



GOOD NEWS



Est. 1948

Published Four Times a Year in Felton by the
Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

Fall 2005

NCCAA Chair Report

We need a site for the Fall of 2002! We have Spring and Summer taken care of with San Ramon and Sacramento being our hosts, respectively, but nothing has been signed for a year from now. We like to have a bid submitted and approved with a contract signed with the facility about 18 months in advance.

There are a few possibilities, but a bid has not yet been submitted. We really need to have a site selected and approved by the end of the Modesto Conference next month. Look on our website, www.ncc-aa.org, and look at the Host Committee Guidelines, print out a copy of the Conference Bid Form, and go visit a facility. I'm sure you will have questions. Please contact me with any questions at jcornish@hotmail.com, or through the "contact us" link at the website. I'll be more than happy to talk you through what you need to do.

In the meantime, if you haven't pre-registered for the Modesto Conference, or need to make a reservation at the Doubletree for the weekend, there are one or two flyers with this mailing. The room rate we are offered is guaranteed until September 15th, so call soon. Hope to see you in Modesto!
Joe Cornish
NCCAA Chairperson.

We need readers for upcoming conferences

Do you want to be a reader at a NCCAA Conference? We need people to Chairperson and Readers. Please contact Joe. C. Dave W., Katy P. or Carole H. if you are available.

Letter from the Editor:

I need your help in our efforts to continue the wellbeing of the "Good News". As the editor I am little more than a servant who assembles a group of writings of interest to AA's and that are usually written by members of the Fellowship. My job is to format and compile that information and present it to in you in the form of the "Good News". This means that I need your participation. Here are some of the things you can do to be of service:

- ❖ Submit articles. (don't

take offense if they aren't printed).

- ❖ **Subscribe** (just \$4.00 will get you a years subscription.
- ❖ **Give Gift Subscriptions.** (great gift idea for both sponsors & sponsees).
- ❖ **Respond to requests for articles** (thank you for your willingness).
- ❖ **Give feedback to the editor** (please be gentle).

Please consider being a participant in the well being of the "Good News" your newsletter provided by NCCAA.

Gary S. Good News Editor
nowenter@gmail.com.

Thank you Mary W.

Seeing and hearing you at the podium for the "long timer's Meeting" at the International in Toronto was fun and made me feel closer to home.

G.S.

NCCAA 58th Annual Fall Conference

Modesto - October 7,8 & 9, 2005

Friday	8:00 PM	Gina B.	Sacramento
Saturday	3:30 PM	Tommy D.	Boston MA.
Saturday	8:00 PM	Harvey G.	Sherman Oaks
Sunday	11:00 AM	Reilly K.	Winston OR.

General Service

It has been such a great privilege for me to serve in General Service as the chairperson for the California Northern Coastal Area. The members of our area have been so kind to me as I stumble through the process of figuring out just what the chairperson of our area is supposed to do. Luckily, I was taught early in sobriety that if I'm available for a service position, I'm perfectly qualified. The on-the-job training has been incredible and I am constantly amazed at the absolute kindness, patience and respect this area has shown to me. Of course, by the time I have figured things out, it will be time to rotate on.

What I knew about being chairperson before I actually stepped into those shoes was that the chairperson facilitated the monthly area committee meeting and the 4 area assemblies. I knew as facilitator, I need to be extremely careful about keeping me, my view, and my thoughts to myself for the next two years. Being behind a podium and holding a microphone might cause some folks to think I know more than I really do!

Besides being a facilitator for our area committee meetings and assemblies, I was taught that the chairperson is the one who is responsible for "running the area", or at least that is how it was first described to me. I now know that

"running the area" means everything from making sure the coffee maker has everything he needs to have the coffee ready on time to setting the agenda for our business meetings, to encouraging and supporting our standing committees, as well as helping our 22 districts to conduct their business. One of my favorite things to do is answer all the e-mails and telephone calls I get telling me about how "this happened at our district..." or asking me "what do we do when someone..."

As far as the time commitment involved in this service position, I'd have to say that I've logged many miles driving in my car visiting our districts, attending assemblies, and our monthly committee meetings. I often am invited to attend Unity Days and other district events, as well. I seem to spend quite a bit of time at the computer or on the phone and I do read all of my mail...well, most of my mail! It is definitely a **one-day-at-a-time** kind of service position for me. It is also the kind of service position where having a home group, a sponsor and a newcomer to work with has never seemed more important. It also helps to be able to step back and laugh at myself, something I've definitely learned through General Service.

What I didn't know about this job is how much it would change the way I feel about this area and AA as

whole. Out of some where came the notion that I serve each and every member as their chair person and that I need to be rid of any thing in me that might keep me from being able to hear what each has to say. Messages come in a variety of manners and through an even wider variety of messengers. It has become so important to me that each member, each group has a voice in this process, even if that voice is different than the voice in my own head. In fact, I would say especially if that voice is different than the voice in my own head.

I've also learned that this area has trusted me to make certain decisions for them. This has been very challenging for me. My natural inclination is to do what would make the most people happy. Well, the truth is I'd much prefer to make everyone happy and have them agree with me all of the time! But the greatest lesson I have learned thus far in serving as chair is that this is not always possible. Imagine! I have had wonderful people come and express concern over a decision I had made and experienced what I have always heard but never walked through before... that we can disagree with each other and come to the end of the day, still give the other a hug and say "See you next time" and really mean it. What a gift!

Sharon B. Area Chair
California Northern Coastal
Area General Service

DO YOU REALLY KNOW THE HISTORY OF H&I AND HOW WE FUNCTION?

My name is Marcel A., and I am an alcoholic. I am the General Chairman of the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee, and I would like to share my experience with you. First I want to thank you for taking the time to read this article. Having an accessible avenue to obtain information and communicate our thoughts is an essential component in establishing an amenable relationship in a community: H&I is available to answer your questions and listen to your concerns.

When we speak of the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee, we are directly related to the *9th Tradition*: "AA may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." At the present time Northern California H&I services approximately 750 meetings per week and takes meetings into twenty-three prisons. The 2005 H&I budget calls for \$360,000 for books and literature and \$35,000 for the AA Grapevine in both English and Spanish. The figure amounts to about \$11.92 per meeting, or the cost of one Big Book, one 12&12 and a small handful of pamphlets. Much effort is spent in keeping expenses to a minimum. With the ever-rising cost of postage, shipping and storage, the cost of distributing the literature, tapes and

Grapevines to all the areas in Northern California is a big expense and cannot be avoided.

In 1942 Warden Clinton Duffy of San Quentin Prison reviewed files and found that the recitative rate was high among men with drinking problems. He contacted Warren T. from Richmond, who along with an inmate named Ricardo, held the first successful institution meeting. In June 1946 AA was invited into Folsom Prison. In the same year the NCCAA (Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous) was established. It became the communications link between the groups in Northern California and AA Headquarters in New York (later the General Service Office). Because of the increasing interest in AA by members from outside of the San Francisco area to participate in prison work, the committee resolved to become an autonomous committee of NCCAA, thus forming the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee (H&I). As time went on H&I started providing meetings to other facilities, including lock-down mental institutions, jails, detox units, juvenile halls and women's facilities.

The *Pink Can* money is used to purchase and distribute literature to institutions and other facilities. The *Pink Can* violates no AA Tradition. The money is from AA members for AA members.

We are self-supporting through our own contributions. No H&I member is paid for service and is not reimbursed for expense incurred carrying the message into institutions regardless of the distance. It is not unusual for an H&I worker to drive well over 100 miles for a weekly or monthly institution meeting. These travel expenses are a personal contribution of the individual. One of the fears expressed early on in the implementation of the *Pink Can* was that it would subtract from the support of the meetings. This should not happen if the AA group secretaries announce (before the baskets are passed) both the importance of supporting your group (thereby supporting the service entities it contributes to), and the purpose of the *Pink Cans*. The H&I Committee requests that the cans be passed separately from the baskets to avoid confusion.

All of the H&I Committee's expenses and income are compiled and published each month and are available to all members of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you have a question, simply call our treasurer, Peggy H. (209) 745-7382. The report of contributions is by county. Please provide a self-addressed envelope for receipts, as writing sometimes may be difficult to decipher. The receipts will be forwarded to you along with the latest monthly financial statement and a self-addressed envelope for the next

month's contribution. All groups in Northern California are encouraged to have an H&I representative at their local area committee. Any member of Alcoholics Anonymous is welcome to attend any Northern California H&I meeting whether at the local area or at the General Meetings which are held in February, June and October each year on the second Sunday.

I was first introduced to H&I while trying to detox once again, weighing eighty-five pounds and dying of alcoholism. A 250 pound giant from H&I shared the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and planted the seed of hope. I have participated in meetings in over seventy-five facilities in Northern California and have gone into jails and prisons for sixteen years. I have seen the deadness and darkness of the disease of alcoholism, but I have also had experiences that have made my heart sing.

I was at the Vacaville Institution around Thanksgiving one year, and we were talking about gratitude. A young man raised his hand and said, "I am grateful for the quiet in the room tonight. I have been watching the flowers in the courtyard as they open and close. This is what is happening to me. I open, but I still close." What a gentle expression of feelings from a man coming from a very violent world.

The true joy of happiness: Every day have something to do, somewhere to go, someone to call, someone to see, someone to love, but most important—every day have something to give to someone—Recovery, Unity and Service.

The Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to answer questions and clarify misinterpretations. I want to thank all the other service entities: General Service, Teleservice, PI/CPC, Bridging the Gap, and to all those who make the time to extend their hand to the still suffering alcoholic.

What a beautiful gift to be able to celebrate another day of life.

Marcel A. of San Francisco
(415) 567-6871 8/22/05

Visit the NCCAA website

at: <http://ncc-aa.org>

where you will find these headings and sub topics:

Introduction:

History of NCCAA
Purpose, Structure & Functions

Good News:

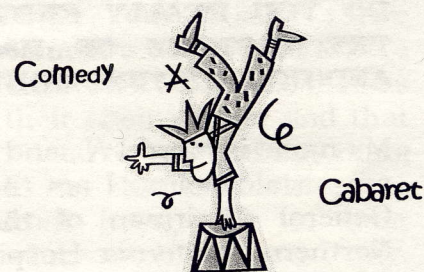
Past Issues
Birthdays
Submit Content
Subscribe

Events:

Conferences
Highlights
Speakers

Literature:

Flyers
Past Flyers
Past Programs
Programs



"Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world."

The A.A. Service Manual

"The whole temper of today's world is to spend more than it has, or may ever have. Many of us consequently are infected with this rosy philosophy."

Bill on Concept XI

- Two friends at a grave -

Sam: "Poor Joe. How did he die?"

Jody: "Well, you know he worked at a brewery. He fell into a vat of beer and drowned."

Sam: "I hope it wasn't painful."

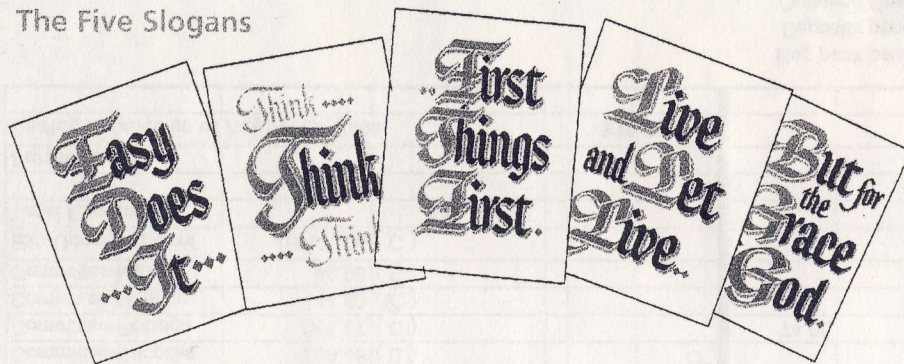
Jody: "I'd say not, he got out to use the bathroom three times!"

Love Notes

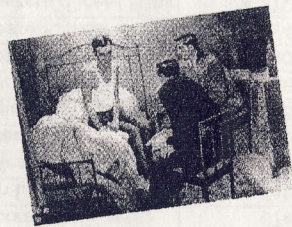
"Each Group is unique as a thumbprint, and approaches to carrying the message of sobriety vary not just from group to group but from region to region. Acting autonomously, each group charts its own course. The better informed the members, the stronger and more cohesive the group - and the greater the assurance that when a newcomer reaches out for help, the hand of A.A. always will be there."

The AA Group (pamphlet)

The Five Slogans

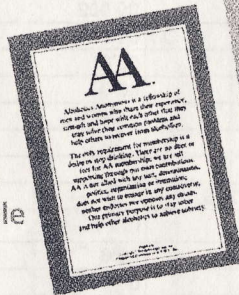


and for the walls



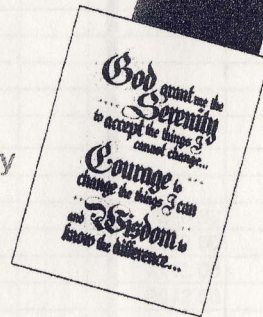
The Man on the Bed

Wall Calendar and Pocket Planner



The AA Preamble

The Serenity Prayer

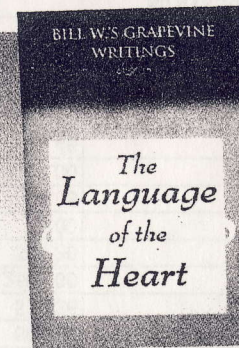


Plus...

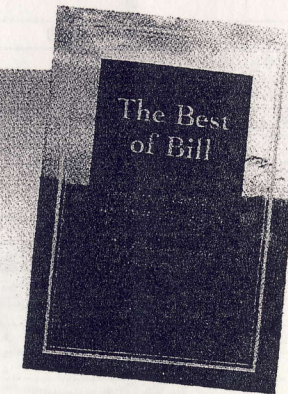
- Grapevine Binder
- Traditions Checklist
- The Preamble, Serenity Prayer, Slogans, and *The Language of the Heart* in Spanish

GRAPEVINE INC.

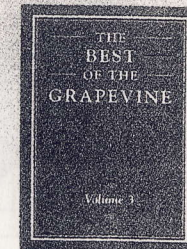
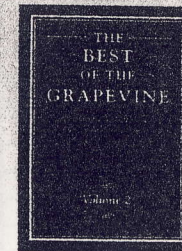
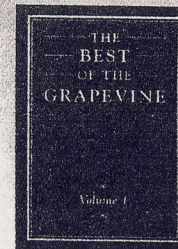
It's not just a magazine. See your GV Rep for the full catalog!



The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings is now available in both hardcover and softcover editions.



Newly reprinted in a pocket-sized gift edition, *The Best of Bill* now includes his seminal article, "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous." (Hardcover and softcover)



The Best of the Grapevine now available in paperback—three volumes of classic articles reprinted from the pages of the AA Grapevine.

NCCAA Yearly Financials 2005

Year to Date Financial Statement			Foster City 2005	San Jose 2005	Modesto 2005	Committee 2005
Beginning balance as of January 1, 2005			\$9,585.97			
Income						
Registration	17,158.00		8613.00	8159.00	386.00	
Seventh Tradition	4,148.38		2447.09	1701.29		
Free Drawing	3,605.76		1929.00	1676.76		
Marathons	531.90		369.95	161.95		
Donations	500.00			500.00 (member)		
Concessions	0.00					
Prev Year Income	(330.00)					-330.00 (Foster City)
Total Income	\$25,614.04		\$13,359.04	\$12,199.00	\$386.00	-330.00
Expense						
Hall-Rental	7,128.73		100.23	3619.00		3409.50 (Yuba/Fost 07)
Hall-Security	0.00					
Concessions	0.00					
Donations	0.00 (C)					
Dance/Band	600.00		300.00	300.00		
Free Drawing	884.74		349.06	356.00		179.68 (Yuba City)
Decorations/Flowers	674.50		334.50	340.00		
Sign Lang/Interpeter	740.00		300.00	300.00		140.00 (Yuba City)
Professional/Insur Fee	1,340.79 (C)		175.00	175.00	167.00	823.79
Taxes	10.00 (C)					10.00
Registration	518.95		349.81	169.14		
Flyer-Distr/Mail/Post	66.38		29.38	37.00		
Printing-Flyer/Program	2,590.86 (C)		966.97	898.89	725.00	
Speaker/Officer-Dinner	1,324.04		588.68	535.36		200.00 (Stockton)
Speaker/Officer-Lodgir	4,272.66		1772.66	2500.00		
Speaker-Travel	977.00		621.70	355.30		
Officer-Travel	466.05		304.05	55.00	107.00	0.00
Speaker-Meals	266.74		238.89	27.85		
Start Up Funds	0.00			0.00		
Committee-Supplies	569.46 (C)			69.46		500.00
Committee-Postage	385.57 (C)		74.00	74.00		237.57
Committee-Mileage	444.80 (C)			103.30	0.00	341.50 (Y uba City)
Committee-Meals	40.00 (C)					40.00
Exp-Upcoming Conf	(5067.00) (C)					-5067.00 Fos/San Jose
Total Expenses	\$18,234.27		\$6,504.93	\$9,915.30	\$999.00	\$815.04
Surplus/Loss			\$6,854.11	\$2,283.70	-\$613.00	-\$1,145.04
Ending balance as of August 25, 2005			\$16,965.74			

Beg bank balance \$ 9,585.97
 Deposits pending \$ 000.00
 Outstand Checks \$ 500.00
 End bank balance \$ 16,965.74

Subscribe to
GOOD NEWS

Mail Subscription to:

GOOD NEWS
P O Box 1476
Felton CA 95018-1476

Individual Subscriptions

In U.S. \$ 4.00 per year

Outside U.S. \$ 5.00 per year

Enclosed find _____ for _____ New _____ Renew _____ Gift

S. Birthday _____

Mail to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you to "The Best Cartoons of the Grapevine" (no longer in print).

- April 1949 Grapevine -



*"I'm afraid you're making a mistake, officer.
He assured me just last night that he wasn't
an alcoholic!"*

NCCAA

Good News

P O Box 1476

Felton CA 95018-1476

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Subscribe to

GOOD NEWS

Mail Subscription to:

GOOD NEWS

P O Box 1476

Felton CA 95018-1476

Individual Subscriptions

In U.S. \$ 4.00 per year

Outside U.S. \$ 5.00 per year

Enclosed find _____ for _____ New _____ Renew _____ Gift

S. Birthday _____

Mail to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____