



GOOD NEWS



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

NOV. • DEC.
1993

Does this sound familiar? **What Do We Cut?**

"Shall we decrease office hours? Stop selling literature to the groups? Reduce the frequency of meeting directory printings, or just stop printing it? Eliminate the Newsletter? Reduce twelve step support?"

I have become very concerned about our ability as a fellowship to continue to support the level of services we are currently providing. Donations have been down at all levels. Intergroup has had only two quarters in the black in the last four and a half years. If this trend continues we will be forced to reduce or eliminate services. We need your help in determining the direction our fellowship is to take. Can we turn this trend around? We can if everyone will carry the message. If not, where do we cut?

Part of the decline can be attributed to the economy, but not all. Part of it may be unawareness, or indifference.

I see us patting ourselves on the back for the success we have had in the past. Yet we have a long way to go to reach all alcoholics who still suffer. The world's population is now over 5.5 billion, with 250 million in the U.S. Using 10% as the percentage of alcoholics, there are over 550 million alcoholics worldwide and

25 million in the U.S. We have approximately 1.5 million AA members in the U.S. and Canada, and maybe another one million worldwide. Can't we do better?

A number of things besides the economy have probably
(See WHAT CUT?, Page Four)

Warm greetings and much love from the new Olsen nest in the beautiful Cupertino hills. After experiencing the lessons and challenges of a big move, the fabulous NCCAA Conference in Stockton was a breath of fresh air, warm and wonderful.

The members of the incredible Stockton Host Committee were on the firing lines all weekend, making sure that every detail was taken care of and that every need was met. All eight speakers shared beautifully, Jim Estelle (non-alcoholic Chairman of our General Service Board of Trustees) not

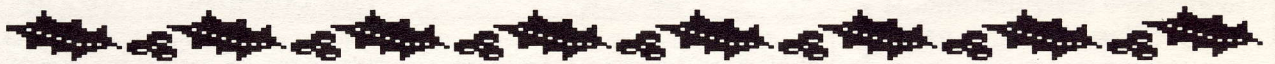
Come to Oakland in The Spring

The next NCCAA Conference will be held in Oakland next March 25, 26, and 27 at the Parc Oakland Hotel. You will be amazed at the changes that have been made in the surrounding neighborhood, with many new office buildings and stores cropping up everywhere. Hope to see you there.

News From The Chairperson

only delivered a vital message to us but also was available to everyone throughout most of the weekend. I heard the best All Services Panel it has ever been my privilege to attend, and our positive and productive Steering Committee discussed and recommended to the Open Delegates' Meeting six business items of high interest.

The Steering Committee, after many months of discussion, passed on to the Open Delegates' Meeting the recommendation to discontinue the Finance Com-
(See CHAIRPERSON, Page Three)



Happy Holidays

Hospital & Institution Corner

My Impression of the 21st Annual H & I Conference in Santa Rosa

The drive to Santa Rosa was great; I can't remember seeing so many wildflowers and such green hills in a decade. We arrived early on Friday, and Rick went exploring while I took a nap.

As usual in Santa Rosa, the Conference was well supported by the local AA community and the program was well-organized and effective. The speakers were fine (I particularly liked listening to Wallace from North Carolina) and the panels were interesting (it took imagination to put together a panel of psychiatrists in recovery).

But the most fun for me happened on Saturday afternoon. I'd been invited to share on what I originally thought was to be a panel on H&I history. What it turned out to be was a two-speaker meeting on H&I history, with me as the warm-up speaker for the beloved curmudgeon of Stockton, Bill S. So I decided to really warm him up.

I shared a different version of why the pink cans are pink, related to me years ago by Chuck K. of the old San Pablo Friendly Fellowship, and a story told to me by my sponsor, Bud G. of Nevada City about an amusing confrontation between Bill S., and George R., which took place in Watsonville at the time of the great Vacaville split. In addition to my faulty memory, I added a few fictional details guaranteed to warm Bill up. He was great!

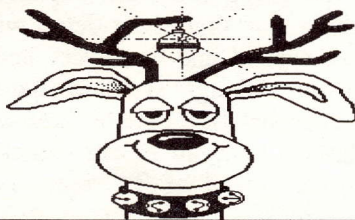
Bill had forgotten to bring his copious notes on H&I history, but once he was started, he needed no notes.

Those attending that particular meeting were very flattering in their praise of our performance (Bill later suggested that we should take it on the road) and seemed relieved that it hadn't been a long, dry listing of facts.

Congratulations to Santa Rosa AA and the local H&I Committee; they really know how to put on a successful conference. Incidentally, they started with a meager fund of some \$800, and will be turning over some \$4800 to the Santa Cruz committee for 1994's Conference.

BOB H., Stockton, CA

(Submitted by BILL S., Stockton)



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."

Commitment

It is heartening to behold newcomers who are enthusiastic over service. They seem to have an instinct for what can bring contentment to their sobriety. Others seem fearful of any commitment, of even such jobs as coffee-making or chair-arranging.

In truth, action is the magic word. People in service don't drink. Action relieves the depression of self-centeredness. The interaction of trusted servants leads to victories over loneliness; to the formation of enjoyable acquaintanceships. Such acquaintanceships are conducive to enduring friendships. Loneliness begins to ebb away into the past.

Service can be instrumental to spiritual progress. When we study and discuss the Three Legacies, our understanding deepens, along with our faith and confidence.

Newcomers who venture into service are putting into practice the slogan: "Stick with the winners." On the other hand, steering committees and oldtimers should support and encourage them.

It is crucial for newcomers to receive reassurance in their first jobs. Here is where rotation needs to be understood. Rotation is not desertion. The out-going servant can always be available to the successor in a consultant role, and, in a pinch, as an alternate. The more well-read in basic literature the oldtimer is, the more information he can reveal to his successor.

Perhaps newcomers are most
(See COMMITMENT, Next Page)

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

News From The Chairperson

(Continued from Page One)

mittee. The delegates concurred, and so the Steering Committee will now provide any guidelines that the Treasurer may need.

Guidelines for using an interpreter for the hearing impaired at our Conferences were adopted. They allow for local autonomy, but any expense incurred must be approved by the N C C A A Chairperson.

Our current Treasurer, David K., moved that we engage an outside accountant (preferable non-alcoholic) to prepare our year-end compilation and our non-profit organization tax returns to insure continued compliance with federal and state laws. There was much discussion, as there generally is when we talk about money in Alcoholics Anonymous, before the Steering Committee and delegates passed the motion.

Dianne J., Chairperson of the Committee to update the *Purpose, Structure, Functions Booklet*, reported that her committee has been very busy and productive. The changes to our booklet that were proposed were approved by the delegates.

George M. reported that his committee to prepare an NCCAA inventory is moving forward, slowly but surely. Input from NCCAA members is strongly encouraged. If you have not added to George's wealth of ideas, please call him and pass yours on (408 248-5829)!

Redding's bid for the 1996 Fall Conference was approved. The Red Lion Hotel will host us, and Guy J. was able to move the date to our approved second weekend (October 11-13, 1996) with very little difficulty. Thank you, Guy, for the extra effort on our behalf!

The final item of business brought to the Open Delegates'

Meeting was that the Young People's Chairperson be made an Officer of the Council with the same partial reimbursement privileges. This was an item of great interest to everyone, and there was lengthy discussion before it was passed.

We have some very interesting ideas that we will be discussing under Old and New Business at our Steering Committee meeting in Stockton on Sunday, December 5. These items will be carried forward to our 10:45 AM meeting in Oakland on March 26, 1994, where possible action will be taken on them at the Open Delegates' Meeting at 2:30 PM. In brief summary, they are: (1) to adopt the Third Legacy procedure in the election of the NCCAA Chairperson and Treasurer, (2) to put the hotel list and the map on the back of the Conference program flier, (3) to lower the registration fee for those who pre-register to \$3.00, and, (4) at the Oakland Conference, we will accept bids for the 50th Annual NCCAA Spring Conference.

Speaking of the Spring Conference in Oakland, I would be remiss if I did not tell you that the Oakland Host Committee is alive and well and growing. Chairman Joe M. has drawn together a wonderful group of AAs who are committed and enthusiastic and ready to put on the best NCCAA Conference ever. Joe Ploman of the Oakland Convention Center and Jean Blakeney, Sales Director of the Parc Oakland Hotel, are also determined to help us to make this the best Conference that Oakland has hosted.

Monterey will host the 47th Annual Summer Conference the last weekend in June 1994. Casa Munras will be our host hotel, offering us wonderful nightly rates

of \$79 for a single room and \$89 for a double room. MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: The Blues Festival will be held at the Fairgrounds the same weekend, and so it is imperative that you register early at the hotel of your choice. Please remember, too, how important it is in Monterey to let your hotel know that you are here for the NCCAA Conference. If we document occupancy of 500 room-nights that weekend, the cost of the Convention Center will be defrayed.

I continue to be overwhelmed by all your love and support. Thank you, again, for the privilege of serving you as your Chairperson.

Yours in love and service,

DIANE O., *Cupertino, CA*

To Guard Against A Slip

Suppose we fall short of our chosen ideals and stumble? Does this mean we are going to get drunk? Some people tell us so. But this is only a half-truth.

It depends on us and our motives. If we are sorry for what we have done, and have the honest desire to let God take us to better things, we believe we will be forgiven and will have learned our lesson. If we are not sorry, and our conduct continues to harm others, we are quite sure to drink. These are facts out of our experience.

(Taken from "AS BILL SEES IT," AAWS, with permission)

Commitment

(Continued from Page Two)

attracted to service by enthusiasm. They are won over by the vivacity and sincerity of those who have proven themselves trustworthy. Above all, they should be convinced that service keeps us sober. That's the bottom line.

FRANK B., *Napa, CA*

What Do We Cut?

(Continued from Page One)

contributed to the decline in contributions. Inflation has eroded the \$1.00 contribution that has traditionally been placed in the basket for the last twenty years. Meeting expenses, particularly rent, have increased and yet donations have not. Are we overindulging ourselves by spending too much for refreshments at some of our meetings? Is that where we want our donations to go? Can we get by spending less? Another factor may be the fact that average meeting attendance per individual has been decreasing. In the 1986 membership survey, the average attendance was four meetings per week; in the 1989 survey, it dropped to three meetings per week; and it was down to two and a half in the 1992 survey. This means that if each individual was putting in a dollar per meeting, the result as about \$6.45 less in contributions per member per month. If you are one of those individuals attending fewer meetings per week, consider increasing your donation.

It has long been recommended that a donation be the cost of a drink. I am unaware of any place that sells any kind of alcoholic beverage for \$1.00. When I go to a comedy club and order a *Calistoga* with a squeeze, it costs me about \$2.75. Ask yourself, "Is my sobriety worth the price of a drink?"

What services do you and your group want curtailed or eliminated if increased donations are not forthcoming? Shall we decrease office hours? Stop selling literature to the groups? Reduce the frequency of meeting directory printings, or just stop printing it? Eliminate the *Newsletter*? Reduce twelve step support

To make these hard decisions and make our members aware of the financial crisis, we need as wide participation as possible. Attendance at monthly Intergroup meetings is about 40 members, yet we have over 500 groups in Santa Clara County. Don't complain about what "they are doing" if you and your group are not involved. To quote Walt Kelly's Pogo, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Get involved. If your group doesn't have an Intergroup representative, volunteer to be one. Group secretaries are eligible to represent their groups in the absence of an Intergroup rep or alternate.

In the spirit of love and fellowship,

PETE P., Cupertino, CA
(Reprinted from the Santa Clara INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER San Jose, CA)

Blueprint for a Good Day

1. **Choose to have a good day** upon awakening each morning. A brief moment of prayer at that time can influence our decision to have a good day. We are free to have either a good day or a bad day, just as we are free to choose to be grateful or vengeful, cheerful or melancholy.

2. **Plan on having a good day.** Choosing should be followed by planning. We need to develop an appropriately balanced daily program of physical, mental, and spiritual activities. Planning should include nutrition, exercise, reading, meetings, meditation, and prayer. Such planned activities can, through time, become addictive in a positive way.

3. **Work at having a good day.** It has been said that we should "plan our work and then work our plan." The successful AA member is one who works the program on a daily basis. We should not permit ourselves to make conve-

Subscriptions Up During Stockton Conference

New subscriptions and renewals were up as a result of the Stockton Conference. Our mailing list is now over 300 per issue, which includes many "Complementary Copies" to various Intergroups throughout the U.S. on an exchange basis.

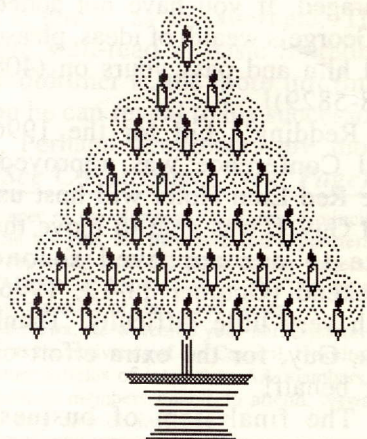
Thank you for your continued support! You can further help by sending more articles of interest as we are always on the lookout for new material.

If you would like to help out at the **GOOD NEWS** table at conferences, stop by and see us in Oakland next March. It's a good place to sit for awhile and you will get to meet many new people.

nient excuses, e.g., "I don't feel well enough to exercise today." We should also make someone else's day better in some way, thereby making a better day for ourselves.

These three simple steps, followed faithfully, can lead toward lengthening sobriety - one day at a time.

(From the AA GRAPEVINE, Feb. 1983, via the OREGON AREA NEWSLETTER)



HUMOR

Moe and Joe, triumphantly bagged, are returning from the hunt dragging their moose by the hind legs. Joe stops and says, "you know, Moe, the hairs on this animal are creating friction. It'd be a lot easier to drag it with the hair rather than against it."

So they grab the bull by the horns and try it. Fifteen minutes later, Moe stops and complains, "You're right, Joe. It is easier. But now we're farther away from the pickup truck!"

The town souse went to see the doctor. "I hurt all over my entire body," he complained. He laid his finger on his left shoulder. "When I touch myself here," he whined, "it hurts." Then he put his finger on his thigh. "When I touch here, it hurts." And so on. "No matter where I touch myself, Doc, it hurts something terrible! Please! What's wrong with me?"

The doctor said, "You have a broken finger."

(From the GRAPEVINE, October 1993, with permission)

N C C A A
CONFERENCE DATES

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 - May 31, June 1, 2

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Please Pre-Register
Early**

Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous	
1993 Stockton Financial Statement	
November 14, 1993	
REVENUE	AMOUNT
Pre-Registration (164)	\$820.00
Registration (1,155)	<u>\$5,777.00</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION 1,319	\$6,597.00
Concessions	\$3,733.93
Drawing	\$1,687.10
Workshops	106.29
Marathon Meetings	399.67
General Service Meetings	36.95
H&I Meetings	68.20
Early Bird Speaker Meeting	62.02
Friday Night Speaker Meeting	562.06
Young Peoples' Speaker Meeting	277.15
Saturday Night Speaker Meeting	948.00
Sunday Morning Speaker Meeting	<u>379.60</u>
	<u>\$8,260.97</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$14,857.97</u>
EXPENSES	
Concessions Food Costs	\$1,705.20
Printing	\$1,732.81
Mailings	143.53
Speaker/Committee Travel	1,708.20
Speaker/Committee Dinner	460.00
Speaker/Committee Lodging	1,165.91
Insurance	1,192.00
Convention Center (Includes Permits, Security)	3,738.00
Free Drawing	321.17
Flowers & Decorations	278.80
Band	300.00
Ribbons	168.40
Sign Language Interpreter	240.00
Sound & Lighting Labor	<u>406.25</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$13,560.27</u>
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENSE	<u>\$1,297.70</u>



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