



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

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1996

UPCOMING -- NCCAA 49th Annual Fall Conference

NCCAA 'Falls' Back To Redding For Conference

Those of us long time NCCAA conference goers are all excited and grateful that NCCAA is finally getting back to Redding during the best time of the year--the Fall. Guy J. and the whole Redding Host Committee have been working very hard to make this another very successful NCCAA Fall Conference.

Don't forget, your registration at a local hotel or motel is credited toward our bill for the use of the Convention Center, so please make sure this gets noted when you register. I attended my first Conference ever in the Fall of 1986, where I was awestruck by the

power of the Redding Convention Center filled with hundreds of "happy" sober alcoholics.

Then, I got to listen to the speakers stand up and tell their incredible stories of recovery in this program. By the way, Chuck D. was the Sunday morning speaker 10 years ago. Standing up in Redding as a "first time" conference attendee remains one of the highlights of my sobriety. I urge each of you to bring along a newcomer so that they, too,

may have this experience.

We'll be seeing you in a few weeks in beautiful Redding, CA.



Please mention
NCCAA when you
register at any hotel or
motel. This will help
defray our expenses.
Thanks!

NCCAA CONFERENCES

1997 CONFERENCES
FRESNO - March 14, 15, 16
OAKLAND - June 6,7,8
SACRAMENTO - Oct. 3, 4, 5

1998 CONFERENCES
MONTEREY - March 13, 14, 15
SAN JOSE - June 5, 6, 7
MODESTO - October 2,3,4

1999 CONFERENCES
FRESNO - March

UPDATE -- NCCAA 49th Annual Summer Conference

NCCAA Summer Conference -- 'We Know The Way' To San Jose

We AA's, old and new, found our way to San Jose and we were greeted by the San Jose Committee with enthusiasm, love, and good old fashioned AA hospitality.

Our journeys were worth it as we were privileged to be able to hear wonderful sharing from the podium by all participants. I can share with you that NCCAA takes a lot of time to choose our speakers for the four main meetings and this extra effort was rewarded in San Jose, as with all our NCCAA Conferences. After all, we are each alcoholics--equal when we stand up against our disease. Each speaker shared with gratitude and humility how they live our basic principle of "one drunk sharing with another."

In talking to many of the speakers and other participants at the San Jose Conference, I heard over and over how impressed they were with the quality of love and commitment shown by each and every committee person who helped with this Conference. No job is too small, and each of the participants can be proud of their part in the success of San Jose. I know I join with those who attended as we all say "THANKS" to Diane J. and her committee.

Although the San Jose Committee did the lion's share of the work
(Please See SAN JOSE, Page Four)

Greetings From The Chairman's Desk

Hello everyone in Northern California. The Redding Conference is right on target--with speakers confirmed and pre-registration looking good. Hope you are coming! It's beautiful in Redding in October.

Please join me in thanking the San Jose Conference Committee who did a wonderful job for us at the recent Summer conference. San Jose's hardworking committee put in many hours of work and because of all their efforts our Summer Conference was a rousing success.

Thanks to all of you.

Plans are still forming as far as the Summer 1999 conference is concerned. If you have any ideas, I would welcome them. The Speakers for the Oakland Summer Conference, June 6, 7, & 8, 1997 are Clint H. from Encino for Friday night, Kenna McC from Santa Monica, Young Persons, for Saturday night, Lew F. from British Columbia, Canada, and Jean S. from New York, New York will be our Sunday morning speaker.

Sacramento is going to be an

excellent conference. We have Jim B. from Bellevue, Nebraska for Friday night, Paula De M. from San Jose for Saturday Young Persons, Don G. from Atascadero will be our Saturday night speaker, and Polly P. from Cyress, California for the Sunday morning.

Hope you all are well. I hope to see all of you, along with many new delegates in Redding. We are going to have a great time. See you there.

*In Love and Service,
Ray Klepper, Chairman ☺
Red Bluff, CA*

Northern California Hospitals & Institutions (H&I): Reaching Out To The Alcoholic Who Is Confined

As always and first of all, many thanks to all of you in Northern California AA who have been so generous in your contributions to the Pink Cans of H&I.

Your financial generosity enables our Committee to purchase books, pamphlets, local AA directories, tapes, *Grapevines*, and other AA material for those who are confined in hospitals and

institutions. More than we on the outside may realize, their contact with the works of sobriety is often through the printed word of a book or pamphlet or the sound track of an AA film or AA speaker tape. Your help is greatly and gratefully appreciated.

As many of you probably know, there is now a Spanish-language *Grapevine*, and Northern California H&I has subscribed to 1,000 copies for distribution to Spanish speaking inmates. It has been enthusiastically received and will hopefully reach many who might have felt left out before due to language difficulties. We are

establishing more and more Spanish language groups in prisons, but, as always, people to carry the message of AA in Spanish are needed to make this possible.

As a matter of fact, more people are always needed to help carry the message to those who are confined. Our local area committees are being asked continually to provide a meeting for this facility or that. The Committee is willing and finds the facility is acceptable, but then, there are not enough people to maintain such a meeting. The answer then has to be "No", or some of the local members find themselves

(Please See H&I, 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 1581
Vacaville, CA 95696-1581

**Tentative Deadline
Guidelines**

(Not Set in Stone)

First week in January for January Issue
April 1 for Spring Issue
July 1 for Summer Issue
First week in October for Winter Issue

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."

Tradition Four: Autonomy And Unity

"Each Group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."

The Long Form extends this to say: "With respect to its own affairs, each group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect AA as a whole, without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount."

Under Concept XII we learn that certain, Tradition difficulties are local with no national or international implication; that there are gray areas where violations are so debatable and inconsequential as to be hardly worth bothering about; that these problems should be solved chiefly by local AA's.

The 12 and 12 indicates two storm signals: a group should not do anything which would greatly injure AA as a whole, nor ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Tradition Four pertains to the group and the whole of AA. Thus, under Concept XII we read that the Conference above all is bound by Traditions, and that the Traditions outline the general basis on which we may best conduct our services. Therefore, we no doubt agree that under Tradition Four every Conference is autonomous, except in matters pertaining to other Conferences, or, to all Conferences as a whole. The AA World Service Meeting has been a blessing. The AA Service Manual describes it thus:

"World Service Meeting delegates participate in two World Service Meetings which are held every two years; one in New York City and the other in another country . . . One of the two delegates should come from the General Service Board or the overall Service Committee (in the U.S. and Canada both are Trustees of the General Service Board); delegates should have leadership qualities, genuine service interest, organizational ability, a knowledge and love of AA, time to attend the World Service Meetings, and be fully informed on AA in their countries or zones. Perhaps even more important, the delegates should have the time to present and carry out the decisions reached at the meetings."

Our Conference Charter declares that: "Other countries have created autonomous General Service Conferences . . . Consultation between Conferences is encouraged . . . Only matters seriously affecting AA's world-wide needs shall be the subject of joint consideration." (Quotes are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.)

Frank B. ☺, Napa, CA

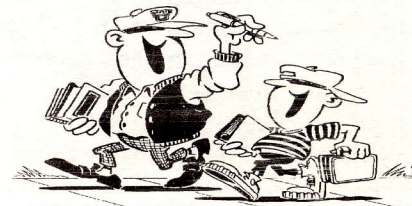
Northern California (H&I), Continued (From H&I, Page Two)

overcommitted and taking on several meetings. While that may work for a while, it is draining and can lead to "burn-out". So we need each of you to help in this Twelfth Step work. Contact your local area committee, or, if you have one, your Group Institution Representative for information on what to do to volunteer.

The General Service Office in New York (GSO) has come up with a new folder about Institutional Correspondence which is available through your Group's GSR (or soon will be). It outlines the need for AA members to correspond with sober inmates, the way to become part of this service, and guidelines for such correspondence. It also has a form

to fill in and return to GSO, New York, to help out in this very meaningful way.

Will N., ☺ Sacramento, CA



NCCAA San Jose Conference, *Continued*

(From San Jose, Front Page)

of the Conference, it was also the "rotating" conference for a whole new slate of officers. Ray and his three Secretary's came through their first effort relatively unscathed and they each did a fine job. It is with the true AA spirit of rotation that this new Committee was supported throughout the changeover by the outgoing officers. We can all learn a valuable lesson with their example. We need the experience and support of those who came before us. Rotation means you just move to another position on the ever moving wheel of AA service.

One of NCCAA's greatest treasures is its trusted servants who continue to be an active part of the Council well past their individual service jobs for NCCAA. I know I am grateful for their example.

So, San Jose was a rich experience in many ways. I look forward to seeing all of you in Redding as we continue to write our history. And, speaking of history, I said we would be giving you some past NCCAA experience and, through the contributions of several past and present trusted servants, we are able to deliver.

Ann K. of Hercules shares her NCCAA experience with us, and Frank B. of Napa resurrected an account of the beginning of

NCCAA. Did you know that NCCAA once had to pass the hat a second time? With \$1 registration, it's amazing that we survived for 49 years. Did you know that our co-founders, Bill and Bob, were part of NCCAA's origins? NCCAA came before General Service and these gatherings helped Bill and Bob to ". . . become members of AA like the rest of us."

NCCAA will be celebrating our 50th year of continuous conferences in 1997. I hope more past AA's who have stories to share about their NCCAA experience will contact the *Good News* so that we can share your experience with our readers. In this issue our new NCCAA Archivist, Diane O. asks for your help in providing us with any material for our Archives. In keeping with your desire to hear more about our past history, the Steering Committee will be discussing ways to celebrate our 50th Anniversary at each of our conferences in 1997. If you have any suggestions, please contact your local representative or stop by the NCCAA information table at the Redding Conference.

I would like to thank all of you who have contributed articles to this issue--it's jam packed. Our financial results, put together by our always reliable Treasurer, Dave K., are in this issue, as well

as articles from new contributors. I was very excited to get many new subscribers from the San Jose Conference and hope you are pleased with your very small investment of the \$3.50 subscription price. If you know of anyone else who would like to subscribe, please stop by the NCCAA Good News/Information table in Redding, I'd love to sign you up. If you, too, would like to contribute material for publishing, please, please send your contributions to me at the address on the back of the newsletter. We'd love to have you join our *Good News* family.

A special thanks to Karen Z. of Vacaville who is the technical expert on our Committee. Also, this month due to some unavoidable "life" happenings, I am sending out this issue late, but with the help of many of my good AA friends from Vacaville, Fairfield, and Suisun. Thanks guys, you know who you are. Also thanks to my best friend and proofreader, Tim D. The bottom line is this job like every other job I have been privileged to do for AA is completed with love, hope, and a lot of help from all of my friends, the ones I know and the ones I have yet to meet. I love you all!

Respectfully,
Carole Dorsey, Editor ☺
Vacaville, CA

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS -- Thanks to all those who have renewed their subscriptions since our last issue. And welcome to our new subscribers. Note the date for renewal on the label of your newsletter. We would appreciate it if you would let us know if you want to continue to receive our newsletter by sending in a renewal along with your remittance for a year's subscription of \$3.50. This amount would more than adequately cover all of the Good News' expenses if we can keep current. The Good News, as is NCCAA, is guided by our AA Traditions, and we want to be self-supporting, too. We will unfortunately have to drop some who have been receiving our newsletter and are overdue. We want all of our AA friends to keep in contact with us, **so won't you please let us hear from you?**

14-Jul-96

Northern California Council Of Alcoholics Anonymous

Balance Sheet

June 30, 1996

ASSETS

Cash in Bank	\$ 23,285
Prepaid Expenses, Redding Conference	<u>1,744</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 25,029</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Pre-registration fees - Redding	\$ <u>140</u>
Total Liabilities	140

Fund Balances

Redding 1966	1,604
Operating Reserve	3,285
Prudent Reserve	<u>20,000</u>

Total Fund Balances 24,889

Total Liabilities and
Fund Balances \$ 25,029

A.A. Service: Love In Action

The AA Service Manual opens with a clear guideline for all of us: *"Our Twelfth Step -- carrying the message -- is the basic service that the AA Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence."*

We each are links in the chain passing along what we have been so fortunate as to receive, a bucket-brigade of volunteer firefighters (or, in our case, firewater-fighters).

General Service, specifically, provides a process by which the group conscience can be transmitted, enabling us to abide by its steady beacon. My Home Group allowed me to serve as their General Service Representative as an act of faith in Alcoholics Anonymous' power to heal. Because it was important that they be a part of AA as a whole, they taught me to bring their voice to our District; because they wanted to participate with an informed group conscience, they taught me to listen and to read again, that I might carry material they needed to know.

Being available to serve is one way to live Step Twelve: *"Service, gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort . . ."*, this has given me *" . . . the proof that love freely given surely brings a full return . . ."*

Nancy H., ONCA
Chairperson ☺
St. Helena, CA

Special Section: Preserving Our History

NCCAA -- What It Was Like

When I made my first contact with AA in June 1955, evidently a conference had just been held in that city. I was not particularly interested in that and remember nothing more. However, we used to have four conferences a year; the fourth being in December.

I don't recall when that fourth conference was eliminated. Maybe Bill Garrison would remember. I was not into conferences too much in my early years as I was too poor to even consider going to one. Be that as it may, during those days, conferences were held in Marysville, Chico, Vallejo, and other smaller towns around Northern California; we were not so big at that time.

Also, the Chairperson of the conference really had a lot of work to do. there was no Treasurer, so he/she took care of the funds. they also got all the information together and had the programs printed. At those times, along with programs and fliers, we also sent out large posters . . . and programs were mailed to groups so you could see who was going to be onstage. Also, it was the custom to ask the Mayor or some city official to do a welcoming address for use; we also had one minister/priest to give the invocation.

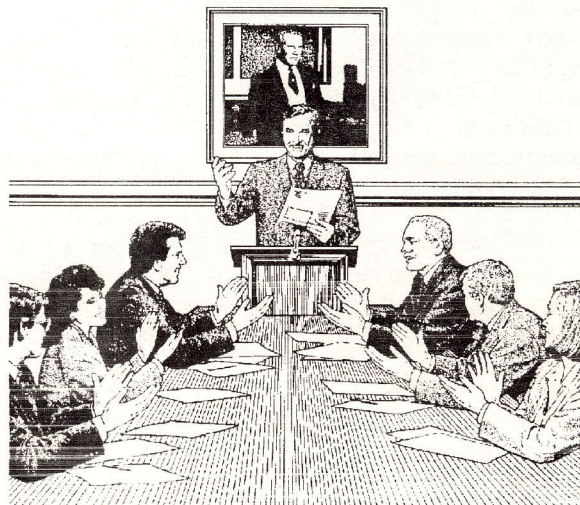
Back then, there was a banquet. We usually charged \$5 for the banquet and broke our necks trying to sell tickets to them. Remember that this was at the time when conference registration was \$1 and that is what it remained for many years.

My first official connection with NCCAA was when I became Assistant Secretary to Mac Mc Donald who lived in Fresno. I would carry my portable manual typewriter with me to the Conference; taking down in shorthand the minutes of the morning NCC Steering Committee. I would then rush off to some room nearby and transcribe those notes so they would be legible and easy to read at the afternoon delegates meeting.

Back in those days, our post/pre-conference meetings were held at various sites; sometimes in Alameda, San Pablo, Sacramento, or wherever. At those meetings, we nominated and voted on each reader and chairperson as well as the speakers. So, we often had lots of interested people come to those meetings to vote on those items.

I have to tell you that Max was an intense person and once when the Conference was held in Fresno, it looked very much like we were going into the red. Max was frantic and did the only thing to do--he passed the basket a 2nd time! He couldn't bear the thought of going into the red in his hometown!

Anne K., ☺ Hercules, CA



Special Section: Preserving Our History

NCCAA--Meeting The Needs Of Early A.A. In Northern California And Nevada

Editors Note: The following was submitted by our own Frank B. of Napa, a regular contributor to the Good News. Frank writes:

"Past NCC Chair, Bill Garrison, furnished the following account in August 1984. It may have appeared in Good News, at least substantially. It was around August of 1984 that Bill asked Ken Bovard '... to do a little write-up which would include ... information as to Good News.'"

My thanks to Frank and Bill.

During the early days of AA when AA was just getting its start on the West Coast - and in the East where A.A. was born were still in its growing pains - before the 12 suggested traditions were published - and many groups around the country were having their own rules and by-laws (and like or co-founder, Bill W., once said, "If AA had accepted only a few of these rules and by-laws, most of us wouldn't have been eligible for membership.")

Five of us sat around a poker table at the old Bush Street Alano Club in San Francisco, California, on a Sunday morning, 1946, discussing group problems and how to cope with them. I mentioned a group problem we were experiencing in Reno as we're a new group and started out cold turkey. Dave Davenport of Palo Alto said his group experienced the same problem and what his group did about it. Then the others offered suggestions - the others, as I recall, were Bob George, Ray Holgate, Fred Katz of San Francisco, and Myself. We got together the next Sunday at the same place and continued to discuss group problems and how to cope with them. Nic Nicison from Berkeley, California, joined us. We began to hold these sessions once a month. Anyone was welcome to sit in with us and make suggestions or talk about group problems and how to cope with them. By exchanging these group problems, we might achieve some unity within the Fellowship on the West Coast. Ed Agnew of Alameda, someone from San Rafael, Vic Maloney of Sacramento, and Floyd Bowers of Roseville, often met with us. Someone said we don't need to worry about AA on the West Coast as long as Bill and Dr. Bob are in the East to watch over AA. Bob George said, "Suppose Bill and Bob should die, then what would happen to us?"

Ray Holgate of San Francisco made a trip to New York to talk with our co-founder, Bill W., about forming the Northern California Council of AA (NCCAA). Bill approved the idea and told Ray if it works than maybe he and Dr. Bob can become members of AA like the rest of us.

The first Council meeting was held in San Francisco, as I recall, under the name of "Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous." The second Council meeting was in Sacramento at the Civic Auditorium. The house was full. Several of us from Reno and Northern Nevada attended the Council session. Art Starr of San Francisco suggested that Nevada become a part of the Council. Nevada was unanimously voted in and I was selected as the Nevada representative.

On my way to the Next Council session to be held in San Jose, California, I stopped at the Bush Street Alano Club in San Francisco to ask O.K. Posey if he wanted to go with me. He said he didn't believe in governing bodies. I said we didn't either, that this was the primary purpose of the Council. A few minutes later O.K. said well, let's get going. We drove to San Jose in O.K.'s Model A. O.K. asked many questions regarding the purpose of the Council. On the way back, he was giving a lot of answers. O.K. became one of the more active members of the Council.

At the next Council meeting to be held in San Francisco, I suggested the Council should publish its own newspaper. Let the groups know what the Council stands for and its purpose and where the next Council meeting will be held. it would end a lot of letter writing and other material. There was a long moment of silence, then Jean Shelburn stood up and said, "I think Kenny has a good idea - we need an AA newspaper." O.K. Posey stood up and said the idea was good, but who is going to do all the work. I said, "You're an old newspaper man, you be the editor and let the group secretaries send you the material.

My next trip to San Francisco at the Alano Club, O.K. Posey was sitting at a table with another man over the corner of the room. O.K. called me over and introduced the man with him to me as a printer who had his own printing office at the beach. he then showed me the first copy of the newspaper and asked me what I wanted to name it. I said, "I'm not a newspaper man, I just like the idea. It's your baby, you name it." O.K. then ran ads in the first issues asking for suggested names. I believe it was a lady from the Bay Area who suggested "Good News", and that it was and still is, *Good News*."

After a year and a half of the Council being in effect, our co-founder, Bill W., met with a few of us at the Lake Merrit Hotel in Oakland. He said this is what I want for the third legacy.

After serving two years as the Nevada representative, I moved to San Jose, California (my birth place), to work a few weeks. While I was there, I was asked to represent Santa Clara area at the next Council session to be held in

Special Section: Preserving Our History

San Francisco, I accepted. When we got to the San Francisco Council, Kay Posey was Secretary of the Council at the time, and OK's wife.

Kay told me that no one showed up from Nevada and asked if I would represent Nevada today, in order to keep Nevada in. I said I would, as there were several others from Santa Clara who could select someone in my place.

The next Council meeting was to be held in Reno, Nevada, and Kay Posey received a letter from my successor telling her they didn't want the Council held in Reno, nor did Nevada want to be a part of the Council any longer.

When I got back to Reno, no one seemed to know anything about dropping out of the Council, or preventing the Council from being held in Reno. The representative was out of town trying to sober up at another AA's house. I thought he should be the representative, as he was the biggest critic in Reno AA, and maybe if he got active in service, he would learn a new perception of AA.

Bill W. once said, "Show me someone who is being talked about in AA, and I'll show you someone who is doing good in AA."

*Tradition 12 is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions,
ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*

Ken Boward ©, Reno, NV, August 1984



NCCAA -- Preserving Our History

Before I talk about our NCCAA Archives, I want to thank all of you one more time for the incredible four years that I spent serving you as your Chairperson. I have never learned more, been so busy, or received so much love and support. It was, indeed, an amazing adventure which enhanced my sobriety and enriched my life. I, also, want to congratulate our wonderful new team of officers. They did a splendid job of running herd on us rampant San Jose AA's as we hosted the 49th Annual Summer NCCAA Conference. It was a grand weekend. I must confess that I love being the rotated NCCAA Chairperson, especially since my home group is allowing me to be their Greeter. It has taken me nearly twenty-two years in AA to figure this out, but Greeter is the best service position in the Fellowship. I love all the hugs. And, Oh Yes!, as Greeter I have the privilege of handing out medallions on birthday night. Just too neat!

When I was elected Chairperson in 1992, I was handed a number of dirty, dusty old boxes to go along with the job. After at least six months, when I finally came up for air, I began to go through these boxes with the help of husband, Perry, and Diane and Ron J. I focused on the fliers and programs which are an integral part of the information about each conference. I was saddened because there were so many programs, as well as a few fliers, missing. Bart and Nina supplied the missing fliers (we did not begin to create fliers until the 1972 Fall Conference in Sacramento) and all of the missing programs from 1963 to the present. We are missing the program for the 1962 Summer Conference and everything before 1962 with two exceptions: the 1958 Fall Conference in Ukiah and the 1959 Spring Conference in Stockton.

I believe that many, if not all, of our missing programs can be found if we put our minds and hearts to it and really dig deep. If all of you will spread the word at your local Intergroup/Central Office meetings as well as our area General Service and Hospitals and Institutions meetings, I know that these "lost" programs will begin to surface. Our AA longtimers have traditionally been very history conscious and surely have passed on their AA treasure troves to their friends and service entities. I thank you in advance for your help!

I bring the two archival binders with me to every Conference. If they are not under my arm, they are at the *Good News* table or the NCCAA Delegates' table. They contain a fascinating trip through the annals of our NCCAA history. Please experience the adventure.

Yours in love and in service.

Diane Olsen, ☺ NCCAA Archivist

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