

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 1, Number 1 — September, 1979

Convention Report

Coming Soon!!! THE 9TH WORLD CONVENTION of Narcotics Anonymous will be held right here in Atlanta, Georgia, September 6-9, 1979, at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel. This is only 4 weeks away! As time grows shorter, the convention committee will meet every other Sunday, beginning July 29, at 4:30 p.m. at Mike & Wayne W.'s house. If you have been waiting for things to get "hot" before you stepped forward to get involved, NOW IS THE TIME! We need all the help we can get to make this convention the best one N.A. has ever had.

Some of our members who have been traveling recently (e.g., Pat & Chuck S., Tommy B., Laura H., and others — see the Wichita article) have come home to say that Atlanta has the best N.A. in the world. If this is true (and I believe it is), then we owe it to members of other groups around the world to share with them the wonderful love and cooperation that we have worked so hard to sustain here in Atlanta. Our Higher Power has indeed given us both the great responsibility for hosting the convention, as well as the strength to carry out the task in unity.

Don't be shy ... don't be resentful. Whoever you are, if you are interested in Narcotics Anonymous as a program of recovery, this convention needs your unique contribution to it. After all, that's what N.A. is all about — caring enough to share and sharing enough to care even more. If you have not registered yet, please do so as soon as possible. Six dollars may not seem like much to you, but it all adds up to monies we need to make this convention the success we all want it to be ... and remember,

"I Can't ... We Can!"

Love you, Katherine J

CONVENTION CALENDAR DANCES

The following dances have been held to raise money for the 9TH WORLD CONVENTION:

July 27, Friday, at the Scout Hut, behind the First Presbyterian Church, Peachtree at 16th Street. The theme for this one was "Hot and Nasty Rock and Roll" and it was a smashing success.

On August 3, Friday, at the Clubhouse in Marietta, "Oldie-Goldies" was the theme of the dance. Shag, bop, hop, twist, etc., was the order of the night for the hits of the fifties and sixties. Yeah for da' grease!

August 11, Saturday night, Clubhouse in Marietta, "Le Freak" DISCO. With a guest D.J. from the hottest disco in town spinning the hot-hot hits that make the nightlife in Atlanta famous and special lighting and fabulous music, this was an extravaganza event!

All of the above dances began at 10:00 p.m. with a buffet eating-rally until 11:00. Everyone was able to go to his regular Friday night meeting and then come to the fellowship and eat finger-foods at the dance. Each person was asked to bring sandwiches, chips, etc., and the liquid refreshments were provided free. The Nar-Anon groups sold desserts (Wow! can those ever cook!) all throughout the evening to raise money for their part of the convention.

While everyone was eating we heard rally reports from various convention committee chairpersons. At eleven o'clock the music began and we danced the night away! Throughout the evening raffle tickets were sold for Fifty Cents — the prize being Ten Top Record Albums to the winner. These would have cost about seventy dollars if purchased in a retail store so it was quite a bargain. The drawings were held at 1:00 a.m. with the lucky winner at each dance getting ten top LP's. Admission was \$2.00 per person at each dance. This included free finger-foods, free drinks and all the music we could handle from a fantastic sound system put together by good ol' George M.

AUG 18 — Saturday, All Day at the Clubhouse. A Bluegrass Festival in the yard. Activities will begin about 1:30 p.m. with volleyball, horseshoes, croquet, body-painting on the porch, pie-throwing, wet T-shirt contests, home-made ice cream churning, and more! At 6:00 p.m., the Nar-Anons will begin selling Bar-B-Q plates for \$2.50. After smelling them cooking all afternoon it should indeed be a treat to eat! Be There!

Throughout the afternoon excellent Blue Grass music will provide a background for all these activities. At 8:00 p.m. there will be a special convention speaker's meeting, with an out-of-town speaker. At 10:00 p.m. we will crank up the sound system for a "Honkey-Tonk Hoedown," with enough hard-hitting country dancin' music to raise the rafters in the clubhouse! Like the other dances, there will again be a raffle drawing at 1:00 a.m. but this time the grand prize will be Twenty Top Record Albums! The cost of tickets will still only be Fifty Cents, so this will be even more exciting than those before. The Survivors' Meeting will begin around 2:00 a.m. or whenever we wind down enough to have a meeting. There are, of course, the back rooms to hold any small group sessions which need to meet to talk about living clean and sober! The afternoon activities are free, the meeting is free, but the dance will cost two dollars per person.

METRO-ATLANTA GROUPS

Sunday — "12-Step Study Group," closed to only N.A. members, at the Clubhouse, 890 Atlanta Road, Marietta. Phone: 428-0081.

Monday — "Clean & Serene Group," open, Ridgeview Institute, 3995 S. Cobb Dr., Smyrna.

Monday — "Feeling Free Group," open, Peachford Hospital, 2151 Peachford Rd., Chamblee.

Monday — Atlanta West Hospital, third Floor, I-20 West, 1st exit beyond 6-Flags Over Georgia.

Monday — South DeKalb Mini-Mall, at the mental health center.

Tuesday — "New Visions Group," DeKalb Addiction Clinic (GMHI), 1256 Briarcliff Rd., Atlanta.

Tuesday — A closed women's meeting at the Clubhouse in Marietta.

Tuesday — New Group of N.A. meeting at the Dogwood Clubhouse, Highland Ave., Atlanta.

Wednesday — "Turning Point Group," Peachtree/Parkwood Hospital, 1999 Cliff Valley Rd., Atlanta.

Wednesday — "Southside Survivor's Group," Clayton General Hospital, 11 South Upper Riverdale Rd., Riverdale.

Wednesday — "Forward Group," meets at the clubhouse in Marietta.

Thursday — "NAVAHO Group," V.A. Hospital, 1670 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta.

Thursday — "Golden Eagle Group," Buford Prison. Contact Barry L. for information.

Thursday — "Open-up Group," Clubhouse, Marietta.

Friday — "New Connection Group," Peachford Hospital.

Friday — "Dogwood Group," Dogwood Clubhouse, Highland Avenue, Atlanta.

Friday — "Reaching Out Group," held at the clubhouse in Marietta.

Friday — At the "New Horizons," Durant at Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta.

Saturday — "Speaker's Meeting," held at the clubhouse in Marietta.

Saturday — "Survivor's Group," held at the clubhouse in Marietta.

All groups meet at 8:00 p.m. each week except the "Survivor's Group" which meets at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday nights, and the "Golden Eagle Group," and the "Southside Survivor's Group," which meet at 8:30 on Thursday and Wednesday nights, respectively.

Welcome to New Groups

A new meeting is now being planned for the Canton/Cartersville area, hoping to start at the end of this month. It will be on Tuesday nights at the mental health center in Canton.

The much-needed "women's only" group at the clubhouse started this month.

Also, a new meeting which began in August was the "New Horizons" center at the intersection of Durant and Ponce de Leon. Narcotics Anonymous was invited to a reception at the center on July 27, Friday. The event began at 7:30 with a meeting at 8:00 featuring Barry L. as the speaker. There was a dance from 9-11, which proved to be a very enjoyable social time for all.

N.A. would like to officially welcome the only prison group east of the Mississippi to our fellowship. The "Golden Eagle Group" has been meeting for some time and it seems that they are serious about sobriety, even in adverse circumstances! We support you to the limit, we need you and we love you all dearly.

There is also a new meeting at the Dogwood Clubhouse on Highland Avenue in Atlanta on Tuesday nights at 8:00 p.m. Check it out. This is the second N.A. meeting to be started at Dogwood Club.

There is also a rumor about a new meeting at the First Methodist Church in Marietta. It began in August and is at the site of one of the first meetings in the metro Atlanta area. A lot of us got sober in that room on the second floor, the "Upper Room," if you please.

Rising Sun Clubhouse

The Rising Sun Clubhouse at 890 Atlanta Road in Marietta, elected new officers last month. Ed C. moved up from vice-president to replace Tommy J. as president. Wade W. and Ken P. are co-vice presidents. Lane W. replaced Connie B. as secretary and Mike Wo. continues as treasurer. Our heart-felt thanks go to both groups of officers as they are doing the N.A. community a great service by helping to keep the clubhouse functioning so that we are able to hold meetings there. **THANKS!**

The wall has been torn down between the two small meeting rooms to make one large room, which was overflowing last month when both Bo and Brock celebrated their birthdays. That was Bo's fifth and Brock's first. Happy birthday guys and many, many more. Future improvements include a window fan for better cooling systems and screens for the doors and the windows.

Membership at the clubhouse is currently about 50 individuals. You do not have to be in N.A. to be a member, but you do have to have 90 days of continuous sobriety to get a key. Membership dues are only \$7.00 per month and members receive a newsletter each month to keep them posted on the latest developments around the club. Business meetings are held on the second Saturday night of each month at 9:30. Being a member of the clubhouse is a great way to serve N.A. as the clubhouse now rents space to seven meetings each week, Tuesday through Sunday. Among these is the longest regularly-scheduled N.A. meeting in the world according to Bo S. This is the Survivor's Meeting each Saturday night at 11:00 p.m. which has run until 8:30 Sunday morning!

Institution Update!

Barry L.

I am an addict and an alcoholic. I am also a member of Narcotics Anonymous. Today I have much to be grateful for in the way of experiences, and I would like to share with you all the feelings and natural highs I have received from a group I have been attending at Buford Georgia Training and Development Center.

As the outside sponsor, I have had the opportunity to talk with and listen to the inmate members. After suggesting that each member who was interested write down his own experience with N.A., I was overwhelmed with the response. The group secretary keeps minutes of every meeting. Here are the minutes of our first meeting as a group:

"The meeting came together really good for the first meeting that we had since we elected officers. The inmates, not to give any names, came more alive when Bill W., one of our outside sponsors, started off the discussion by bringing out points about Steps No. 4 and 5 of the Twelve Steps of N.A.

Everyone seemed to focus their minds and thoughts toward his conversation and then some inmates verbally expressed what they were feeling. This alone made others feel more at ease by listening to others of the same status.

My eyes wandered around the group looking at the others to see if they were getting anything from what was being said. There were sad, scared, and eager feelings all combined together in almost all of the faces present. I felt so much better about my belief and faith in the first N.A. group in a prison East of the Mississippi, the Golden Eagle Group. There are still some who are afraid of themselves and this causes a little discomfort in myself because they are the ones who really need to look at what they are doing. Not only are they destroying themselves, but they are hurting the group as a whole.

A miracle is something that only God can give us as a gift. If I may use this one word from Him, I want to say that miracles happen within yourself. You yourself make miracles happen by admitting there is a power greater than yourself. With the knowledge of this first real N.A. meeting I know that this group will help us to bring out the power greater than ourselves to achieve the dreams that we have about the real world and not to have the illusions that we have while we're under the influence of some type of drug no matter what kind it may be.

With N.A. in our mind and body we will be stronger than we ever thought possible and being who you are and what you are, we together will make what some call a dream a reality for those who will listen and admit to themselves and to others who and what they are. The beginning is inside this group and the end will be if you leave because, without the

understanding of this group in your heart you won't remain clean no matter who you are or what you try to do on your own."

— Richard W., Secretary
Golden Eagle Group

I would like to thank you who have given your time and support, and especially the New Visions Group for their contributions. This prison group is important to all of us in Atlanta because we could have been where they are if we had not found the program and the recovery which it offers through the groups. Please contact me if you have any desire to carry the message and get involved in some of the most rewarding service work in sobriety.

NAR-ANON GROUPS

Monday — Ridgeview Institute.

Tuesday — DeKalb Addiction Clinic.

Wednesday — Clayton General Hospital.

Friday — Peachford Hospital.

All meetings begin at 8:00 p.m.

What A Camp-Out!

Ed C.

Ed C. rode his bike to Kansas for it, and this is his report.

On July 6, 7 and 8, a group of us N.A.'s all got together in Newton, Kansas, for a weekend camp-out. All total there were about 60 "druggies" running around, some needing a bath, others not.

The Kansas groups did an outstanding job of putting the thing together and addicts came from all over. Areas represented from Kansas were Wichita, Newton, Topeka, Salinas and Dodge City. Out-of-state folks came from Denver, Colorado; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Atlanta, Georgia — including Karl S., Donna B., Katherine F., and myself. (ops... and Tommy B.)

Two GSR business meetings were held Saturday for the GSR's from all the areas and out of that came three new Area Service Committees and a lot of growth.

New literature committees were formed and the convention in Atlanta was big news, too. One guy taped all the meetings to do his part.

We had a late-night bon fire meeting Saturday night on "fear" and it was really something to sit around and watch the fire glow and share. Sunday morning's spiritual meeting was on "faith."

Everyone left yelling "see you in Atlanta in September" to their new friends. We sure do thank the Kansas folks for a fine time.

New Connection Group Celebrates Fifth ...

This September will mark the fifth year that Narcotics Anonymous has existed in Atlanta. It all began with the Friday night meeting of the New Connection Group, at that time with only about a dozen people. This group grew to very large proportions at one time of over a hundred people per meeting. Since other Friday night meetings have started the New Connection Group has leveled off to about fifty people a week.

At last year's anniversary celebration there were about 150 people.

Atlanta Area Service Committee
Post Office Box 53302
Atlanta, Georgia 30355

World Service Conference

Bo S., Tommy B., and Laura H. attended the World Service Conference in California this past April. Bo was elected chairman of the WSO Literature Commit-

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 29 — Wayne & Mike W.'s house. There was a "mail-out" party afterwards, with a cook-out after the meeting. Munchies were brought.

AUG 12 — The Atlanta-Biltmore Hotel.

AUG 19 — Wayne & Mike W.'s house.

AUG 26 — Wayne & Mike W.'s house.

SEPT 2 — Atlanta-Biltmore Hotel.

All meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. and everyone has been invited and urged to attend as many as possible.

Birthdays ...

The newsletter went to press in such haste that the only birthday's of which we were aware were Southside Ron's (first), Wednesday, July 25, and Southside Karen's (second), Wednesday, August 8, at Clayton General; and, Pat's S's (seventh) on July 27, Friday, at Peachford Hospital.

The lack of birthday news is one of the reasons we need a newsletter reporter from each group — to keep us posted on all group news that only one person just cannot keep up with. If you would like to represent your group, please contact Mike We. or Katherine F.

tee (which is now meeting weekly here in Atlanta — get involved!), and Tommy B. was elected Chairman of the next conference. Congratulations guys, we're proud of you! If there is anything we can do please let us know.

Area Service Committee

The Atlanta Area Service Committee is still meeting on the first Tuesday night of each month at 6:30 at the DeKalb Addiction Clinic (GMII). Business has been minimal due to the upcoming convention, but new groups are starting and literature is being ordered just as always. If you are a GSR of a group, your input is needed in these meetings. Plans for the future need much discussion in order to attain group conscience, so please come to share your experience, strength and hope.