



# GOOD NEWS



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1948

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JULY • AUGUST  
1993

## A Deaf Member Shares With Us

Communicating is the art of conveying one's idea to another. I am an alcoholic, I'm not unique, although there are some differences. You hear with your ears, I hear with my eyes. You have a voice and speak your mind and feelings. When I have feelings to express, I use my hands and body. Sometimes you might sit in a meeting and think the noise is distracting or that the speaker is rambling. I sit in a meeting and find the silence distracting and the movements annoying.

I wonder in meetings if people are saying out loud what appears on their face, are they expressing the sadness or anger I sense in their bodies or behind their eyes? Is this real or in my mind? I wish I could

hear this meeting with all its noise, all its B.S., all the feelings! What's the laughter about? Who's speaking now? How are the newcomers doing?

If you could understand my signing, I'd tell you how I feel. I'm scared, I'm not sure of myself, English confuses me. I'd ask you if your disease talks as loud in your head as it does in mine? Is your insanity the same? What do you do when you're restless? I wish I could

call and talk to someone about my 10th Step.

Please let me help another alcoholic, help me build a bridge of communication. I can't learn to hear, will you learn to sign? I'll work on my English and I can teach you to understand me. Please, I'm an alcoholic just like you!

I love you.

**BRUCE C., Las Vegas, NV**  
*Oregon Area Newsletter*  
*Portland, Oregon*

## News From The Chairperson

### A Standing Ovation For Redding!

The 1993 Summer Conference in Redding may have been small in attendance but it was huge in Fellowship. One more time, the Redding Committee exemplified the Spirit of Sacrifice as they hosted the Summer Conference, after having volunteered only a year out to pick up the dropped ball so NCCAA would have a conference in June of 1993. They not only have one of the most beautiful conference facilities in Northern California but also they are a well-bonded team of AAs who truly love to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

Then, after the Conference was over and we all thought that the Redding Committee had already far out-done themselves, they decided to give the 1996 Summer Conference bid, which they had just won, to the runner-up San Jose. There had been on-going discussions all weekend that eventually led to this

informed group conscience decision which took place after the Closing Speaker Meeting about 1:30 pm on Sunday. There must have been eighty to a hundred people in the room, and the sharing was priceless. Redding will now focus on obtaining the 1996 Fall Conference bid. Traditionally, October has always been the month in which the Redding Committee has preferred to host our NCCAA Conference.

Business at the Steering Committee and Open Delegates' Meetings dealt with subjects that are of interest to almost everyone. There were a number of new zone chairpeople as well as new Inter-group/Central Office representatives in attendance, and the discussions were lively and informative. We are still working toward informed group consciences on the following topics and concerns: whether or not we  
*(See MORE FROM, Page Three)*

## Stockton To Host In October

Once again the Stockton Civic Auditorium will echo the sounds of happy, joyous and free alcoholics as they gather for the 46th Annual Fall Conference this October 8, 9, and 10. Speakers include John A., Laguna Beach, who will speak Friday night, Debbie H., Long Beach, will address the Young People Saturday afternoon, while Ernie R., from Potomac, Maryland will speak Saturday night. Keith C., Culver City will close the conference Sunday. Marathon meetings, workshops and a dance, along with great fellowship  
*(See STOCKTON, Page Four)*

# Desiderata

*Go placidly amid the noise & haste, & remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the council of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.*

## 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

### Deadline Guidelines (Not Set in Stone)

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

*Found in Old Saint Paul's  
Church, Baltimore: Dated 1692  
Submitted by PHYLLIS G.,  
Santa Clara, CA*

**Your Articles are always  
Welcome**

**Good News Policy** The Good News is the newspaper of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous and therefore is a vehicle for you, the members and supporters of the Council to express your views. The views expressed here are those of the writers, and are not intended to represent the opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous or NCCAA as a whole, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Good News.

If you would like to contribute articles to the Good News, we welcome your participation. The guidelines are as follows: "It (Good News) reports the activities of the Council, Hospital and Institution Committee, General Service, and other articles of interest to AA members. News is written about the conferences for the benefit of members unable to attend. News of activities of the Groups in Northern California may also be included."

## Musts

The must word frequently appears in the *Big Book*, and, at least five times, in the Traditions' essays. To some this might imply rules and regulations, in which case it might be prudent to attend to the following: Page 144 of the *Big Book* states that "When the man is presented with this volume it is best that no one tell him he must abide by its suggestions. The man must decide for himself."

Page 129 of the *12 & 12* reveals that "Our Twelve Steps...are suggestions; the Twelve Traditions...contain not a single 'don't.' They repeatedly say 'We ought,' but never 'You must'." Page 141 says "We must never compel anyone to pay...believe...or conform to anything."

Page 167 of *AA Comes of Age* quotes a doctor saying the original *Big Book* manuscript had too many "Yous" and "Musts." His idea was to remove all forms of coercion." Bill W. "argued weakly against it but soon gave in."

Page 227 of *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* declares "There are no musts in AA." Page 8 of *The Language of the Heart* asserts that "The Twelve Steps...are not crammed down anybody's throat."

The pamphlet, *AA Tradition, How it Developed*, states that "The only authority in AA is that of spiritual principle." On page 191 of *As Bill Sees It*, he remarks that "There are few absolutes inherent in the Twelve Steps. Most Steps are open to interpretation based on the experience and outlook of the individual. (See MUSTS, Page Four)

# More from

*(Continued from Page One)*

really need a permanent Finance Committee; whether or not we should elect NCCAA officers using the Third Legacy Procedure; revising the *Purpose, Structure, Functions* Booklet; performing a yearly NCCAA inventory; guidelines for using an interpreter for the hearing impaired; and ideas for performing a yearly review of our Treasurer's records. The process of forming an informed group conscience on each of these matters will continue at our Steering Committee Meeting at the Diablo Alano Club in Stockton on Sunday, August 29 at 1:30 pm and then will continue at our Steering Committee and Open Delegates' Meetings at our Stockton Conference in October.

We have another new zone chairperson! Jackie E. from Mt. Shasta is willing to act as the information gatherer and disseminator for NCCAA in Siskiyou County Zone 38. Thank you, Jackie. There are now thirty zone chairpeople with Jim F. from Zone 4 Butte County working on possible zone chairpeople in the following counties: Colusa Zone 6, Glen Zone 11, and Tehema Zone 43. Thanks, Jim.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Fall Conference in Stockton on October 8, 9, and 10. The committee is getting well organized under the guidance and direction of Zone 32 Chairperson, John R. Three of our officers attended their last Conference Committee meeting and all three called me afterwards with enthusiastic reports.

Yours in love and service,  
 DIANE ☺, *Saratoga, CA*

**Please Pre-Register  
 For All NCCAA  
 Conferences Early**

## Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous 1993 Redding Financial Statement

REVENUE	AMOUNT
Pre-Registration (191)	\$955.00
Registration (683)	<u>\$3,415.00</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION 874</b>	<b>\$4,370.00</b>
Drawing	\$767.10
Workshops	77.44
Marathon Meetings	308.95
General Service Meetings	87.22
H&I Meetings	63.07
Early Bird Speaker Meeting	133.97
Friday Night Speaker Meeting	436.25
Young Peoples' Speaker Meeting	194.37
Saturday Night Speaker Meeting	624.04
Sunday Morning Speaker Meeting	366.71
NCCAA Steering Committee	<u>27.44</u>
	<b>\$3,086.56</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$7,456.56</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Printing	\$1,139.52
Mailings	193.58
Speaker/Committee Travel	2,307.10
Speaker/Committee Dinner	520.00
Speaker/Committee Lodging	1,235.96
Insurance	1,118.77
Convention Center	735.00
Raffle	380.89
Flowers & Decorations	308.23
Band	350.00
Literature	42.85
Sign Language Interpreter	240.00
Sound & Lighting Labor	<u>582.50</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,154.40</b>
<b>EXPENSES IN EXCESS OF REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(\$1,697.84)</u></b>

NOTE: EXPENSES INCLUDE ADVANCE PAYMENTS MADE IN 1992

# Growing in Sobriety

How many of us would presume to declare, "Well, I'm sober and I'm happy. What more can I want, or do? I'm fine the way I am." We know that the price of such self-satisfaction is an inevitable backslide, punctuated at some point by

a very rude awakening. We have to grow or else deteriorate. For us, the status quo can only be for today, never for tomorrow. Change we must; we cannot stand still.

**BILL W. *From the Grapevine,***  
*Feb. 1961*

## CNCA Delegates Report

July, 1993

The Grapevine Corporate Board has considered the 1993 Conference's "strong suggestion" that the Grapevine Wall Calendars and Pocket Planners be phased out. Because of the financial impact this would cause, and because of some strong reactions from the Fellowship to this suggestion, the Grapevine Board has decided to continue publication of these items through 1995 while allowing more time for a clear consensus to develop. The Board has also appointed a task force to study alternatives for raising Grapevine circulation, and any ideas we have on this are welcome. We need to keep talking among ourselves and to the Board on these issues in order to develop a more unified response.

For the past two years our Regional Trustee, Greg Muth, has served on the AA World Services Board and attended its Board meetings. He has always sent timely and complete reports, and with his rotation off the AAWS Board these will be missed. But he will try to keep the Pacific Region as updated as possible. In the coming year, Greg will chair the Trustees' Nominating Committee and serve on the Conference, Finance, and Public Information Committees, in addition to

being the Secretary of the General Service Board.

Greg is also chairing a PI Committee sub-committee on "Anonymity" which is reviewing the annual anonymity letter to the media. The sub-committee is also considering the Conference's action recommending that delegates encourage discussion on the spiritual principles of anonymity including photographs, publications and posthumous anonymity as related to our 11th and 12th Traditions. I encourage you to share your experience in fostering this discussion within your group or district; I'd like to be able to send Greg some input from this Area.

I am looking forward to giving the Conference report to seven more districts in July. If your district is one of them, I urge you to bring AA members not currently in the service structure to hear firsthand what we are doing in General Service. I can't think of a better way to convey the odd mix of seriousness and fun that General Service provides us than to bring a "newcomer" to hear a Conference report and discuss it afterward.

I continue to be grateful to all of you for your support and diligence.

With trust in the process,

DIANE W., *Delegate*  
San Mateo, CA

## Service Gladly Rendered

Service gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the fact that in God's sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely given brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we can fit and belong in God's scheme of things - these

are the satisfactions of right living for which no pomp or circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes.

BILL W. *From the 12x12*  
Via MIRUS, Minneapolis, MN

## Musts (Continued from Page Two)

Consequently, the individual is free to start the steps at whatever point he can or will...His admission is the beginning of humility...That is all the start he needs. If, following this achievement, he will relax and practice as many of the steps as he can, he is sure to grow spiritually."

On page 22 of *Three Talks to Medical Societies*, Bill explained that "Adherence to these principles (Steps) is not a condition of AA membership. Any alcoholic who admits he has a problem is an AA member regardless of how much he disagrees with the program." On page 31 he declared that "The one theological proposition is a Power greater than oneself. Even this concept is forced on no one. The newcomer merely immerses himself in our Society and tries the program as best he can. Left alone, he will surely report the gradual onset of a transforming experience, call it what he may." [Quotations are reprinted with permission of AAWS, Inc. and the AA Grapevine, Inc.]

FRANK B., *Napa, CA*

## STOCKTON

(Continued from Page One)  
are some of the highlights.

We are using the Holiday Inn Plum Tree Plaza as our host hotel. Reservations can be made by calling (209)474-3301. They will be holding a block of rooms for us until September 8.

The hotel will furnish frequent shuttle service to the Civic Auditorium. Please be sure to mention NCCAA when you register at your favorite hotel or motel.

**Please Renew Your  
Subscription Promptly**

# HUMOR

**CRAZY CUCKOO CLOCKS** revisited: Joe was supposed to be home at eleven, but you know how that goes. He got to talking and sipping, down at the local bar, and the next thing he knew, it was nearly three in the morning. He hustled home, as fast as his rubbery legs would let him, and made it into his house just as the cuckoo clock fired up and chirped three times. Hoping to fool his wife, he cuckooed a few more times, then went to bed, proud of his cleverness.

In the morning,, his wife said, "Joe, you'll have to do something about that cuckoo clock."

Instantly alert (sort of), Joe demanded, "What's the matter with it?"

"Well, I don't know," his wife answered, "Last night when you came home, it cuckooed three times, then it burped, then said, '@#\*-\*!?' and then cuckooed eleven more times." -----

REVEREND: "Don't you know, sir, that brandy is your worst enemy?"

HALF-BAGGED PARISHIONER: "Yes, Reverend, but just last Sunday, you said we should love our enemies."

*(From the Grapevine)*

## NCCAA CONFERENCE DATES

**1993 Conferences**  
**STOCKTON** - October 8, 9, 10  
**1994 Conferences**  
**OAKLAND** - March 25, 26, 27  
**MONTEREY** - June 24, 25, 26  
**MODESTO** - October 7, 8, 9  
**1995 Conferences**  
**FRESNO** - March 10, 11, 12  
**SAN MATEO** - June 2, 3, 4  
**SACRAMENTO** - Oct. 6, 7, 8  
**1996 Conferences**  
**MONTEREY** - March 8, 9, 10  
**SAN JOSE** - June

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS FINANCIAL STATEMENT JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1993

<b>INCOME</b>	
Fresno Conference	\$21,195.85
Redding Conference	7,456.56
7th Tradition - Steering Comm. Meeting	<u>38.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$28,690.41</u></b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Fresno Conference	\$10,517.29
Redding Conf. (to June 30, 1993)	7,398.44
Stockton Conf. (to June 30, 1993)	1,537.60
Chairman's Expenses	456.38
Treasurer's Expenses	131.70
Coastal Secretary's Expenses	36.00
Interior Secretary's Expenses	146.90
Telephone	306.09
San Francisco Central Office	225.00
GOODNEWS	600.00
Tax Exempt Tax Returns	262.00
Steering Committee Room Rental	<u>19.00</u>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$21,636.40</u></b>
<b>REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7,054.01</b>

**NOTE: Expenses Include Advance Payments Made in 1992**

<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	
Balance January 1, 1993	\$20,000.00
Deposits	28,667.41
Checks Written	<u>(17,522.64)</u>
Balance June 30, 1993	<b><u>\$31,144.77</u></b>
Petty Cash Fund	<u>\$19.00</u>

<b>PREPAID EXPENSES</b>	
Deposits for 1994 Conferences	<u>\$900.00</u>

## Computer Woes Delay GOOD NEWS

Computer problems have contributed to the lateness of the GOOD NEWS for the last couple of months. Not enough memory has been a problem, not enough disk space has also been a draw-back, resulting in crashing. Older programs wouldn't run with updated ones, files from Word wouldn't transport into an older version of PageMaker, you name it, we've had it. Hours and dollars later all programs are in order and up and running. Let's hope to get back on schedule soon!

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