



GOOD NEWS



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1992

Welcome to Monterey; NCCAA's First Stop In 1992

All committees are working hard to insure the NCCAA's first visit to the Peninsula since 1988 is a resounding success. Jerry McD., Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, reports that all Committee Chairpersons have been selected. A total of seventeen (17) committees have been meeting since last September.

Recently the Dance Committee recommended that our Saturday Night Dance music be provided by "ECM," a local Top 40 DJ show that promises great music and a show

San Jose Team Gears Up For Fall Conference

Santa Clara Zone 34 got together one recent Sunday and elected a new Zone Chairman and a new Intergroup Representative. This group also elected Cindy S. of San Jose as the new Chairperson of the Host Committee for the upcoming San Jose NCCAA Fall Conference to be held on October 16 thru 18, 1992.

Under Cindy's able leadership the group also elected chairpeople for all the committees of the Host Committee as outlined in the NCCAA Guidelines. Their next meeting is planned for March 15, with meetings set for the third Sunday of every month until conference time.

Contracts are all signed for the Convention Center and the Fairmont Hotel will be the Host Hotel.

Hope to see you all there.

entitled, "A Nite Of Electronic Counter Measures."

Our "Carry the Message" committee chairman, Rod A., reports a good response from local

groups to support the conference. Spring conference fliers were also distributed in the San Luis Obispo area, the Spring Fling in Sacramento, (See MONTEREY, Page Three)

From February-March 1992 Box 4-5-9

1991 Membership Survey Form Gets a Facelift

It's again time for that confidential-and anonymous-survey of the A.A. membership. Its purpose is to keep members informed on current trends in membership characteristics, and to provide information about ourselves to the professional community and the general public as part of the effort to carry the message.

Distributed every three years since 1968, the one-page questionnaire will go out this summer with a new facelift, thanks to the Advisory Action of the 1991 General Service Conference.

Most changes are minor, such as tightening questions and updating obsolete terms. Other changes are more substantial. For example, question 9-"What is the specific nature of your employment now?"-has been removed, as has question 17: "Has your doctor been to an A.A. meeting?"

One pivotal question which eluded consensus in 1991 was number 14: "In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?" When it came to retaining the question or eliminating it altogether, the Conference split down the middle. Therefore, it was recommended that a subcommittee

of the trustees' Public Information Committee study the pros and cons, with their findings to be reviewed by the 1992 Conference this spring.

Says Jane S., a director of the A.A. Grapevine and chairperson of the subcommittee, "The word 'drugs' is the elephant in the living room, and both yeas and nays are highly persuasive."

Those favoring removal of the question advance a number of arguments: What is meant by the words "another drug"-which could be anything from caffeine to cocaine? Why (See SURVEY, Page Five)

**Verified occupancy of
500 Hotel or Motel Rooms
in Monterey will
get us the Convention
Center
At No Cost!
Tell Your Friends!**

**Please Mention NCCAA
When Registering at
Your Favorite Hotel**

Government

AA has agreed that what nations need would be fatal for AA. For nations government is essential. For AA government is inadmissible. True, there is authority in AA, but it is an authority to serve, never to rule. It is distinguished as either ultimate or delegated service authority. Delegated authority is granted by ultimate authority. It is defined by charter, concepts, traditions and job-description.

This coexistence of ultimate and delegated authority results in a system of checks and balances in a democratic process. This has been well-explained in Bill's writings. Regarding Bill's gift for explaining principles, it is well to recall the following: "To say that Bill was the sole author of the Traditions is both true and untrue. He was certainly not the sole author of the experience from which they evolved, but he was the person who interpreted and culled meaning from these experiences. The meanings, as derived by Bill, subsequently became the backbone of the Traditions." (Reprinted from page 306 of PASS IT ON with permission of AAWS, Inc.)

AA reserves no right to punish. Members punish themselves when they relapse. Groups punish themselves when they cause their own
(See GOVERNMENT, 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

Hospital & Institution Corner

Make your plans now!

20th Annual

HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION CONFERENCE

April 24, 25, 26, 1992

Oakland Airport Hilton

- **SPEAKERS**
- **PANELS**
- **EXHIBITS**
- **WORKSHOPS**

Flyers and Registration Forms Are Available at Your Central Office

Santa Rosa Ready For Next Meet

Speakers for the Summer Conference in Santa Rosa in June are being contacted and their attendance confirmed says Alex McE., Council Chairman. The committee has had several meetings and contracts are in place with the Convention Center at

the El Rancho Tropicana and the adjoining Hotel.

The fliers will be available at the Monterey Conference. The dates again are June 26, 27, and 28, 1992. Pre-Registrations will be accepted after the Monterey meet.

I'm Thankful for All That I Have Learned

I am thankful today for the years of my drinking, as well as for the years of my sobriety in AA. The drunkenness, the illness, the insanity, the antisocial behavior, the loss of love and friendships, and above all, the total self-destruction of myself as a decent human being led me into a death of the spirit-caused me to be born again. In the

*Hope is just a
Phone call away!!!*

Government

(Continued From Page Two)

dissolution. Under Concept Five the group conscience is recognized as final in the larger issues. It is also recognized that in many matters it can't be properly informed. In these and other circumstances, it is recognized that trusted servants should be ready to do what group conscience can't or ought not to do for itself. One of the routine ways in which the group conscience operates is in the election of General Service Representatives.

Perhaps one of the greatest values left to us by Bill in the Concepts is his treatise on the Traditions in various texts and pages. There is a movement currently afoot to revise a part of Concept Eleven. This may or may not be prudent. For one thing, it should not set in motion a rash precedent for Concept-tinkering. Perhaps our first order of business should be to establish safeguards to preserve those Conceptual statements which explain the Traditions, just as we have safeguards for the Steps, the Traditions, and Article 12 of the Charter.

FRANK B., Napa, CA

darkness I wept and cursed and drank and passed out. And yet, in moments of sobriety, I kept searching for the answer, for help. Even when drunk, I cried out for it secretly. And I was given help. I found AA.

I am thankful that I was an agnostic, self-willed and self-annihilating. I am thankful that I tried, for ten drunken and terrible years, to pull myself up by my own bootstraps. No one could have reached me, though psychiatrists and doctors tried. I was unreachable.

I am grateful that I was humiliated, that I stumbled around in cheap bars, that a bartender once knocked me down for trying to steal a bottle. I am grateful that one of my husbands once beat me up. I am grateful that I was twice in the divorce courts before joining AA.

I am thankful that I contemplated suicide, not once, but a good many times. How else would I know what it is like to lose your life in every way except physically? How else can I taste gratitude for the return from death?

Had I been a sober, mature citizen at the outset, I might have been a good woman, that is to say, a happy wife, a loving mother, a kind neighbor, perhaps even a success in my chosen career. And I could never have understood what it's like in the gutter. And I could never have helped anyone else out of the gutter with that greatest of all gifts of AA-Twelve Step work. I would not belong to this Fellowship that, as far as I know, is the greatest group therapy going anywhere in this world. I would not have in my possession now a pearl of wisdom that is polished by my own experience. It is invaluable. I can give it to others.

From THE GRAPEVINE

HUMOR

An anonymous reader tells of two drinking buddies recalling the tragic death of an old pal. "Too bad Joe got careless," said one. "Yeah, spilling all that rum on his whiskers," said the other. "He'd have been okay," said the first, "if he hadn't struck a match to light his cigar." "He could have made it," concluded the second, "but he just fiddled with his whiskers while rum burned."

P.W. of Mendota, Ill. reports that every time she gets in a bad mood and acts tense, her five-year-old pipes up, "Easy buzz it, Mom." Hard to stay upset with that kind of help around.

From THE GRAPEVINE

Monterey

(Continued From Page One)

South Bay Roundup in Los Angeles and the Orange County Roundup in Anaheim.

Enthusiasm is running high. Attendance at the monthly Organizing Committee Meetings (five since fall of last year) has had an average attendance of forty (40) volunteers.

Leadership of the Al-Anon Convention attended our January meeting and announced their program schedule. All Al-Anon and Alateen meetings will be on the 3rd floor of the Conference Center.

We hope your visit to our peninsula is a memorable one. Our AA groups (Intergroup), General Service and H & I volunteers welcome you to a weekend of recovery and fellowship.

By JERRY McD., Pacific Grove

Please note the new address for sending Pre-Registrations. It is:

**Treasurer, N.C.C.A.A.
1540 Market Street #150
San Francisco, CA 94102**

C.N.C.A. Delegates Report-Feb.'92

Thank you to our Assembly Coordinator and the tireless workers in both Spanish Districts who located a facility for our Pre-Conference Assembly. Thanks to their commitment to do all the work, we'll be able to hear what your groups have to say about the topics for the 1992 General Service Conference. I'm looking forward to hearing from as many G.S.R.'s as possible at our two-day Assembly. Please save the weekend of April 4-5 to be in San Mateo for this exciting event.

D.C.M.C.s have received lists of all the Conference topics that we know about so far. The Workshop questions may be the most interesting subjects for many groups to discuss. We won't spend a great deal of time at the Pre-Conference Assembly or at the General Service Conference discussing your groups' answers to these questions but your discussions could serve as a group inventory on some important subjects. Not all the topics on the Conference Committee agendas may be of interest to your group. Feel free to choose and discuss only a few of them.

"Merit Pay" for G.S.O. staff members is not listed on any committee agenda but will be presented to the Conference at a special time. 1991 Conference Advisory Action #32 says that the footnote regarding merit pay will be deleted until the Board "seeks and obtains Conference approval for merit pay." It is my understanding that the Trustees are in favor of merit pay and will seek approval for it. Read Concept XI (p. 58) to find out why Bill W. did not favor a merit pay system. I have strong personal feelings on this subject and will vote my own conscience unless I hear something different from you.

I sent background information on several agenda topics to all

D.C.M.C.s. Be sure to make use of everything they share. If after reading what's already available to you, you still have questions feel free to call.

Thank you for all your communication. District minutes and newsletters, letters from G.S.R.s and Intergroups, and copies of your correspondence with G.S.O. all help me keep in touch with what's going on in the California Northern Coastal Area. The group conscience is not a scientific process... it's not surveys and data collection. Your thoughts and discussions along with what you share at the Pre-Conference Assembly will contribute to my usefulness as your Delegate --- our Area's contribution to the collective

group conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. I look forward to continuing to serve you in 1992.

With love from your trusted servant.

BARBARA M., C.N.C.A. Delegate
Eureka, CA

**Be sure to have your
NCCAA Group Delegates
Register
At the NCCAA
Registration Table and
Vote for Council
Chairperson at the
Monterey Conference!**

A Friend of Bill W.

I believe that most of us who have been around the A.A. program for a while forget what it was like to be a new comer at our first A.A. meeting. I know that I am guilty of this at times. I remember how scared and lonely I was when I went alone to my first meeting. I had previously been told that the members would welcome the newcomer by introducing themselves and giving the newcomer their phone numbers.

How disappointed I was, at the end of the meeting, when no one spoke or introduced themselves to me or gave me their phone numbers. I was left standing alone in the middle of the room. I wanted to run out but I did stay a while longer wanting someone to at least say hello. I felt the same as I did when I first came into the meeting. At this time, I swore that I would not attend any more A.A. meetings but I had made a promise that I would go to more than one meeting to find out if this was for me. Thank God I did.

Today I try to talk to some of the newcomers after each meeting, giv-

ing them my phone number and assuring them that they can call me any time. Also inviting them to keep coming back. I wonder how many new comers feel the way I did and said, "To Hell with this program. It isn't for me because I feel that I'm not wanted and it isn't very friendly."

The next time a new person or persons attend your meeting, make it your responsibility to make them feel welcome, see to it that they get some names and numbers before they leave. Also invite them to come back. REMEMBER, you need them just as much as they need you.

As an alcoholic... we are like people in a lifeboat after the steamer has sunk. If we are going to be saved, we've got to pull together.

Submitted by HAROLD L.,
Rocklin, CA

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

Survey

(Continued from Page One)

is such a question the business of AA? We are not a social agency; we are interested only in staying sober and helping other alcoholics. . . .

Proponents of the question are equally protective of AA's singleness of purpose, but contend that to stop asking questions is not a useful response if we are to learn about ourselves. Moreover, having current facts about our escalating numbers of dually addicted members assures that information is at hand when requested.

After the Conference and its committees have completed the Advisory process, the survey questionnaire, which is printed in English on one side and in Spanish on the other, will be mailed to U.S./Canada Conference delegates representing approximately 51,500 groups. Once tabulated and analyzed, the results will be published in a revised version of the illustrated leaflet "Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey"; in a table-top display with the same title; and in complete report form. For news of their availability, watch future issues of Box 4-5-9. (And read the GOOD NEWS)

From Box 4-5-9, 1992

N. C. C. A. A.

CONFERENCE DATES

1992 Conferences

MONTEREY•Mar. 27, 28, 29,
SANTA ROSA•June 26, 27, 28
SAN JOSE•Oct. 16, 17, 18,

FRESNO - March 1993
OAKLAND - June 1993
STOCKTON - October 1993
MONTEREY - March 1994
OPEN - June 1994
MODESTO - October 1994

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please Pre-Register

Coming Attractions

March 13 - 15
Friday - Sunday

20th ANNUAL ROUND-UP OF ALL CALIFORNIA YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (ACYPAA)
Chico Senior High School
901 Esplanade, Chico, CA
Registration \$10 Pre-\$13 at door

March 27 - 29
Friday - Sunday

45th ANNUAL NCCAA SPRING CONFERENCE
Monterey Convention Center
2 Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER \$5.00

April 16 - 19
Thursday - Sunday

15th ANNUAL SAN DIEGO SPRING ROUND UP
Sheridan Harbor Island Hotel
1380 Harbor Island Dr., San Diego
Registration: \$7 Pre, \$10 at door

April 17 - 19
Friday - Sunday

21st ANNUAL RENO SPRING FESTIVAL
Bally's Reno
2500 E. Second St., Reno, NV
Registration: \$10.00 per person

April 24 - 26
Friday - Sunday

20th ANNUAL HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION CONFERENCE
The Oakland Airport Hilton
1 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland, CA
Registration: \$5.00 per person

June 26 - 28
Friday - Sunday

45th ANNUAL SUMMER NCCAA CONFERENCE
El Rancho Tropicana Hotel
Santa Rosa, CA
Flyers available in Monterey

One of the best things about our life is that it comes ONE DAY AT A TIME

Did you hear about the clock that had a nervous breakdown? One day it began thinking about how often it would have to tick during the coming year. Figuring two ticks a second, 120 a minute, 7,200 each hour, 172,800 a day and 1,209,600 ticks every week, the clock suddenly realized it would have to tick nearly 63 million times during the next 12 months. The more it thought about this, the more anxious it became. Finally, the clock became so distraught that it suffered a nervous collapse.

Confiding in a psychiatrist, the

clock complained that it didn't have the strength to tick that often. The doctor responded, "But how many ticks do you tick at a time?" The clock answered, "Only one." "Well, simply tick one tick at a time and don't worry about the next one," advised the doctor. "You'll get along fine, I'm sure." That's exactly what the clock did. And, as all good stories end, it ticked happily ever after. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Remember just take "one tick at a time."

Author Unknown

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