



Have you heard the Good News?



Est. 1948

Summer 2012

Good News

65th Annual Summer Conference Auburn, Ca.

There is much excitement for this upcoming 65th Annual Summer Conference in Auburn on July 6, 7 and 8, 2012.

The venue will be at the Gold Country Fairgrounds- 1273 High Street.

The following hotel is offering special rates for those attending the 65th Annual NCCAA Summer Conference in Auburn. To ensure your reservation, you should register at least 30 days in advance of the Conference, and you must mention that you are attending the NCCAA Auburn Conference in order to obtain the rates. The Host Hotel is the

Holiday Inn

120 Grass Valley Hwy
Auburn, Ca. 95603

(530) 887-8787

\$124.99 Single

\$124.99 Double

Outdoor Pools/SPA, Pet Friendly

Auburn

NCCAA 65th Annual Summer Conference

July 6, 7, & 8 2012.

Gold Country Fairgrounds.

1273 High Street, Auburn, Ca.

Friday July 6, 2012

- 2:00 p.m. registration opens
- 3:30 early bird meeting—
- 8:00 p.m. Open Speaker Meeting—Jerome S., Corona, CA

Saturday, July 7, 2012

- 9:30 a.m. H & I Panel

Meeting

- 11:00 a.m. Host Committee Workshop-
- 1:00 p.m. CNCA Delegates Report
- 3:30 p.m. Young People's Speaker Meeting—Jeffery N., Novato, CA
- 8:00 p.m. Open Speaker Meeting—Linda M., Dixon, CA.
- 10:00 p.m. Dance Following Drawing
- **Sunday, July 8, 2012**
- 9:30 a.m. All A.A. Services Panel Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Open Speaker Meeting—Tamara B., Roseville, Ca.

Simple in Meaning, Plain in Language—Dr. Bob

Much has been written, much has been said about the Twelve Steps of AA. These tenets of our faith and practice were not worked out overnight and then presented to our members as an opportunist creed. Born of our early trials and many tribulations, they were and are the result of humble and sincere desire, sought in personal prayer for divine guidance.

As finally expressed and offered, they are simple in language, plain in meaning. They are also workable by any person having a sincere desire to obtain and keep sobriety. The results are the proof. Their simplicity and workability are such that no special interpretations, and certainly no reservations, have ever been necessary.

Have you visited your Web Site yet?

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

You'll find:

- The History of NCCAA—Our Purpose, Structure, & Function"
- Past Issues of the "Good News"
- A list of upcoming Speakers
- Flyers
- Future & Past Programs
- Information on our Archivist
- Guidelines for Hosting a Conference
- A Link to AA General Service
- And More

Reprint out of the AA Service Manual provided by:
Chauncey H.
District Committee Member Chair (DCMC)
District 40, Santa Clara County South
CNCA 06, Panel 61

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting:

"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome.

We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."



Who is at fault?

There is a tide of unrest and apathy rising in our Program of recovery from alcoholism. Singleness of purpose has become a bone of contention, as has having a sponsor and working the Steps of recovery.

Non-alcoholics speak of their rights, yet fail to acknowledge that not being members of AA they have no rights.

I have always believed in and based my recovery from alcoholism on the Program developed by the first 100 members and written down in our *Big Book*..

As we grow further apart from those first 100, those who contributed to the writing of our *Big Book*, we allow their teachings to fade into antiquity. Like impudent children we have come to believe that we know better than those who came before us. We mock our own history, as if that history was all a lie. We forget what was written at great expense, and we stumble and sometimes fall over things that are identified in our book.

I have heard newcomers being told from the podium that there is no need for a sponsor or to work our Steps, forget all the tools that are in our AA books, do whatever you want and believe what you will. Just go to meetings and don't drink and all will be well.

AA as originally written was here for me, yet is not here for many younger members, and may not be here at all within the next decade. We may end up with something called AA, but it will be addictions anonymous, and many an alcoholic will then walk down a dark alley looking for the light of recovery. The light will have gone out.

Whose fault is it that our recovery rate is no longer even 50%? Whose fault is it that the mere mention of singleness of purpose brings forth anger and resentment in our meetings? Whose fault is it that what little sponsorship we have, has for the most part fallen silent?

Whose fault? Each and every one of us who believes what is written in our Big Book yet sits mute in the face of its destruction.

AA Quotes ~~ From the Akron Intergroup

[Quit Horsing Around](#) (by Bill W.)

"You can't make a horse drink water if he still prefers beer or is too crazy to know what he does want. Set a pail of water beside him, tell him how good it is and why, and leave him alone.

[Quote of the Month](#) (by Paul de Kruif)

"AAs to me aren't ordinary human beings, because they've all been so near dead it seems spooky they're still alive and healthy. To me they're weird, like those rare people still living ten years after the cure of their incurable disease. .

History of H & I and NCCAA

How and when did the H & I Committee get started? Why is the Hospital & Institution Committee considered a part of the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous? When did they change their name from Institution & Hospital Committee to Hospital & Institution Committee? What's the difference between an H & I "Area" and a General Service "Area"? How much do you know about our Hospital & Institution Committee?

I have to believe there is a Power Greater than this band of drunks that is accomplishing so much Twelve Step work. By the way I can only come close to answering one of the questions above. I do know that as far back as our archives go the NCCAA and the H & I Committee have been working together. Sometime during the 1960's our Minutes, Flyers and Programs reveal the committee was originally referred to as the Institution & Hospital Committee. The rumor is someone accidentally changed the name on an NCCAA Conference flyer and the change became permanent.

We understand Warden Duffy invited the first AA members into San Quentin in 1942. It was very successful and a few years later an inmate was transferred to Folsom Prison to start AA meetings there. We started to organize because of a problem that occurred with the meetings we were taking out to San Quentin. The story is that two groups showed up to take a meeting in but the guard informed them they only had one meeting scheduled. They went out into the parking lot and had a fist fight. They were informed by the guard that their behavior was not acceptable and if it ever happened again they wouldn't be able to bring meetings into San Quentin. This is why we started to schedule our meetings to be sure we didn't duplicate meetings or miss meetings.

Our Historian, Gary H has found a letter from Agnews State Hospital suggesting we adopt a few policies. Their suggestion was that our members should have at least six months sobriety before they share as panelists at our meetings. They had observed that some of their patients were returning as panelists only a couple of weeks after they had been released from the hospital. This didn't give them very much credibility with the other patients who knew them.

A few years later in San Mateo the Committee met to set down our group conscience. We refer to this as our Pink Pamphlet which sets down our organizational structure and our policies. Over the years there have been several changes following procedures that make for much discussion and several votes. The final vote requires a two-thirds majority to pass to ensure the committee maintains our unanimity.

Many different committees have been formed to cover the wide variety of services in AA. It started with Bill's New York office and then Central Offices started all across the United States. The H & I Committee formed with the purpose to carry the message to the confined Alcoholic about the same time the Central Offices were forming the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous. In our book AA Comes of Age we read that General Service replaced the Alcoholic Foundation to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous will always be the responsibility of our members and groups. Today we also recognize the work of the PI/CPC and Bridging the Gap Committees. We must never forget that we're all here to fulfill the Responsibility Pledge adopted by AA at the 30th Anniversary International Convention in Toronto in 1965 (This Pledge is on the back of our Pink Pamphlets to remind us we never do this work alone).

The H & I Committee thanks the Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous for 65 years of working together to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers. I encourage you to visit the NCCAA archives that Clem maintains to see the changes over the years. While you're there check out the flyer for the first NCCAA conference you attended to see if you remember the speakers. Also stop by the H & I Information table to see if our Historian, Gary has any of our H & I archives or volunteer to participate in this type of Twelve Step work.

We may never fill in the gaps in our history to answer some of the questions above. I hope this never gets in our way to carry the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Alcoholic who is confined.

"Article Submitted by General Chair of H&I Steve Mangold"

What Do We Expect of Old-timers?

"ALL that he is or hopes to be, that man owes to AA, yet he hasn't even the gratitude to come to meetings any more."

Thus, paraphrasing Lincoln, sat in newly sober judgment one of the eager beavers of our group, a rider of the Pink Cloud.

The old-timer of whom he spoke had many years of sobriety behind him. He had served our group in every capacity, from coffee jockey to program chairman and back again. He had done his full stint of Twelfth Step jobs. Only recently, having in tow a hyper-devout worshipper at the shrine of Bacchus, I went to him on a Sunday to get a check cashed for my moist friend so that I could get him into a hospital. It was done without hesitation.

About three years ago, while our zealous young novice was still tossing the pot and the pretzels, the old-timer gradually became interested in other directions, all the while maintaining his sobriety and his observance of the AA principles upon which it rested. He took a leading part in a boys' organization. The tempo of his activity in his church stepped up. I learned of at least one recent and successful Twelfth Step job he did that our group never heard about.

No, he does not come to meetings now. Yet he is sober, serene, and helpful to his fellow man, in AA and out.

What more do we expect of him?

It was never intended, I am sure, that, as time went on, we should limit the periphery of our interests to the confines of the group and its activity. Let us hold fast, by all means, to the practices and principles which saved us from the abyss, but it seems to me that the ultimate goal for us is a return to and integration with society, and participation in such constructive civic, social, and religious activities as most strongly appeal to us.

AA is, and--God willing--always will be a very present help in trouble, the foundation upon which our sobriety is based and a part of the divine blueprint by which our lives may be reconditioned. But there is nothing in the AA philosophy, as I understand it, which would put such blinkers on our eyes as would blind us to all else, or restrict us exclusively and indefinitely to its activities.

Each man must be his own judge of what it is best for him to do. Each one must decide when and whether it is either desirable or safe to decrease his attendance at meetings. And I am convinced, too, that any protracted absence from meetings would be a dangerous practice indeed for those whose mastoid areas are still damp. . . .

For me--and by the grace of God I am in my eighth year--more than two weeks without a meeting, or without some association with my kindred of the jug, is to pour boiling water on the ice immediately underfoot. Granted, I may not reach for the ruckus juice at the end of that two weeks, but my thinking will surely have strayed from AA and the drunk that I was, like the Whiffenpoof lamb which pursued the devices and desires of its own little black heart. Stay away too long and I, too, may plaintively be bawling "Baa, baa, baa!"

And as for that old-timer, he's sober. He's vigilant. He's useful. He's happy.

Any questions? *Pax vobiscum!* - *Anonymous*

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Sacramento Fall Conference October 5, 6 & 7, 2012

Friday	8:00 PM	(TBA)	
Saturday	3:30 PM	(TBA)	
Saturday	8:00 PM	Tom W.	Oakland, CA
Sunday	11:00 AM	(TBA)	

Fresno January 25, 26 & 27, 2013

Friday	8:00 PM	Pat O.	Pleasanton, CA
Saturday	3:30 PM	Shaun G.	Oregon
Saturday	8:00 PM	Bill C.	Torrance, CA
Sunday	11:00 AM	Sharon A.	Redwood City, CA

Foster City June 7, 8 & 9, 2013

Friday	8:00 PM	(TBA)	
Saturday	3:30 PM	(TBA)	
Saturday	8:00 PM	Bob D.	
Sunday	11:00 AM	(TBA)	

Modesto October 10, 11 & 13, 2013

(Speakers to be announced)

San Ramon March, 2014

Lodi June 2014

Fresno October 2015

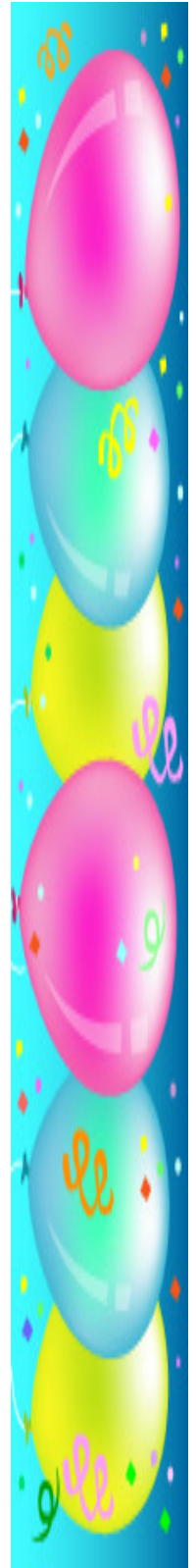
Sobriety Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Allison O Santa Clara, Ca. 6/11/2005
Ann Q. San Jose, Ca. 7/21/2001
Barb B. Capitola, Ca. 6/8/1984
Berry M. Danville, Ca. 8/26/1986
Bill R. Santa Clara, Ca. 8/1/1981
Billy W. Fresno, Ca 6/28/1996
Bob A. Stockton, Ca. 8/14/1984
Dale M. San Francisco, Ca. 8/13/2006
David S. Pleasanton, Ca. 6/13/2006
Diane O. Cupertino, Ca. 8/30/74
Edward A. Gold River, Ca. 6/29/83
Kent D. Concord, Ca. 8/8/88
Gary H. Redwood City, Ca 8/27/1979
Gerald G. Turlock, Ca 6/7/2007
Harry I. Dublin, Ca. 6/5/1954
Jack G. San Leandro, Ca. 6/3/1961
Jason P. Turlock, Ca. 8/7/1999
Jeff G. Turlock, Ca. 8/1/1996
Jose D. Santa Cruz, Ca. 7/17/2000
Julie S. Santa Clara, Ca. 8/27/2001
Linda G. Rohnert Park, Ca. 7/23/1997

Lisa G. Redwood City, Ca.
8/23/1983
Marguerite F. Walnut Creek, Ca.
6/6/1973
Marji H. San Jose, Ca. 7/9/2001
Megan G. Vacaville, Ca. 6/3/2002
Michelle P. Santa Clara, Ca.
6/8/2004
Norlene Austin Lodi, Ca. 8/23/1988
Norma A. Galt, Ca. 8/23/88
Paul P. Sacramento, Ca 7/18/2007
Richard M. San Leandro, Ca
8/2/1994
Rosemary A. Redwood City, Ca
7/13/1959
S.A. G. Lafayette, Ca. 7/7/2008
Sandy H. San Carlos, Ca. 6/21/2001
Sharon S. Sacramento, Ca
7/5/1989
Victoria S. Santa Rosa, Ca
8/1/1996



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