).

- **No member is paid for service, and any expenses incurred are strictly the personal contribution of the individual. No travel expenses are paid to any member at any time.** (Lest you think this is a minor matter, follow the Region 70 Chairperson on his/her monthly trek to Area Meetings in Monterey, Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and then the quarterly Steering Committee and General Committee meetings held in various Northern California locations. Thank God it's a 2-year term rotation!)

Two paragraphs of the letter seem to hit the nail on the head:

- The spare pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters the AA members contribute to this type of 12th Step work goea a long way . . . and it does work. More than one inmate or patient has stated that the literature brought in by a Hospital & Institution (H&I) worker saved their lives.

- One of the fears expressed early in the implementation of the *Pink Can* was that it would subtract

from the support of the meetings. This was dispelled by meetings that proved the meeting's donation was the same with or without the *Pink Cans*.

There's the rub, I'm afraid. How many times have you seen the basket pass by, the *Pink Can* rising up out of the center like a beacon, and swallowing dollar bills? The dimes (or worse yet, nothing!) trickle down into the basket to support the local Central Office, General Service Office in New York and, in the case of Santa Clara County, the North or South County General Service Office.

There are areas seldom considered in any discussion about H&I funds and Cetral Office funds. Try this on for size: Three of the heaviest expenses in the Santa Clara Inter-group Office, and most other Central Offices are **rent, salaries and insurance**. *H&I has no wages, rents are minimal and insurance does not compare*. Yet these local costs have and are continuning to skyrocket.

(Continued on Page Six)

HUMOR

Two friends, both alcoholics, got drunk together one night and both of them had blackouts. Each awoke the next morning, looked in the mirror, and saw black eyes, torn clothes, and assorted bruises.

One phoned the other to find out what had happened, but found his friend equally puzzled. So they went to the bar where they had been drinking, with the idea of asking some roundabout questions.

As they entered, the bartender said: "Well, I'm glad to see you two made up after your fight last night."

Here's a hot one from West Virginia: After the firefighters had the blaze under control, one of them asked the homeowner: "Were you smoking in bed?"

"Of course not," the man replied indignantly. "The bed was on fire when I climbed into it."

(From the Grapevine, 1988)

Coming Events—1991

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
NOVEMBER 15 - 17 Friday thru Sunday	"SERENITY IN YOSEMITE" 8th Annual Summit Conference Pre-Registration: \$10.00 per person

... No Contest

(Continued From Page Five)

To be sure, Northern California H&I buys much more literature than any Central Office in the state of California. But H&I always has, and always with the nickels, dimes and quarters.

H&I is far and away the largest bulk buyer of GRAPEVINE subscriptions (at the same rate, incidentally, as you pay, or you should pay). This is nothing new, and this has always been done with nickels, dimes and quarters . . . and don't forget the lowly penny.

We sat at a meeting recently and overheard a member remark to a seatmate that he had come upon his sobriety through a 25-day alcoholism treatment center, and *"I always put my dollar in the Pink Can so that others can have what I have."*

What a fallacy! Rest assured that not one item of H&I literature goes to these commercial operations. With fees ranging to and beyond \$20,000 a month, they can well afford to buy their own literature. H&I conducts meetings in several of these, but we do not subsidize them.

So the Northern California H&I General Committee business meeting is in agreement on this point. It is not bad management to publicize the financial dealings of H&I. It is the members' money and AA has always maintained a highly visible set of books.

What is sorely needed, however, is a short course in common sense and fairness. H&I representatives are more than willing to speak before your group. Let us know.

In the meantime, **DON'T PUT A DOLLAR IN THE BASKET. PUT TWO DOLLARS IN THE BASKET**, but please, put a couple of coins in the *Pink Can*.

JIM J. - SAN JOSE, CA

**Please Pre-Register
Early for all
Conferences**

Lip Service Not Enough

"No man can consider himself a real member of AA just because he doesn't drink. There is such a thing as having a sober body, and a mind that retains drunken stupidity. The body will express lip service to the AA program, but the mind still wallows in an alcoholic quagmire. The physical sobriety is used only as a cloak to cover the same corruptive thinking and conniving that was always present in the mind. Dishonesty of thought and action is just as vicious in the sober man as in the drunken man. In fact, it has more foul odor in the sober man because the sober man has not the excuse of befuddled judgement.

Anyone addicted to this form of

hypocrisy is still controlled by alcoholic thinking. He retains his false pride, his complete selfishness, his super ego. He seeks no advice and rejects any that may be offered. His moral and ethical standards are fabricated on a loom built to suit his own perverted specification, and the cloak he weaves is as transparent as daylight. No one is deceived, except the deceiver, and even he must have his moments when he must admit his life is a sham. The solution for his problem is the same as it is for all of us.

"We practice these principles in all of our affairs."

(From an old H & I document.)

SUBMITTED BY BILL S., STOCKTON

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Financial Statement

JANUARY 1, 1991 TO JUNE 30, 1991

INCOME

Balance on Hand as of 1/1/91		\$15,221.67
Fresno Conference Income (1991)	\$20,971.69	
Oakland Conference Income	\$1,603.60	
Al-Anon Reimbursement	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		\$24,075.29

EXPENSES

Fresno Conference Expenses (1991)	\$10,677.01	
Oakland Conference Expenses (1991)	\$16,010.03	
Redding Conference Expenses (1991)	\$1,098.18	
Chairman's Expenses	\$129.36	
Chairman's Advance	\$525.32	
Treasurer's Expenses	\$129.45	
Coastal Secretary's Expenses	\$32.00	
Interior Secretary's Expenses	\$61.85	
Phone Expense	\$267.03	
Rubber Stamp Mailing	\$30.28	
SF Central Office	\$75.00	
Good News	\$150.00	
McElree Hotel Charges (3/10 - 13/91)	\$234.71	
San Jose Conference Insurance Claim	\$250.00	
Bank Charge Deposit Slips	\$30.24	
Delegate Ribbons	\$231.02	
Non-Profit Status Filing Fee	<u>\$10.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$29,941.48

Balance on Hand This Statement 6/31/91 **\$9,355.48

**The ending balance does not reflect the amount of the Oakland Conference deposits (\$11,855.00) which were recorded on the July bank statement.

Cut these out for your wallet or purse, home and office.

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
 FRESNO - March 1993
 OAKLAND - June 1993
 STOCKTON - October 1993

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Please Pre-Register

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