



GOOD NEWS



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NCCAA's 50th Year -- Off To A Golden Start

From the opening "Early Bird" meeting, it was apparent that the 1997 Spring Conference in Fresno would again be something very special. As always we AA's were greeted with warmth and love as we converged on the Fresno Convention Center. A large and enthusiastic group gathered for the Friday Night "Kick Off" meeting. Fresno Chairwoman, Juli G. of Kerman welcomed us to Fresno, and thanked all the AA's from the area who have worked so hard to make this conference another success. This success is not only measured by paying our way, but by NCCAA being able to provide this conference which carries our message of recovery and freedom from alcohol through the practice of the 12 Steps, to thousands of alcoholics. Thanks Juli, and all of your Fresno Committee. We love you all!

We were treated to terrific workshops and panels. We hope you take the time in Oakland to sit in on some of these workshops, you will always hear some great experience. It's such an honor to be asked to participate in NCCAA, as it is with any AA job. I know my experience on a panel was very humbling. It got me back into the book. Check out the Workshops in Oakland.

All of our 4 main Speakers shared the message of AA in their unique way. I love our Program—

and I particularly love my growth and experience gained at our conferences throughout my sobriety. Learning to listen has been the greatest gift and when you are graced with speakers who not only "talk" the AA message, but "walk" it you are doubly blessed. Thanks to all of you, and please come back and visit our conferences in the future.

I would like to share with you that I am always grateful (and yes, a little bit proud) to be an active participant in NCCAA. At every conference we always hear from one or all of our main speakers how impressed they are with NCCAA's commitment to holding conferences firmly bound by the Traditions. We keep the price low, \$5, for the whole weekend, we don't sell "drunk junk", and we continue to put the principles before our bottom line. Don't mistake what I say, your Steering Committee is very diligent and responsible when dealing with matters of money. We know we cannot survive if we are imprudent. But that has never been the driving force. *We want AA's message made available to the drunk who might never get a chance to travel and see the magic of large crowds of us living happy, joyous, and free.* Bring a friend to Oakland. And the next time an NCCAA conference comes into your area, volunteer. You, too, can be a part of our primary purpose!

Oakland - Ready to Welcome NCCAA!

The Oakland Committee, headed by Chairwoman, Georganne G. is waiting to welcome us AA's to the Oakland Convention Center on June 6th, 7th, and 8th! This Committee has been working long and hard to get ready for this weekend. We know that their efforts will be well rewarded!

The workshops are set—and our speakers are getting ready to travel from Southern California, New York, and British Columbia. I know we are all in for a great time, full of love, laughter and tears as we get to share with each other. Remember, the host hotel is the Oakland Marriott City Center, adjacent to the Convention Center. **Mention NCCAA whenever registering at any hotel during your stay in Oakland.** Good Luck to Georganne and the Committee. You've worked hard, so let it roll and enjoy the fruits of your efforts!

CALENDAR OF 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 12, 13, 14
SAN MATEO - June

Greetings From The Chairman's Desk

Congratulations are in order—**BIG TIME**— to the outstanding Fresno Committee for one of the best conferences I have attended. Juli G. and the committee were very hospitable, and went out of their way to take care of everyone. So let's give Juli and the Fresno Committee a standing ovation for a job well done, and a big success. Fresno did bring us somewhat out of the financial hole that we were in.

Oakland's coming along just great, and everything is on schedule. Georganne G. is really enjoying her responsibilities as Chairperson. She just loves all the little problems that pop up. We just have a great time laughing about all those little things. The Oakland Convention Center is ready for us, and the Marriott is too. The accommodations look great for this year.

We had the Steering Committee meeting in Stockton on April 28, and it was well attended and well spirited. The Speaker Selection Committee met and recommended 4 speakers for San Jose in the Summer of June 1998. They

were approved by the Steering Committee unanimously. They are as follows: Vince Y. from Los Angeles, for Friday night, Saturday afternoon Young Peoples is Nancy N. from Tujanga (try that), Keith L. from North Carolina for Saturday Night, followed by the Sunday Morning closing speaker, Nita Y. from Chula Vista for Sunday morning. They all have great AA Stories.

I have 2 new officers that will serve as my Secretaries. They are Karen S. from San Lorenzo, Coastal Secretary and Kendra W. from Stockton as Young People's Secretary. They both come well qualified to serve in these positions, and they look forward to serving NCCAA.

So as we trudge forward looking ahead I see positive things for NCCAA and great potential and growth. Again, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chairman. It has been fantastic, and getting better!

Sacramento is right on schedule, and Mike McF. is right

on top of things in "Tomato Town." We have a great lineup of speakers for Sacramento and the accommodations are super at the Double Tree (the old Red Lion).

And now a moment to reflect on the loss of a wonderful and devoted supporter of NCCAA, and AA, and that is the passing of Anne Kirby on May 5, 1997. Anne was loved by everyone and her dedication was second to none. We will miss Anne very much, I know I will. Anne was very dedicated to AA, she traveled abroad carrying the message to Russia and other places overseas. Anne was past Treasurer for NCCAA. We love you and miss you Anne—God Bless You.

So in closing, again thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you in Oakland. All's well that ends well, and its not over yet.

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

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

NCCAA travels to the Gold Country for our Fall Conference!

Sacramento - Double Tree Inn (formerly the Red Lion)

OCTOBER 3rd, 4th, & 5th

Mark Your Calendars and Pre-Register!

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."

H&I Successfully Holds Another Great Conference

The 25th Annual Northern California Hospital & Institution Conference is a thing of the past, as of April 6th. with a theme of "Making A Difference", the conference had many panels dealing with the H&I experience, with viewpoints from a medical perspective and a corrections perspective, plus several excellent speakers. The opening panel was especially interesting, as it was geared to the local (Redding) scene and included an Art Therapist who has been instrumental in getting H&I panels into a number of facilities, and staff of the Empire Detox Center in Redding. The turnout was small on Friday afternoon, but the enthusiasm was great. Frank A. of Auburn was the 5 PM "Kick-Off" speaker, followed in the evening at 8 by the beloved David A. of Dallas who gave his usual rousing and amusing story.

On Saturday, the first panel dealt with the H&I Commitment and included two speakers from the Dog on the Roof Group of Anaheim (60 members of which traveled up by bus and livened the front rows of all the speaker meetings). Next, members of the H&I General Committee (the Steering Committee) shared what their jobs entailed and provided some information that was new to many. After lunch, Ron Filiault, Program Manager of the CA Department of Corrections Office of Substance Abuse Programs (OSAP), Huanani Henry, Warden of Mule Creek Prison in Ione, and Jim Brazil, Community Resources Manager at Mule Creek shared their impressions and thoughts on the value of H&I to the Corrections Department. Ron talked about a program he is working on called the "Success" project; his idea is that Corrections staff usually only see former inmates who have failed and returned to custody. There are many, however, who leave prison and never return, most of whom have found and maintained sobriety. He plans to have three geographic (north, central, and south) gatherings of such former inmates at which time they will have their stories professionally videotaped (with adequate anonymity protection) for dispersal to train corrections staff, to show to legislators dealing with corrections, and to inform the interested public. Any former inmates who obtained

sobriety while in prison are urged to contact Ron Filiault at the Office of Substance Abuse Programs, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento CA 94283-0001. This panel was followed by Dr. Jerome Lackner of Sacramento who spoke on the medical viewpoint of H&I, and by Bob H. of Stockton on the history of H&I. In the evening, Tom I. of North Carolina was the well-received speaker as he told his story of his rise in correction from inmate to State Corrections Director. The usual Saturday night dance closed the evening out and made certain the next morning's meetings were sparsely attended. Nevertheless, people showed up for Sue D.'s Alanon talk and more, aided and abetted by the members of Dog on the Roof (his home group), were there for the closing pitch by Keith D. of Yorba Linda.

Although the conference was attended by only about 400 people, it was a great one for them and one that will give them much to carry back to their groups and H&I areas. The conference for 1998 will be held April 17, 18, & 19 at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. Fliers are available from H&I members.

It should be pointed out that this conference is entirely separate, both financially and administratively, from the H&I Committee, although it is open to all who work or want to work in H&I activities. Speaking of which, there is, as always, a great need, which panel after panel spoke of, for more people who are willing to do their share of this work. It is Twelfth Step work of the best kind and only takes a few hours each month. It is giving back to others what each of has been given so freely.

The important Election General Committee meeting will be June 8 at 11 AM in Stockton (exact location to be advised). All people working in H&I are welcome to the General Committee meeting and have a vote, so plan to attend if you do H&I work (or if you simply want to see the Committee in action).

And, as always, many thanks for your continued contributions through the Pink Cans to the literature funds of H&I!

Cordially,
Will N., Sacramento

A Fond Farewell To Anne K.

(December 22, 1921 - May 6, 1997)

Editor's Note: It is the policy of the "Good News" that we not print eulogies for very many good reasons. However, with our Chairman's permission, and because Anne K. was such a devoted member of AA and NCCAA, and a good friend to so many of us, we are making an exception. I hope you agree.

I heard a quote from a letter that Bill W. wrote and he said that, "The best any AA could do was to die sober." When you add to that accomplishment, living life to the fullest, as a sober member committed to our Program—Anne K. was crowned with success. In the 42 years of her sobriety, she carried the message to hundreds of us in her home area of El Cerrito/San Pablo, to those of us who regularly attend NCCAA Conferences, and even to Alcoholics from as far away as Russia. To the end, her commitments to her Sponsees and this program were her first priority.

The first time I saw Anne was at my first NCCAA Conference in Redding in October of 1986. She got up on the mike and she made a pitch for 7th Tradition so that NCCAA could meet its expenses. She reminded us of all we had been given with our sobriety and that it was time to give back. We gave, because Anne had that way about her, the southern bell with a hint of steel, and you knew you had better listen and then you had better back it up with right action. I was terrified of her—and believe me, back then I wasn't afraid of much.

At another NCCAA Conference, Ann Chaired the main speaker meeting. She said that her name was Anne and that she was an Alcoholic. She went on to say, "because I say I am an alcoholic, that's all you need to know, because I know it." It was then that I first heard the AA slogan, "Leaders Lead, Readers Read, and Speakers Speak—so let's get on with it!" Not many of us AA's after 30 years of sobriety would miss the opportunity at a mike in front of a couple of thousand eager drunks. But Anne had style and class, a deep humility, and respect for AA.

As I got to know Anne through working with her in NCCAA, I was amazed to find out she had the time for me. I tend to gravitate to older AA's who I know will give me the truth right to my face—and she was one. Anne had a way of looking you straight in the eye—you couldn't hide out no matter how much you wanted to. I was so grateful and a bit amazed when she told me a couple of years ago that I was doing "OK." She said she always had to be active in this program—active and willing to tell the truth. She also taught me a lesson in not taking myself too seriously—particularly when others were not pleased with me. "Is your side of the street clean? Then get on with it, if others are upset, they'll get over it—or not. It's not your stuff."

Anne's commitment to NCCAA goes back many years. I hope you read a reprint of a letter she wrote to the *Good News* which was published last Fall. She believed in NCCAA and was a driving force in keeping our organization steeped in the Steps and Traditions. NCCAA is better for her contributions. Many of the current and past trusted servants of the Council learned so much from Anne.

The beautiful fact for us AAs is that because of our Fellowship starting with 2 drunks who shared with each other and others—who then shared with each other and others—generation after generation—we are all connected. We get to keep parts of those who touch us in this Program. Anne touched me and countless others and we are all richer for having known her. She's probably leading that "Big Meeting" and telling those old timers to get up off their duffs to help a newcomer. We will keep your spirit alive in our hearts and we will miss you.

In Loving Memory, Carole D., Vacaville

NCCAA Elects New Treasurer Treasurer Rotates

The NCCAA Delegates were presented with two outstanding candidates who made themselves available for the very daunting office of Treasurer. Perry O. from Cupertino and Clem T. from Roseville.

Both these gentlemen were very qualified to hold the position of NCCAA's Treasurer. They each had experience with handling large sums of money, AA Service backgrounds, and long time service to NCCAA. Each of them expressed their love for the Conferences.

It was hard to choose, but the Group Conscience selected Clem T. to serve as the Council's Treasurer for the next 2 years. We congratulate him and thank Perry for being willing and available.

Clem will have very large shoes to fill. Dave K. has set a very high standard as Treasurer for the past 4 years. We all got used to seeing him handle the money and he always was prepared with reports which were accurate to the penny. He is also a great friend and we know he will continue to serve both NCCAA and the Area.

Thank you Dave—You Are Terrific!

GENERAL SERVICE

You can hear the California Northern Interior Delegate, Joe B. give his report at the Oakland Conference. Check it out!

Your Archives Chairwoman, Diane O. is still looking for any memorabilia from NCCAA past. Contact longtimers in your areas to see if they may have a program or other information on NCCAA. We know Diane would love to hear from you.



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