



# GOOD NEWS



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Published Quarterly in Vacaville, California  
By the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

MARCH  
1998

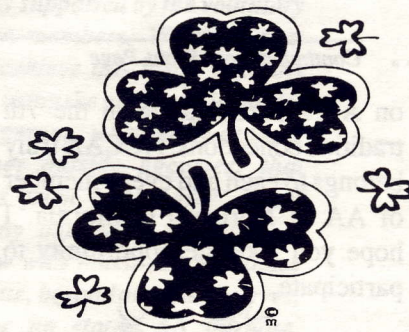


## NCCAA Celebrates Spring Conference in Monterey

It's March, and everyone is Irish in March as we don our green and celebrate Ireland, the Emerald Isle. It is fitting that NCCAA will be in Monterey, California's jewel whose hills have turned to many emeralds surrounding the Monterey Peninsula. We can thank the rain for the green hills! It's nice to find something to be grateful for in the midst of all the rain. I know that those of us lucky enough to be able to go to Monterey will be treated to a spectacular site, as well as another loving and fun weekend celebrating

sobriety together.

We have wonderful speakers who will share with us



during the main meetings, as well as many more participants at workshops and marathon meetings.

One more time NCCAA fulfills its purpose of "carrying AA's message of recovery" by working with the local area committees to provide the 51st Spring Conference. Look around at the Conference and see the smiling faces of all those alcoholics who have been given the opportunity to serve during the conference. This is another way for AA members to practice the 7th Tradition, by giving their active support as a participant--carrying the AA message through our

PLEASE SEE MONTEREY,  
Continued on Page Two

### Message From The Chairman's Desk

**G**reetings to everyone in NCCAA. Well, here we are at the start of a new and wonderful year! Spring is already in the air--if you discount all the rain and storms we have had. Hope nobody has suffered from the weather!

There have been several changes since the last time I have reported to you. As you probably are already aware, I have accepted a position with a company in Louisiana. They offered me a position I could not refuse!

It happened to be my hometown of Louisiana! So

*"NCCAA has been the most exciting and growing experience I think I have had so far in sobriety."*

And it just in my great Shreveport, the first part of this year has been in transition. I want to thank Northern California and NCCAA for the opportunity to have served as your Chairman for the last two years. NCCAA has been the most exciting and growing experience I think I have had so far in sobriety. Again THANK YOU!!

It's springtime and Monterey, here we come! I know we all love a chance to come to Monterey. We have a great line-up of speakers--Michael J., the Monterey Chairman, has done a tremendous job backed by a super committee. It's time for elections. We will be electing a new Chairperson. It seems hardz to believe that two years have gone by!

Tim S. and Cheryl W. have everything in order in San Jose for

PLEASE SEE CHAIRMAN'S DESK, Continued on Page Two

### NCCAA Sets Election Date For Chairperson

It is again time to elect our leader for the next two years. Those who wish to make themselves available should look at the *Purpose and Structure Manual* for the requirements. There is also a wealth of experience as many of our Past Chairpeople continue to actively participate at the NCCAA Conferences. These include Bill G., Marilyn M., Clem TeN., Terry D., and Diane O.

It is vitally important that the Groups' express the Group's voice and vote in this election. Every group in Northern California is entitled to two Delegates. **The Election for the Chairperson will be held at the Open Delegates Meeting on Saturday afternoon of the Monterey Conference.** We look forward to a lively election!

## Chairman's Desk... *Continued from Front Page*

the Summer Conference. We will be treated to another great line-up of speakers. San Jose is a seasoned committee, so everything is running smoothly. I had the opportunity to attend several Modesto meetings before I left. Bob O., Local Chair for the Conference is another seasoned hand and Chris P., his Co-Chair will fit right in. I was very

pleased to see the attendance at the Modesto meeting. It was a great turnout. Our new printed *Purpose and Structure* handbooks are now available. Thanks to Steve M. for doing a great job with the formatting and editing.

I really want to thank you from the bottom of my heart: Steve M., Clem and Lisa teN., Karen S.,

and Kendra W., Carole D. and Terry D., David K., Diane O., and many more. I am not planning on being a stranger to NCCAA. At least once a year I plan on being out for a Conference. I wish you all much happiness and success in 1998, and the coming Millennium. God Bless.

*Ray Klepper, NCCAA Chairman,  
Anderson, CA & Shreveport, LA*

## Monterey Conference... *Continued from Front Page*

NCCAA Conference.

NCCAA is truly a spiritual force in Northern California. We follow the direction of those who served NCCAA from the beginning. What we do and how we do it is unique throughout Alcoholics Anonymous. We understand that we are about the only conference whose registration remains a nominal \$5. We also continue to honor our Traditions; and we do not sell "drunk junk", such as T-shirts and coffee mugs to offset the tremendous cost for our conferences. Instead, we depend on the members of the Steering Committee, the Delegates and AA members to spread the word about our conferences. And we count

on AA's participating in the 7th tradition collections. NCCAA truly belongs to each and every member of AA in Northern California. I hope you take the opportunity to participate.



I hope you enjoy this issue! We are featuring more history from NCCAA Archivist, Diane O. I get a real sense of connection to the long-timers who began NCCAA and who kept it going until I was privileged to be introduced to the Conferences by my Sponsor, Marie C. We also have some suggestions from Bill W. regarding the editorial approaches for you to write your

story for the proposed Fourth Edition of the *Big Book*. H&I's Public Information Chair, Mike H. provided us with a wonderful article on the meaning of service. Also appearing in this issue is the Financial Statement for 1997. As you study this, you will see the costs of our conferences is enormous, but with God and all of us supporting our efforts I am certain we will continue to operate through 1998 and beyond.

I just found out about Ray K., our Chairman, leaving California. I wish to thank him for allowing me to continue to serve as your *Good News* Editor. I wish you all the best Ray! Please join me in thanking all who contributed to this issue and especially to my friend, Karen Z., for her time in printing the final product. And a special thanks to my bestfriend, Tim, for his editorial advice. Together, we can do anything!

*Yours in Loving Service,  
Carole D., Editor, Vacaville, 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

**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 SEVEN: *Self-Supporting Contributions*

*Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

*Tradition Seven, The Long Form: The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.*

John D. Rockefeller and Saint Francis of Assisi were responsible for AA's Seventh Tradition. Bill explains this in *AA Comes of Age*. In summary this is what happened.

Saint Francis and his followers regarded corporate poverty as fundamental for their society. The less money they had to quarrel about, the less would be the diversion from their main purpose.

AA adopted this wisdom as its own. We would use the least possible money--not no money at all--but the least possible to do the job well. In this sense, AA has declared the principle of corporate poverty, a chief safeguard of our future.

Rockefeller said: 'I think money will spoil this.' And AA stayed poor. The idea came from St. Francis, and Rockefeller made us live up to it. Eventually, AA agreed that we would have the least possible service organization, and, that we would use the least possible money to do the job well. Warranty One of Concept Twelve states that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, should be the Conference's prudent principle. In 1996, of the Northern Coastal groups listed at GSO, 55.1% made a per capita contribution of \$2.96. Of the Interior groups listed, 49.7% made a per capita contribution of \$2.28. Those figures don't indicate that AA is in danger of getting rich.

Frank B.,  
Napa, CA

## *Agenda Topics: 'Big Book' Discussed*

One of the hottest topics, for this year's Agenda for the General Service Conference in New York, is the proposed Fourth Edition of the 'Big Book', Alcoholics Anonymous. GSO is seeking personal stories from AA's. In order for your story to be considered, you must have it to GSO by June 1, 1998. Check with your GSR for further details!

At a recent Unity Day in Solano North, District 90, Tim D. shared the "Basic Editorial Approach" as suggested by Bill W., which appeared in a recent BOX 459. And even though the suggestions were made almost 40 years ago, they remain true today:

1. The desire to reproduce realistic stories should not be overemphasized to the extent of producing an unrealistic book. There should be no shrinking from the job of editing ruthlessly if such editing will preserve the story, without the realism.
2. Profanity, even when mild, rarely contributes as much as it detracts. It should be avoided.
3. All minor geographic references should be avoided.
4. The stories should be organized coherently, either in terms of chronology or of the specific points the individual is trying to make.
5. "Selling" or 'gimmicks'--editorial and otherwise--should be avoided. The story section is not a popular magazine. The appearance and approach should be straightforward, without frills.
6. Humor should stem from the character of the storyteller and of the situations he (or she) describes, not be the result of gags.
7. The end results of edition should be that the stories will be suitable for reading aloud--at closed meetings, etc.--without embarrassment.

### CALENDAR OF NCCAA CONFERENCES

#### **1998 CONFERENCES**

**SAN JOSE - June 5, 6, 7**  
**MODESTO - October 2,3,4**

#### **1999 CONFERENCES**

**FRESNO - March 12, 13, 14**  
**OAKLAND - June**  
**SACRAMENTO - October**

## NCCAA History -- The Early Years from 1951

*Editor's Note: In our continuing effort to share our NCCAA history, our NCCAA Archivist, Diane Olsen has compiled the following history of our early years. I hope you find the articles as interesting as I did. Diane has also unearthed some historical "tidbits" which will use in both this and future issues. We would love to have further contributions of historical information to print in the Good News. Please send them to us!*

### 1951 - 1955

Initially, the Council meetings were closed AA meetings and attendance was limited to AA members. The quarterly sessions were devoted primarily to group business, new approaches to AA, and renewal of acquaintances. The core of the Council consisted of two representatives who were elected from each group that wished to participate, and this composed the Steering Committee. The Fall Quarterly Meeting was considered to be the Council's "Annual Conference".

In 1951, it was decided to change the Annual Conferences to Open AA meetings so that AA members, families, and friends could all attend. Immediately, attendance at these annual meetings picked up to 2,500. Occasionally, there were as many as 3,000 people at a Conference.

The Fifth Annual Conference of the council was held March 15-16, 1952 at Governors' Hall at the State Fairgrounds in Sacramento. The purpose of this meeting was two-fold: (1) to organize Panel Two of the General Service Conference (which consisted of AA groups in the Interior communities of Northern California-primarily in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys) and the election of a Conference Delegate from that Area; and (2) to hear an important speaker, (Father) Ralph Pfau (also known as Father John Doe, author of the widely read *Golden Books*). Ralph had joined AA in Indianapolis in 1943; and in 1947, the Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Indianapolis released him from all parish work so that he could devote his full time to AA. A second important speaker was Marian Mallett of the New York Headquarters Staff whom Bill had recommended when he was in San Francisco in 1951, Marian had recently suffered a serious illness and had been granted a special dispensation by her doctor in order to appear and to speak at this 1952 Conference.

The Saturday night meeting was held in the Main Ballroom of Governors' Hall at the Fairgrounds. Admission tickets were required; and although these tickets were not "sold", contributions were expected. The meeting was chaired by Floyd Bowers of Roseville; and the Invocation was given by Dr. Robert Ferguson, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Sacramento and a staunch "friend" of AA. The meeting was followed by a reception and buffet supper in the nearby Little Theater.

At the Sunday morning session, the delegates (the authorized reps. of groups in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys) registered and, at the same time, signified whether or not they would be available to serve on Panel Two either as the Delegate to the New York General Service Conference or in some other capacity. The meeting was chaired by Bob R. of the West Portal Group in San Francisco. Bob was invited to act in this capacity because of his experience conducting the March 1951 Panel One organization meeting in San Francisco. Marian spoke once more on the Third Legacy and, also, discussed the services which were provided by the G.S.O. in New York. Floyd Bowers of Roseville was elected the Panel Two Conference Delegate.

### Later Years

As the number of people attending our conferences increased, it became no longer possible to hold them in smaller communities because lodging and conference facilities were not large enough to hold the crowds. An interesting sidelight of the 1955 Fall conference in Watsonville was that, because of insufficient housing in hotels and motels, the Watsonville Chamber of Commerce persuaded nonalcoholic citizens to open their homes to AA members. This created situations which had never existed before nor have they existed since.

Probably in the late fifties or early sixties, since no December programs have been found for this period, discussions at the business meetings began to center on reducing the number of yearly conferences from 4 to 3 and to limiting the cities in which the conferences could be held to those cities having adequate hotel and convention facilities. After considerable discussion, the number of conferences was reduced to three each year, and it became policy that, when bidding for a future conference, the bidders must insure that the city does indeed have adequate facilities.

The last NCC Conference to be held in a smaller community was in 1975 in Santa Cruz. An amusing sidelight of this Conference was that the host hotel, where the Conference was being held, put on an additional bartender and two extra cocktail waitresses for the Saturday night dinner. After forty-five minutes without business, the bartenders closed the bar and the cocktail waitresses began to help serve dinner in the dining room.

## NCCAA History -- The Early Years from 1951

### NCCAA Historical Tidbits -- from the programs that have been located from early Conferences

During the October 1958 conference in Ukiah, not only was there a Saturday night dance in the Exhibition Building, but also, bingo in the Home Economics Building. Do you think that they were trying to attract the seniors with the bingo? It seems, too, that "The Jumping Jacks" were the group of choice to provide music for our dances in the 1950's.

Eureka held three wonderful Conferences in the summers of 1963, 1970, and 1974. The first two were held at the Veterans' Memorial Building. The Saturday 8:30pm Open Meetings, however, was held at Redwood Acres, the local Fairgrounds. The 1974 Conference was moved to St. Bernard's High School which was a larger facility.

The 1964 Summer Conference was held at the Masonic Temple in Dunsmuir. "The Jumping Jacks" brought their dance music here, too. Jules Pilcher, Panel 11 Delegate from Los Angeles was, once again, one of the main speakers. Jules has sponsored our own George Dorsey (past CNCA Delegate, Panel 25; past Pacific Region Trustee, 1978-1982; and current member of our New York General Service Office) for all of George's sobriety. (George was sober 36 years on October 4, 1997).

At the 1971 Spring Conference in Redding, there was a high-powered panel addressing the topic, "Why Do We Need A Conference?" The notables

included: my sponsor's husband, Paul Van Auken, as Chairperson, and Frank Burke, Nina Scherfen, and Annette Fiel as panelists. Nina was also a panelist at the 1964 Spring Conference in Stockton. She addressed the topics on the General Service Conference agenda for that year.

The 1974 Fall Conference was held in Squaw Valley. A "package deal" was offered to attendees. Meetings were held at the Olympic Village Dining Hall, in the Nevada Theater, in the Conference Center, in the Hofbrau, and in the Olympic Village Lounge. No one was admitted to this conference without a Conference badge; however, people could register and attend without buying the entire package.

Early Conferences were also hosted in Visalia, Turlock, Vallejo, Marysville, Berkeley, and Richmond, as well as in the cities that we have traveled to in recent years: San Mateo, Santa Rosa, Oakland, San Jose, Fresno, Stockton, Modesto, Redding, Sacramento, and Monterey. For fifty years now, these wonderful places have provided the magical environment for all of us to gather, to support one another, to share with one another in love and in service, and to carry the message of hope to all. May God continue to bless us and keep us in His Grace, one Conference at a time for many years to come.

*Yours in Love and Service*  
Diane Olsen, NCCAA Archivist,  
Cupertino, CA

### Where There Is Love

Where there is love the heart is light,  
Where there is love  
the day is bright,  
Where there is love there is a song  
To help when things  
are going wrong . . .  
Where there is love there is a smile  
To make all things  
seem more worthwhile,  
Where there is love there's quiet piece,  
A tranquil place  
where turmoils cease.  
Love changes darkness into light  
And makes the heart take  
"wingless flight" . . .  
Oh, blest are they who walk in love,  
They also walk with God above.

**Pre-Register for the  
San Jose Conference  
Red Lion Inn  
June 5, 6, & 7, 1998**

## News From The Hospitals and Institutions Committee



"The Hospitals and Institutions Committee of Northern California (H&I) is an autonomous arm of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Committee covers all of Northern California from the Tulare County line in the south, to the Oregon state line in the north, and from the Nevada state line in the east, to the Pacific Ocean in the west. The H&I Committee is composed of (about 45) Areas, each having its own Area Chairperson. Additionally, there are 10 Regions, each having its own Regional Chairperson."

--Pg. 8, of the *H&I Workshop Guidelines* pamphlet.

"The only purpose of the Hospitals and Institutions Committee of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who is confined. The activities of this Committee are based on, and governed by, the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous."

--Pg. 3, of the *H&I Policy and Procedures* pamphlet.

Like other service committees in AA there is a certain amount of organization that is required in carrying the message of recovery according to AA principles. Often times new, or even sometimes old, members may loose focus on this "primary purpose." The 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, *H&I Policy and Procedures*, and *Facility Requirements* aid in maintaining this focus. Sometimes mixing volunteer work with some common traits we alcoholics may possess, does not lend itself to adhering to

directions or guidelines. That's why it's such an honor to respect and follow the group conscious of AA and the H&I Committee, and to surround myself with others intending the same.

I've heard it said, "we don't do the same kind of 12 Stepping anymore." To some degree this may be true, but the spirit of 12th Step work is alive and well inside the H&I Committee and behind the walls of confinement facilities we are welcomed at. I've had a relatively brief H&I career

humbled by how free and generous alcoholics in service are with their time and energy. It became clear to me over time that the traditions of AA and guidelines of the H&I Committee were not restricting or "political", but instead were generated patiently and compassionately by a group conscious always thinking of the still suffering alcoholic, and the spirit of those who came before us.

From my vantage point, AA needs less change and more rediscovery of the principles of

Northern California Hospital & Institution Conference Committee of the  
Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

Presents the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Hospital & Institution Conference

"Singleness of Purpose"

May 8, 9 & 10, 1998

Regency Plaza Hotel

(Formerly Dunfey's)

1770 S. Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo, CA

NEW  
DATE

NEW  
DATE

(since January of 1991), but it has introduced me to a broader fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. What I learned from going to juvenile halls, prisons, detoxes, and jails was not to take myself quite so seriously. The principles and the promises of the program began to seep in and I had more frequent visits with feelings of gratitude and serenity.

Traveling to different counties visiting and attending H&I General Committee meetings, I've always felt welcomed and also

compassion, open-mindedness, willingness, and tolerance that went into our 12 Traditions and our H&I Guidelines. What I need to be reminded of is how I can "mold" myself to conform to the principles of AA Service and not how I can "mold" those principles to fit my own agenda(s).

I love AA and the H&I Committee and I hope you guys will allow me to hang around for awhile.

Mike H.

H&I Public Information Chair

Martinez, CA

**NCCAA 1997 Financial Statement**

As of 12/31/97

	<b>Spring 1997 Fresno</b>	<b>Summer 1997 Oakland</b>	<b>Fall 1997 Sacto</b>	<b>General 1997 Committee</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Pre-Registration	1,940.00	1,135.00	1,985.00	
Registration	7,400.00	5,761.12	4,652.00	
Free Drawing	2,284.00	2,049.01	1,275.00	
7th Tradition, Martathon Meetings	507.00	422.99	546.34	
7th Tradition, Speaker Meetings	2,356.00	2,635.47	2,210.00	
Snack Bar/Concessions	4,691.00	0.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous Income				87.00
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>19,178.00</b>	<b>12,003.59</b>	<b>10,668.34</b>	<b>87.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Convention Center	2,731.00	6,677.00	1,154.65	
Insurance	1,125.00	1,126.00	833.67	
Printing	1,666.00	1,219.55	1,593.16	
Flyer distribution/mailing	190.00	137.65	296.01	
Flowers and Decorations	302.00	299.77	364.87	
Sign Language Interpreter	200.00	225.00	200.00	
Free Drawing Expenses	335.00	487.31	359.73	
Dance Band, D/J	300.00	350.00	325.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses/Badges	102.00	178.45	217.47	
Snack Bar/Concessions Expenses	1,855.00			
Speakers Travel	1,437.00	950.00	721.00	
Speakers/Officers Lodging/Rooms	1,648.00	2,044.66	2,021.98	497.83
Speakers/Officers Dinner	546.00	521.37	768.90	
Committee Travel	1,754.00	1,254.55	607.00	747.40
Committee Misc Expenses		68.00	2.20	484.45
Committee Phone Expenses		229.42	176.50	261.06
Committee Mailing Expenses				465.86
Committee Printing Expenses				98.66
Good News Expenses				300.00
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>14,191.00</b>	<b>15,768.73</b>	<b>9,642.14</b>	<b>2,855.26</b>
<b>PROFIT OR (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$4,987.00</b>	<b>(\$3,765.14)</b>	<b>\$1,026.20</b>	<b>(\$2,768.26)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>				
Bank Balance 12/31/96	13,243.32			
Prepaid '97 Expenses	5,511.16			
NCCAA Total Cash Assets 12/31/96		18,754.48		
Spring Conference Totals		4,987.00		
Summer Conference Totals		(3,765.14)		
Fall Conference Totals		1,026.20		
Committee Totals		(2,768.26)		
Pre-registrations for '99 Conference		695.00		
Pre-Paid Future Conference Expenses	3,586.66			
		=====		
<b>BANK BALANCE 12/31/97</b>		<b>\$15,342.62</b>		



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