



GOOD NEWS



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By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

MARCH
1997

Good-Bye! From Redding to Fresno for our 50th Anniversary Spring Conference

NCCAA Travels South to Fresno in the Central Valley

Many, many thanks to Carol C.R. and all of the local Committee. Once again you welcomed all of us AA's back to the Fall splendor of Redding with love and enthusiasm. I've rarely been greeted more warmly. The Conference was a great success: wonderful speakers shared their experience, strength, and hope, AA friends gathered, and together we shared our message of happy, joyous sobriety through our 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

Your Good News Editor had a blast at our table. I got to talk to many old friends and I made a few new ones, too. There were 18 new subscribers and 3 renewals from the Conference. Thanks for your support.

Look out Fresno, here we come! God willing the weather

will cooperate and we can once again meet in the great Central Valley. Fresno as always, is prepared and eagerly awaiting the 50th Spring Conference. Chairwomen

*“... friends gathered,
and together we
shared our message...”*

Juli G. heads up the very experienced local Committee. In Fresno, we see an example of the spirit in which NCCAA was founded. NCCAA takes a conference to an area who does not have many conferences. We encourage and support the Local Committee who in turn invites AA's from the entire local area. In Fresno, however, the local area reaches down to

Bakersfield, into the Sierras, and across the valley. Having been born and raised in Firebaugh, I hope to see someone from home. It warms my heart to know that others I grew up with have also found this wonderful program. I often mention that in my home District of Northern Solano, we are very fortunate to have 60 to 70 meetings a week. I know that AA's from many of the small towns in the valley and throughout Northern California have to travel great distances to be able to get to as many meetings as I have within 15 minutes of my home. Anyway, I always look forward to going back to Fresno County. I know the Fresno Committee will again reach out their loving arms and allow many AA's to be of service by participating in the Conference. **SEE YOU IN FRESNO!**

NCCAA To Elect New Treasurer

Let's give Dave K., NCCAA's very wonderful Treasurer, a show of gratitude! Dave is not only an outstanding NCCAA Treasurer, he is a committed trusted servant to this AA Fellowship, CNCA, and his home District in Sonoma County. I am proud to call him my friend and I will miss working with him on this Committee. He will continue to participate in the Conferences.

(Please See TREASURER, Page 2)

Greetings From The Chairman's Desk

Well hello everyone, and welcome to the 50th Anniversary year of NCCAA! Isn't it great that we have been here for 50 years doing this—that's what it takes, consistency and persistence.

I am real excited about our first Conference this year which will be held in Fresno, March 14, 15, and 16, at the Fresno Convention Center. The Holiday Inn, adjacent to the Center, is the host hotel. Juli G. is our Local Chairperson. She has done a superb job, and so has the entire local committee. They are very excited about this conference, and are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

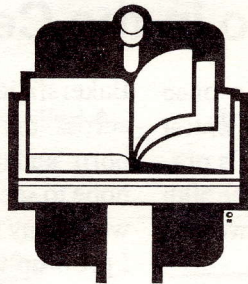
We have a great lineup of speakers, panelists, and readers! Our Friday afternoon opening meeting is split with 2 speakers from Fresno, K. B.B. and Larry S. Our Friday Night "Kickoff" speaker is Frank J.

(Please See CHAIRMAN, Page 2)

The Chairman's Desk *(Continued from Page 1)*

from Valencia, California. Saturday morning the General Service speaker is Bill M. from Santa Rosa. Saturday afternoon, Marty J. from Alberta, Canada will be the Young People's Speaker. Saturday night is Bob B. from St. Paul Minnesota, followed on Sunday morning by Lorna K. from New York, New York. We have a lineup of panelists from the Northern California H&I Committee who will share how they carry the message into facilities where people are confined. Please, I hope you will attend this Conference—NCCAA needs your support—and your input.

Oakland is all fired up and ready to go. Georganne G. has put together a very enthusiastic committee. They have been meeting on a regular basis and are very excited about their conference. We have a very good lineup of speakers for



Oakland, including Clint H., Kenna McC., Lew F. from Vancouver, Canada, and Jean S. from New York, New York. Sacramento has started their committee meetings, and Mike McF., the local chair, has started things rolling in Sacramento and West Sac. The speakers for Sacramento's Fall Conference are Jim B. from Bellevue, Nebraska, Paula DiM. from Sunnyvale, Don G. and Polly P. This is gearing up to be another great conference in Sacramento.

Now for other business at hand. David K. has served as our Treasurer for the last 4 years and his term is up. Therefore, one of the business matters in Fresno will be the election of a Treasurer for the next term. It is a 2 year term and is restricted to no more than 2 consecutive terms. You must have 5 years of sobriety, with a service

background. Accounting experience would be helpful.

David has done a spectacular job and our hats are off to him for a job well done. David is one of those AA members who will go to any length. It shows in his reports and all of the financial statements. So once again a big **THANK YOU DAVID!**

The nominations will be held at the Saturday 10:45 AM Steering Committee meeting. The nominations are to be made by Steering Committee Members. The election will be by the 3rd Legacy procedure and will be held at the Saturday afternoon Open Delegates Meeting (which includes Steering Committee Members and Group Delegates). This meeting is at 2:40 PM on the main center floor of the Fresno Convention Center.

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

Treasurer *(Continued from Page 1)*

Dave, your the best! Good luck in your next service position.

If you are a Group Delegate or Steering Committee member, please **attend both meetings** in Fresno. Anyone wishing to make themselves available should find the qualifications discussed in the *Chairman's Message*. Those available will be nominated at the morning Steering Committee Meeting, with the election follow-

ing at the afternoon Open Delegates Meeting.

Every group in Northern California is allowed two delegates who will vote at this election.

Your participation makes us stronger and assures us that the group conscience is informed and representative of AA in Northern California.

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 One: A.A. Unity -- Our Lives Depend On It!

Tradition One states that, "*Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.*" The Long Form notes that "*Each member . . . is but a small part of a great whole. AA must . . . live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first.*"

In Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions we read the following, "*Few drunks could ever get well on their own steam, but . . . we could do together what we could not do separately.*"

Unless there is approximate conformity to AA's Twelve Tradition, the group . . . can deteriorate and die."

Since recover from alcoholism is life itself to us, it is imperative that we preserve in full strength our means of survival."

AA Comes of Age declares that, "*Most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group . . . No personal sacrifice is too great for (the) preservation of the Fellowship . . . The group must survive or the individual will not . . . In our groups we could do together what we could not do separately.*"

In As Bill Sees It we are warned that — "*Given still more 'righteous' indignation, the group can . . . die.*"

[Quotations have been reprinted with permission of AA World Services, In., from the following sources: "Tradition One"; Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (pages 129, 152, 174, 177); Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age (pages 129-130); As Bill Sees It (page 98)]

Frank B. ☺, Napa, CA

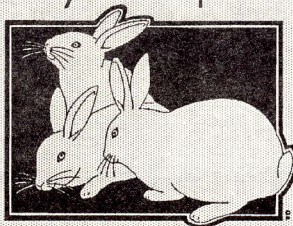
NCCAA CONFERENCES

1997 CONFERENCES
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
SAN MATEO - June

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



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

I must first make amends for the missed issue. We will be publishing another issue right after the Fresno Conference in April. Look for the third issue in August/September and I promise the fourth will be published in December. This service position is a very humbling experience. I have to be more diligent in making my deadlines. I promise to do better.

We again have contributions in this issue from all our regular contributors, Frank B., Star Reporter, Will N., H&I, Diane O., Archivist, and of course news from our Chairman, Ray K. Thanks to these fine trusted servants we have, I believe, a much more informative newsletter.

We received some wonderful comments on last issue's NCCAA History. We included a wonderful story written 50 years ago by an AA member. This article came to me from Les, "CHIP" F. of Hornbrook, California, a longtimer who has been "sober and active" since January 2, 1945. I am still looking for past experiences to share with our readers. Drop us a line at our address, P.O. Box 1581, Vacaville, CA 95688.

Don't forget to seek out your NCCAA memorabilia for our new Archivist, Diane O. Our rich experience over the past 49+ years needs to be preserved!

Please stop by our table at the Fresno Conference, we'd love to meet you!

Enjoy the Newsletter - and make your plans to join us in Fresno.

*Your hopeful, trusted servant,
Carole Dorsey, Editor ☺
Vacaville, CA*

News From The Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) Committee

As always and first off, thank you all for your financial contributions to the work of our Committee. It is gratifying to realize that the general membership of Northern California A.A. is aware of the benefit to those confined of the monies placed in the Pink Cans. So a heartfelt "Thank-you" from the Committee, its members, and those who receive the literature it buys.

As many of you know, the Hospitals & Institution Committee of Northern California Conference of A.A. is organized under the umbrella of Tradition Nine. We are responsible to those we serve which goes two ways - to the fellowship to carry our message of recovery and to those confined to whom we carry that message of hope and of recovery. We do have regular General Committee Meetings at which anyone who is doing H&I work is welcomed and eligible to take part in the discussion and the voting.

Our next General Committee Meeting will take place in Region 70 (San Jose) on February 16, 1997. Three amendments to the Pink Book (H&I's "bible" of organization) will be discussed and a vote taken. They have all been presented once at the last General Committee Meeting and this will be the final vote. The three are (1) making the Grapevine Distributor a permanent Steering Committee position with a requirement of three years of sobriety

for the person taking that position, (2) a provision that members of the H&I Committee, when carrying the message of AA into a facility, refer to themselves only as alcoholics, and (3) provisions outlining more specifically how we are to dress when carrying the message into a facility so that the message not the messenger stands out. So, if you are involved in H&I in Northern California, please be on the lookout for the announcement of the exact location of this meeting in February.

Finally, the "Big Book" says, in Step Twelve, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics" . . . and again, "nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with alcoholics". Those who work in H&I will attest to those statements from the practical experience of carrying the message to another alcoholic and having that act save them from drinking one more time. If nothing else, hearing the stories of those confined may remind you of the grace of God that saved you from such confinement when you did the same things. And, we can say, "there, but for the grace of God, go I". It is a sobering moment for those who experience it. That can be you if you come join us on this road of H&I to happy destiny.

Will N. ☺
Sacramento, CA

25th Annual Hospital & Institution Conference

"Making A Difference"

April 4th 5th & 6th 1997

Redding Convention Center, 700 Auditorium Dr., Redding, CA

Speakers:

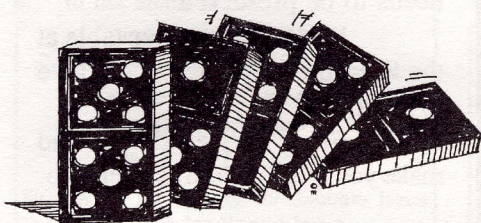
Frank A. of Auburn CA; David A. of Dallas TX;
Tom I. of Aberdeen, NC; Keith D. of Yorba Linda, CA

Panel Meetings:

Detox & Professionals • The Law - Custody & Release • Inmates View

For more information contact: Ray K. 916-528-8917 or Steve M. 209-836-4503

Please mention the H&I Conference when you register at the hotel or motel of your choice.



Northern California Council Of Alcoholics Anonymous
Statement Of Revenue and Expense For The Period
January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996

MARCH 1997

GOOD NEWS

PAGE FIVE

09-Feb-97	1996 <u>MONTEREY</u>	1996 <u>SAN JOSE</u>	1996 <u>REDDING</u>	1997 <u>FRESNO</u>	1997 <u>OAKLAND</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>
Revenue							
Pre-Registration	\$ 2,510	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,400	\$ 355		\$	\$ 5,330
Registration	6,095	6,350	2,530				14,975
Free Drawing - Raffle	1,533	1,321	1,317				4,171
Seventh Tradition - Marathon Meetings	565	505	161				1,231
Seventh Tradition - Speaker Meetings	4,777	2,939	2,029			64	9,809
Other Income						150	150
Total Revenue	<u>15,480</u>	<u>12,180</u>	<u>7,437</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>35,666</u>
Expenses	(A)	(A)					
Convention Center	90	6,047	2,203		2,920		11,259
Delegate Ribbons			23			396	419
Dance Band	250	350	350				950
Flowers and Decorations	213	241	334				788
Free Drawing Expense	392	307	368				1,067
Good News Expenses						800	800
Insurance	1,195	1,196	1,125	1,125	1,126		5,767
Mailing	165		358	39		525	1,086
Miscellaneous Expenses	15	1	3				19
Printing	1,365	1,449	1,043	818	4	114	4,792
Sign Language Interpreter	240	240	200				680
Speaker / Officers - Dinner	540	540	398				1,478
Speaker / Officers - Lodging	1,200	1,821	1,566				4,588
Speaker - Travel	661	600	894				2,155
Steering Committee Officer Travel	779	850	869	636	514	923	4,571
Steering Committee Meeting Room Rental						64	64
Steering Committee Officer Expenses	136	118	347			795	1,397
Steering Committee Officer Telephone						843	843
Tax Accounting and State Filing Fees						810	810
Total Expenses	<u>7,241</u>	<u>13,760</u>	<u>10,080</u>	<u>2,618</u>	<u>4,564</u>	<u>5,270</u>	<u>43,532</u>
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenue Over Expenses	\$ <u>8,239</u>	\$ <u>(1,581)</u>	\$ <u>(2,643)</u>	\$ <u>(2,263)</u>	\$ <u>(4,564)</u>	\$ <u>(5,056)</u>	\$ <u>(7,867)</u>
(A) Includes Expenses Paid In 1995	\$ <u>2,715</u>	\$ <u>3,696</u>					\$ <u>6,411</u>
Cash Balance At Statement Date							\$ <u>12,725</u>

Northern California Council
Of Alcoholics Anonymous

Balance Sheet

December 31, 1996

ASSETS

Cash in Bank	\$ 12,725
Prepays and Deposits	<u>7,182</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 19,907</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Fresno 1997 pre registration	\$ <u>355</u>
Total Liabilities	355

FUND BALANCES

Fresno 1997	2,263
Oakland 1997	4,564
Prudent Reserve	<u>12,725</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>19,552</u>

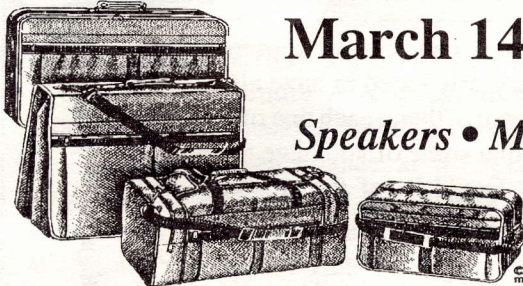
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES \$ 19,907

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

50th Annual Spring Conference In Fresno!

At The Fresno Convention Center, 700 "M" Street, Fresno, CA

March 14th 15th & 16th 1997



Speakers • Marathon Meetings • Workshops

Dance • Free Drawing

Prizes • Fellowship & More!

**Mark Your Calendars for the NCCAA Summer Conference
in Oakland, June 6th 7th & 8th, 1997**

DO WE NEED A 4TH EDITION ... OF THE BIG BOOK?

This is one of the "hot" agenda items to be considered at this year's General Service Conference in New York. We hope that you are discussing this at your Home Groups. Some of the questions asked about this subject include what stories should be deleted and what types of stories should be added.

Don't worry, no one is proposing changing the first 164 pages— the discussion centers around many of the later stories. Very interesting information is available to your GSR.

Other topics being considered at the Conference touch on many areas of AA services—our literature, the AA Grape vine, "confidentiality" is an important

discussion topic, as well as AA's need to become involved on the "Information Super Highway." Questions are asked about all of GSO's Committees: Public Information (PI); Cooperation with the Professional Community; Correctional Facilities; Treatment Centers; Policy's and Admissions; International Conference, and all the other committees who serve each one of us alcoholics, helping us to "Carry AA's Message."

This is an exciting time for AA, where we get to participate in this process. Each one of our voices gets to be heard - through your Group's GSR, to the Districts, to the Area Delegate, who in turn takes it down to the General Service Confer-

ence. Please take the time to participate.

If you don't have a Home Group, attend Agenda Topic meetings at a Group who does participate, or take advantage of the many District Workshops on Agenda Topics.

Better yet, get your District Committee Members to come to your Home Group to help get an informed Group Conscience from your Group.

You just might get the privilege of coming away from that meeting as a new GSR.

AA needs all of us to participate, to carry and to keep our message clear—to meet our responsibility to be here for the suffering alcoholic who may need to find us one day.

God Bless!

NCCAA ARCHIVIST REPORT

Happy New Year to all my great NCCAA pals from your newly appointed and approved (and first!) NCCAA Archivist. I feel very privileged to have all of your support, and I am excited about this new opportunity! I want to thank each one of you who has offered to help, and I am following up on the leads that some of you have given me.

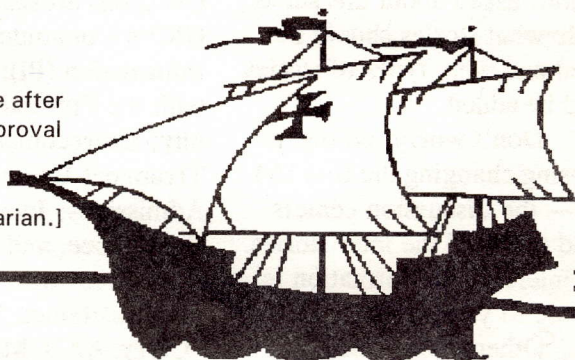
I am especially looking forward to working with David B. of the Hospitals and Institutions Committee and with Terry D., our Tape Librarian, hoping to locate more of our missing Conference Programs that date back to 1948. Please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 903-0321 if you have any information. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Fresno! Printed below are the Archivist's responsibilities as approved at the October Conference. God Bless.

Diane O. ☺ Cupertino, CA

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Archivist's Responsibilities

While honoring our Traditions:

- Locate and collect memorabilia *[Outreach and publicize need for memorabilia]*
 - ☛ Programs
 - ☛ Fliers
 - ☛ *Good News* and other newsletters
 - ☛ Photographs
 - ☛ Correspondence
 - ☛ Oral records of early members *[May need to create these]*
- Protect AND Store
- Catalogue AND Display
- Publicize Within The Fellowship
- Make Available To Members
- Serve on the NCCAA Steering Committee after appointment by the Chairperson with approval of the Steering Committee. [Term is indefinite, in the manner of the terms of the Good News Editor and the Tape Librarian.]



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?**

Preserving Our History

Then & Now: 50 Years of Experience

Editor's Note: Continuing our articles from long time AA sharing their experience we include an article written in 1947.

Just after I got a firm grip on sobriety and a sturdy handle on the entire A.A. program (in about three months) I had a shocking and aggravating experience.

I was in attendance at a "speaker meeting" prepared as usual to enjoy the speaker. However, my plans for enjoyment were rudely destroyed. The reason? Wait until you hear. This so-called A.A. speaker, in front of a large audience (for those early days) of perhaps seventy-five made an ego-shattering statement. This is what he said.

"ALCOHOLICS ARE EMOTIONALLY IMMATURE"

What a stupid and needless thing to say in front of all those people. That he was emotionally immature was obvious. He also went on insultingly to say that alcoholics were "picked green emotionally". Green indeed - ridiculous - positively!!!

Since I was forty plus at the time, it would be clearly impossible for ME to be emotionally immature. I tuned out the rest of this man's blathering and engaged myself in taking his inventory. I was GOOD at this. On the way home from the meeting I continued my inventory taking. Suddenly the thought crossed my mind - "Why am I so upset and resentful?"

The answer sprung at me - full blown. The reason I resented his remarks was because they fit me EXACTLY. It was a revolting but true fact. After mentally walking through a couple of drunks I could remember I convicted myself.

So there I was - a sober, smart-aleck, know-it-all member of A.A. with yet another burden to bear - 'emotional immaturity'. However, over the past thirty-three years, I sometimes get the feeling that I am a little LESS immature emotionally - through God's grace and the AA program - SOBER. Blessed be those A.A. members who go about crushing ballooning alcoholic egos.

Paul G. ☺ 1947

Comments on the Last Issue:

We heard from Les Chip F., of Hornbrook, CA, regarding the early beginnings of NCCAA. He writes: "Every name on this article was a friend and fellow alky and AA member of mine! Ray Holgate was my sponsor! What a thrill it was to read this article."

Thank you, Les, your letter touched my heart and the Good News will gratefully make use of your experience. I certainly enjoyed the article from Paul G. and I trust that many others will too.

ANONYMOUS PRAYER

I asked God for strength,
that I might achieve ...
I was made weak,
that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health,
that I might do greater things ...
I was given infirmity,
that I might do better things.
I asked for riches,
that I might be happy ...
I was given poverty,
that I might be wise.
I asked for power,
that I might have the praise of men ...
I was given weakness,
that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things,
that I might enjoy life ...
I was given life,
that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for,
but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself,
my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men, most richly blest!

Editor's Note:

This is a favorite prayer of a dear AA friend of ours from Montreal, Canada, Leo G. He shared it recently at my Home Group, Group 86, in Vacaville. He is recovering from a stroke which he suffered while speaking at an AA meeting. Despite his troubles he continues to exude hope and love. I think this prayer illustrates this. Say a prayer for Leo, and maybe one day soon he can join us at one of our Conferences.



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your GOOD NEWS coming without interruption!**

NCCAA

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Address Correction Requested