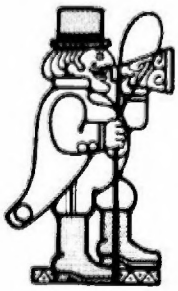
The NORTHERN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE NORTHERN ASSEMBLY

Issue #3 **February 11, 1983**

COMING EVENTS



Mar. 4, 5, & 6

West Central Regional Forum
Ramada Inn
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

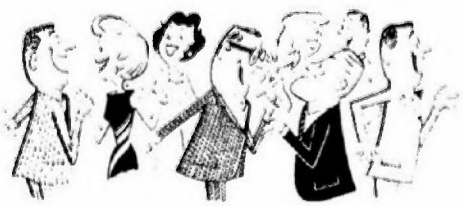
Apr. 22, 23, & 24

6th Annual Borderland Round-up
"Let it Begin with Me"
Holiday Inn
International Falls, MN

Fri. Noon - Registration and Hospitality Rooms
7:00 - Larry S. - A.A.
8:00 - Call up meeting
Sat. 11:00 - Young People's Kurt K.-Hoyt Lakes, MN
1:00 - Catherine S.-Chisholm, MN, Al-Anon
6:00 - Banquet Wesley P.-Pompano Beach, FL, A.A.
Sun. 10:00 - Breakfast Bob B.-St. Paul, MN, A.A.

For more information, write:

Borderland Round-up Committee
Box
International Falls, MN 56649



Apr. 29, 30, & May 1

13th Annual Iron Range Get Together
"A Vision for You"
Rainbow Inn
Grand Rapids, MN

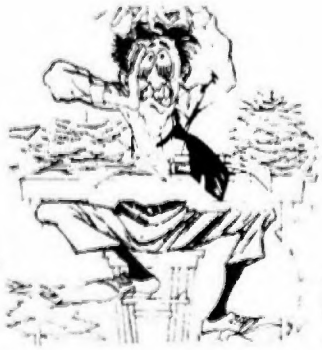
Fri. 8:00 - Dottie H.-Lakewood, CA, A.A.
- Jack K.-Lubbock, TX, A.A.
Sat. 10:00 - Canadian Panel
1:30 - Alateen, to be announced
- Pat K.-Lubbock, TX, Al-Anon
7:00 - Harvey S.-Winnipeg A.A.
- Tom G.-Winnipeg, A.A.
9:30 til 1:00 - Dance
Sun. 9:30 - Johnny H.-Lakewood, CA, A.A.

For more information, write:

Iron Range Get Together
P.O. Box
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Apr. 9 & 10

Spring Assembly
Holiday Inn
Brainerd, MN



Thanks To Dave & Fran A.

I have just today.
There are only 24 hours in it.
Today came upon me, I can't
 refuse it.
I didn't seek it, I didn't
 choose it.
I must suffer if I squander it.
I must give an account no
 matter what I do with it.
Just one short day.

My One Day At A Time

I've been told not to look in the future or relive the past.

Live one day at a time, slow down my pace, don't live to fast.

If I could see my future, would I really want to and would I like what I see.

If it were possible to turn back the clock, is there a day I want to live again, or a day I want to live again, or cherish the memories and let it be.

When I play fortune teller and pretend to know my future and what lies beyond. I will compare it to my past, analize, tear it a part, and still I know it's wrong.

Where do I get my trust, hope and faith to live one day at a time today.

When I remember to reach up and let God do it his way.

People tell me to surrender and give my life and will to God, because he knows what's best for me.

But I'm afraid he'll screw it up and I won't like what I see.

They tell me he's going to do it anyway whether I want him to or not.

I've found it's easier to let him have it willingly.

If God were sought.

Joanie R.

From the Editor

This is our third effort at the Newsletter. Each issue seems to bring more of a response from the membership. It was gratifying to receive several more pieces of mail during the past several weeks than previously.

Of special interest is the up-coming Spring Assembly. If you have some ideas to put forth at the Assembly or feel that your views should be put forth, be sure to come prepared to discuss these things at the meeting. Tom, our trusted servant and delegate in New York, is going to want to talk to as many of you as he can so that he can carry an informed group conscience to the General Service Conference when he goes to New York.

Sometimes we think that as A.A. members out here in the country, that we have little influence in what happens in A.A. This is not true. There are only 92 delegates who really run A.A. Most of you know Tom and he is easy to talk to. Tell him your thoughts about what concerns you in A.A.

From people that have talked to this Editor, it is clear that everyone wants more sharing and in-put at the Spring Assembly. Make sure that you come prepared to discuss your ideas and be forceful, if necessary, in demanding time to discuss them during that part of the agenda.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Is It A Group Or A Meeting?

At a recent service meeting, there was a lengthy discussion about what constitutes an A.A. group. The discussion centered primarily on so-called "special-interest groups". As I listened to the sharing, I was reminded of what I read in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group". When I returned home, I dug out my pamphlet and turned to page 32. It cleared up some confusion for me. I decided I would share it, along with some of what I've been taught in the brief time I've been privileged to be part of this blessed fellowship.

"The group conscience of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada seems to have agreed upon six points that define an A.A. group: (1) All members of a group are alcoholics and all alcoholics are eligible for membership; (2) As a group, they are fully self-supporting; (3) A group's primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through the Twelve Steps; (4) As a group, they have no outside affiliation; (5) As a group, they have no opinion on outside issues; (6) As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, and they maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio-TV, and film."

Does this definition suggest that we cannot have men's groups, women's groups, young people's groups, doctor's groups, etc.? I don't think so, as long as the special interest doesn't become a requirement for membership or a requirement for attending a meeting of that group. When we start doing that, I think we are saying WHO you are is more important than WHAT you are. I don't think Bill and Dr. Bob had that in mind. I'm an alcoholic because I drank booze and got into trouble as a result, not because I'm a man, a teacher, a left-hander, or a Catholic. I'm a member of Alcoholics Anonymous because I don't want to drink anymore.

I'm a member of an A.A. group because the experience of those who have gone before me has shown me that recovery from alcoholism is easiest that way.

The group I belong to tries to abide by those six points. In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, we maintain some degree of structure - we elect group servants, we participate in district and area activities, we make Twelfth Step calls, we carry the message in whatever capacity we can.

In addition to my group meetings, I also attend other meetings where those who participate may not be alcoholics or where the problems we discuss may not necessarily be related to alcohol. These other meetings help me in many ways, but they are never a substitute for the meetings of my A.A. group.

I hope that I haven't given the impression that I am anti-special-interest groups. I'm not. I'm in favor of whatever it takes to save someone from John Barleycorn. He's taken enough of us. I just don't want us to become so specialized that we lose sight of our primary purpose for existing, "WHENEVER ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT THEIR HAND FOR HELP, I WANT THE HAND OF A.A. TO ALWAYS BE THERE...FOR THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE."

Bill S.

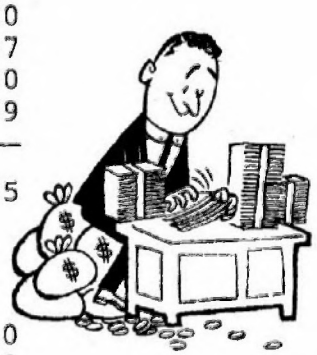
We want to hear from you

Write: Editor
Northern Light
Box
Moorhead, MN 56560

1982 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR NORTHERN ASSEMBLY

INCOME

Beginning Balance	$ 834.65
Group Contributions (126 groups)	3556.06
East Iron Range Rapup	25.00
Paul Bunyan Roundup	100.00
Red River Valley Roundup	250.00
Superior Roundup	416.71
Gopher State Roundup	1100.00
Minnesota Al-Anon/Alateen Conference	250.00
Coffee Kitty (Area Committee Meetings)	50.00
Buffet Tickets (Spring Assembly)	350.00
Coffee Kitty (Spring Assembly)	91.00
Workshop Checking Account	308.47
Workshop Registrations (132 at $7.00)	924.00
Workshop Coffee Tickets (1432 at $.25)	358.07
Buffet Tickets (Fall Assembly)	325.00
Coffee Kitty (Fall Assembly)	71.69
TOTAL INCOME 1982	$9010.65



EXPENSES

Expenses carried over from 1981	$ 211.40
Check printing charge	4.92
February Area Committee Meeting	110.60
Postage & Envelopes	529.92
Sioux Falls Regional Conference	449.00
General Service Conference	550.00
Spring Assembly	983.16
June Area Committee Meeting	65.00
August Area Committee Meeting	65.00
Literature	200.00
Area Workshop	2237.68
Public Information Committee	25.00
Fall Assembly	1059.84
December Area Committee Meeting	213.00
Area Newsletter	152.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 1982	$6856.52
CURRENT BALANCE	$2154.13

TOTAL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	$3556.06
Number of groups contributing	126
Number of groups in area (approximately)	400
Number of members in area (at 15 per group)	6000
Percentage of area groups contributing	31%
Per capita contributions for entire area	$ .59
Per capita contributions for contributing groups	$1.88