



# GOOD NEWS



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Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

Holiday 2005

## Letter from the Editor:

Another year has passed, I have held this position since this past summer and I am sure many of you realize I continue to have much to learn about the job. During years in General Service it was made abundantly clear to me that as soon as I had learned a job it would be time to move on from the position. It must not be time yet as I still seem to have much to learn. Meanwhile I am hopefully learning at a pace that allows me to be of service.

AA has had a busy year including the marking of a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday for the Fellowship celebrated at the International Convention in Toronto. Where, Northern CA.'s own Mary W. of Palo Alto was among those who shared at the Saturday night Old Timers Meeting.

In this issue I will be including an article by Joe L. a member I heard speak at the "We Agnostics" Panel in Toronto, Steve M. is sharing on H&I, Our Webmaster Laura L. reflects on what NCCAA has meant to her, these articles and more are brought to you by NCCAA, We bring you information about the Fellowship in these pages and are hoping to initiate a new "A.A. in Northern California Calendar" in the next issue. As some of you may have noticed I have missed the birthday

club in at least one issue. I can only ask that you stay sober till next year so I can make it up to you. I'm sure glad we take the disease, and not ourselves, seriously.

Please note that the email address to contact me at is: [nowenter@gmail.com](mailto:nowenter@gmail.com) .



**We need readers for upcoming conferences.**

**Please contact committee officers to submit your name.**

**THANKS**

**Elections for NCCAA Officers will take place in San Ramon.**

**The next steering committee meeting will be Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Stockton Alano Club at 1:15 PM.**

**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  
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## **NCCAA 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference**

**San Ramon – March 10,11,12 2006**

Friday	8:00 PM	Teresa N.	Dayton NV.
Saturday	3:30 PM	Matthew M	Longbeach
Saturday	8:00 PM	Polly P.	Birch Bay WA.
Sunday	11:00 AM	David P.	Birch Bay WA.

## NCCAA Website Features

### Events:

Conferences

Highlights

Speakers

### Literature:

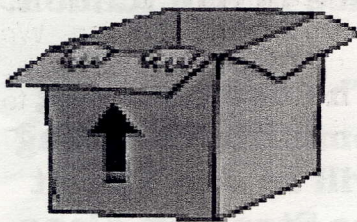
Flyers

Past Flyers

Past Programs

Programs

*People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road, doesn't mean they've gotten lost.*



## *NCCAA and me.*

Ten years ago when I was eight years sober I was not much for conferences. I had participated in one or two, because my sponsor took me, but there was no energy behind it for me. And then I found out about the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous (NCCAA). My energy was peaked I was curious. Thus began my journey into service at the conference level. Here was the oldest conference committee in AA where one of the co-founders of A. A. was involved in the first committee planning right here in San Francisco. That was interesting to this alcoholic.

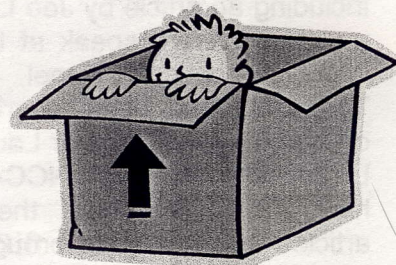
My first exposure to NCCAA was when my sponsor (or course) volunteered me to be a greeter at the South San Francisco NCCAA conferences in 1995. I thought "how hard can that be, right?" It was

an eye opener for me to feel for the first time in AA that I was in the center of the action – when people came through the door and I said Hi, they turned to me and shook my hand, those who knew me hugged me and I got the energy that I needed to come alive for the first time in the fellowship of AA. Up until then, I had been a loner. One with self, so to speak, and now I had a place to go and be one among many, a part of the fellowship. The program worked for me and the fellowship saved me from a life of aloneness! I started going to the conferences and showing up at the Steering Committee meetings and leaning how the people who were trusted servants acted and behaved with each other. I wanted what they had and was afraid, at the same time, I could never be good enough or smart enough about the workings of the conferences to do what they did. So I stuck around, I watched, asked questions and learned that this is indeed something I am smart enough to do and I can learn anything that I don't know by asking questions and paying attention, just like the meetings, I show up, pay attention and tell the truth and all else comes under God's plan.

In 2001 the San Mateo Central Office Delegate stepped down from his position and I volunteered to step up to be of service to the San Mateo County Central Office and NCCAA. Later that same year the NCCAA committee started talking about putting together a Web site. Now there was something I knew a lot about. I volunteered to put together a plan and with their blessing I did an outline

and a flow chart and then with the approval of the delegate's on the outline and plan, I put together a presentation with the sample Web site. I was indeed able to use my creativity and talents in many areas to do a wonderful service to help carry the message to Northern California AA groups. We have the opportunity and the means to reach thousands more people everyday with a live Web site that has been on line for over two years since 2003 and which seems to be gaining popularity every month through word of mouth and exposure at the Central Office Delegates meetings and the Conference meetings. We are toting the line when it comes to the AA Traditions, we have no outside interests and we do not advertise the site.

For the past couple of years I have been participating in as many of the conference planning meetings as I can (pretty much all of them) to learn the kinds of issues that will be coming up as the local Host committees plan the conferences. This has been another chapter of learning on which I have come to depend as well as love with a passion.



The more I learn about the NCCAA purpose, the more I want to be a part of making it happen and I believe as it states in our literature.....THE SUCCESS OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN FULFILLING ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE OF "CARRYING THE MESSAGE" WILL BE IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE ENTHUSIASM AND DEVOTION OF EVERY AA MEMBER. THE COUNCIL BELONGS TO ALL OF US AND WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE COUNCIL IN ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES. IN THIS MANNER WE CAN AGAIN EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THAT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.



*In love and service, Laura Levy, NCCAA Webmaster and trusted servant.*

## H & I

Several decades ago, alcoholics in Northern California realized that we must find a way to organize and schedule meetings in institutions and hospitals. The personnel at San Quentin Prison weren't happy when two groups showed up at the same time to hold a meeting because their behavior wasn't acceptable, to say the least. They started holding planning meetings at the NCCAA Conferences because, at the time,

that was the best time to catch everyone interested in one place. The early minutes in the NCCAA Archives (sometimes displayed at the NCCAA Conferences) show that there was an Institution Committee and a Hospital Committee that met separately. This was before the General Service Conferences began. Eventually they combined into the Institution & Hospital Committee. A story indicates that on a flyer somebody changed the name to the Hospital & Institution Committee by mistake and the name has stuck. Today the Northern California Hospital & Institution "committee is organized in an endeavor to avoid confusion and duplication of effort"...."for those who are interested in participating in this type of 12 Step work" as stated in their Policy and Procedures, HOW IT WORKS. The committee does its best to keep the lines of communication open to all members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Northern California. We even have a Public Information Chair who is responsible for disbursing information to appropriate individuals and agencies. I know this because it is my privilege to currently serve in that capacity. Recently when my father passed away, I called the liaisons to the CNIA and CNCA to let them know I would not be available to have information tables at the recent assemblies. I hope they passed on the word so everyone would know we are trying to keep lines of communication open. We also encourage liaisons to the General Service Districts and Central Office/Intergroup committees.

As we continue our inventory, we will need input

from everyone participating on the H&I committee to be sure we are being fearless and thorough in our efforts. It will be the responsibility of the Region Chairs to communicate with the Areas in their Regions and the General Committee on these matters. It is also important that interested members attend the General Committee Meetings. The next General Committee Meetings will be at 11:00AM on February 12<sup>th</sup>. You can go to our website at: [www.norcalhandi.org](http://www.norcalhandi.org) to get the location for the meeting. We can only be as successful as our members will allow us to be. It is our responsibility to continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholics who are confined. Please help us find the best way to continue our 12<sup>th</sup> Step Work.

You can contact me at 916-479-2710 or send an email to our website to my attention or to our General Chair, Marcel A. if you have any questions or suggestions. We will also have a Panel Meeting at the NCCAA Conference on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospital & Institution Conference will be in Visalia, March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the holiday Inn of Visalia. You can download Registration Forms and view updated information at: [aa-tulareco.org](http://aa-tulareco.org) or at the H&I website. We hope to see you there.

Steve M.: *Public Information Chair for the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee.*



## I'm on a Spiritual Journey

My name is Joe. L. and I'm an alcoholic and thank you for the opportunity to share my personal experience.

I came into AA one month before my 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, I had been awakened by two police officers as I was lying on a sidewalk in NYC. I was a bus driver in NYC at the time and this apparently saved me from being sent to Bellevue Hospital's "Alkie Ward". One of the cops had said, wait a minute he's a bus driver, so they put me on my feet, got me a cab and sent me on my way. I proceeded to search the many pockets in my uniform and eventually found a ten dollar bill. This was the remains of a pay check I had picked up on Wednesday, and I had been told that it was now Friday, Which caused me to ask "what happened to Thursday"?

I went to that street in Harlem to a bar in the Bronx where my brother-in-law was a bartender, he thought my appearance was hilarious and offered me a drink. I was still coming out of the ether, but I said no I have to do something about my drinking I think I'll go to that AA meeting that my father-in-law was talking about. I had a pregnant wife and two children at the time and I knew there was no way I could be divorced or separated from them. My brother-in-Law took me down to his apartment and I passed out on the bed. When I awoke I was still very shaky, but I spoke to my wife

and she said if I was serious about AA we could try to stay married. I don't know how serious I was, I really thought AA was going to teach me how to drink and not get into trouble. However they taught me how not to drink "odaa" and get into trouble while sober.

When I arrived in AA, I was a devout Roman Catholic and had a strong belief in a personal god and that structured religion. Over the years after much investigation and some times painful information I realized I had lost all belief in the existence of a deity who is involved in the affairs of men. Once I accepted this I was able to move on and I believe I'm still on a spiritual journey which has nothing to do with god or religion.

During my time in sobriety, I have gone through the deaths of two sons, the end of a marriage, a long battle with a gambling addiction (I sought help in GA for this and have been in remission since 10/11/85 odaat). I have been sober since that first meeting in AA, which I found out was on November 17<sup>th</sup> of 1950. I owe all these things to a simple program which has been shared with me by brothers & sisters in recovery in many rooms all over the USA, Canada, and in the UK. Today through the miracle of cyberspace I share with alcoholics from all over the world.

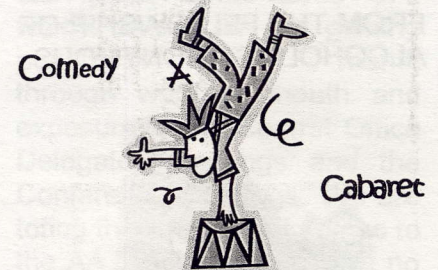
I have also been married to my second wife for twenty-five years and today that's a good thing. I have been retired since 1988 and am living in Southern Florida since then where I lead an active AA life and have been able to travel to

many different places and have usually been able to find an AA meeting wherever I am.

Joe L.



**Note from the editor; I heard Joe share during the workshop "We Agnostics" at the International. His humor and vitality were a highlight of the trip for me and a tribute to his 55 years of sobriety.**



Judge - "It's Alcohol and Alcohol Alone that is responsible for your condition!!!!".

Alkie Allen - "Thank you, Your Honor, for saying that. You're the first person who hasn't said it was all my fault." {GV 7/97}

A Beginner was asked what had been his favorite drink. "Brother," he said, "I didn't have one. I'd drink anything too thin to Chew." {GV 9/96}

Sign in a local pub:  
If you're drinking to forget,  
please pay in advance.  
{GV 2/02}

### Love Notes

AA's Three Legacies from the accumulated experience of AA's earliest Members:

- (1) suggestions for Recovery - the Twelve Steps;
- (2) suggestions for achieving Unity - the Twelve Traditions;
- (3) AA Service.

(The AA Group P16 p50)



# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

## NCCAA Information

[About NCCAA](#)[NCCAA News](#)[NCCAA Speakers](#)[Hosting NCCAA](#)[NCCAA Highlights](#)

### ARCHIVES

*Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present; they forgot where they came from.*

—Carl Sandburg

[Home Page](#)[NCCAA History](#)[Good News](#)[Conferences](#)[Flyers](#)[Tapes](#)[Archives](#)

NCCAA has created an Archives to preserve its history.

New items are always being sought to be included in the NCCAA Archives. Some items included in the Archives are listed below:

- Conference Flyers
- Conference Programs
- Newsletters
- Delegate meeting minutes
- Audiotapes

#### Archivist

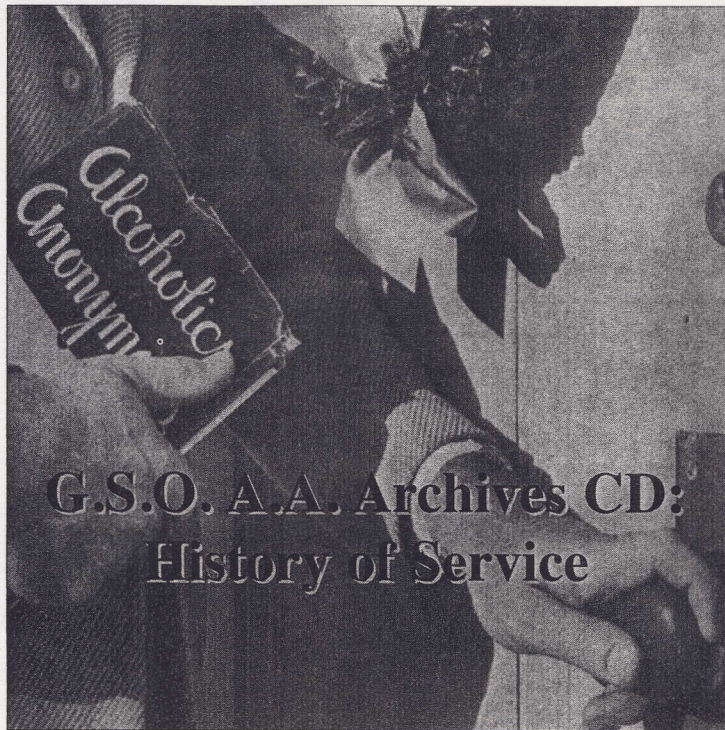
The Archivist has established and maintained a history of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, collecting and storing important documents as well as making sure that history is recorded and saved.

**Look for the Archivist's display at your next conference.**

*Host Committee Guidelines...*

*Contact NCCAA | AA's General Service Web Site | Conference Site Map | Conference Bid Form  
Last Updated June 13, 2005*

Sample page of the  
NCCAA Web site.  
Check it out! At  
[www.ncc-aa.org](http://www.ncc-aa.org) At Gary S.



# G.S.O. A.A. Archives CD: History of Service (M-72)

**ORDER FORM FOR CD SET**

**■ Hear Bill W. talk about the early years of Alcoholics Anonymous on a new compact disc set. Recently compiled from holdings at the General Service Office Archives, this pair of CDs contains five historic talks, including three by Bill.**

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**MAIL TO:** World Services Inc., P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163 Questions? Call 1-212-870-3312

## Birthday Club

Greg G.	Turlock	December 11, 2002
Denise C.	Redwood City	October 20, 2002
Michael O.	Redwood City	November 28, 2000
Vanessa G.	Hollister	November 16, 1999
Jody H.	Lathrop	November 3, 1997
Pete F.	Auburn	December 1, 1996
Carina H.	Livermore	December 2, 1990
Mary F.	San Jose	December 28, 1988
Jennifer A.	Felton	October 9, 1988
Doug G.	San Jose	October 3, 1987
Joe C.	Redwood City	November 16, 1986
Char H.	Red Bluff	November 15, 1984
Bobbie M.	Modesto	October 28, 1981
Loree G.	Stockton	October 10, 1974

### History Corner

An excerpt from the Jan. 1965 issue of the *Good News*.

#### **DALY CITY GROUP 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Chuck C., Laguna Beach Group, will be guest speaker at the Second Anniversary celebration sponsored by the Daly City Group, Wednesday, January 13, in the auditorium of Our Lady of Perpetual Help church, 80

Wellington Avenue, Daly City Calif.

Jack I., central secretary, S.F. Inter-County Fellowship will be chairman of the party and the invocation will be delivered by Reverend Sullivan.

The meeting starts at 8:15 p.m. and an elaborate buffet will be served after the meeting. Come early-coffee will be served from 7:30 p.m. until the meeting starts.

### Good News

#### Contacting the Editor:

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**831-420-7172**

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**nowenter@gmail.com**

I would like to thank Jennifer A. of Felton for her help in producing this Newsletter.

**Signing off, Gary S.**

**NCCAA**

**Good News**

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**FIRST CLASS**

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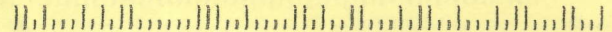
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