

ALMACANEWS:

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALCOHOLISM IN MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS TO BE HELD IN BOSTON

The International Conference on Alcoholism in Multi-National Operations is scheduled for April 28-29, 1977 in Boston, Massachusetts in conjunction with the 62nd Annual Convention of the American Occupational Medical Association. The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

The most costly and troublesome health problems among personnel subjected to exceptional social change by their occupation are related to an unusually high incidence of uncontrolled drinking.

This conference is designed for senior executives, industrial physicians, personnel managers and others responsible for personnel policies and health programs. Its main purpose is to improve understanding and point the way towards more effective administrative and clinical management.

The Thursday morning plenary session is open to registrants of both the American Occupational Health Conference and the International Conference. The Thursday afternoon and Friday morning sessions are restricted to registrants of the International Conference.

Outstanding speakers with first-hand knowledge of these problems—senior executives, scientists, physicians, and government personnel—from the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East—will discuss such topics as: "Global Trends in Alcohol and Drug Abuse", "Government Policies and Programs", "Cultural Training and Occupational Health", "Alcohol and Drug Problems in Overseas Employees", "Executive Responsibility for Health Problems Associated with Rapid Social Change", and many others.

The planning committee for the International Conference includes Archer Tongue, executive director, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, Lausanne, Switzerland,

ALMACA MEMBERS URGED TO CONTACT SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN BACK HOME

Now is the time for members of ALMACA to resolve to establish and maintain regular hometown contact with their U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

A new administration, pledged to social well-being as a high priority, took office this month, along with the new 95th Congress that went into session on January 4.

There is no question that federal support is essential to the continued growth and development of occupational and other alcoholism programs. And, it's also well known that the strongest advocacy is based on personal knowledge and continued on page 2, column 1

Harrison M. Trice, professor, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, Paul M. Roman, professor of sociology and epidemiology, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle Lindley, administrator, Employee Assistance Services, Bechtel Corporation, San Francisco, California and James Baxter, executive director, ALMACA, Reston, Virginia.

The planning committee for the American Occupational Medical Association includes Bruce E. Douglass, M.D., Mayo Clinic, Co-Chairman of the American Occupational Health Conference, Robert Katz, M.D., Equitable Life Assurance Society, New York—Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Adolph Brink, M.D., Southern New England Telephone Co., New Haven—Chairman of the Post-graduate Seminars, Amos J. Brown, M.D., Western Electric Co., Chicago—Chairman, Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and Howard N. Schutz, Executive Director of A.O.M.A., Chicago.

The Co-Ordinator of the Conjoint Program is R. Gordon Bell, M.D., President of Donwood Institute, Toronto, Canada.

Registration prior to March 1, 1977 is \$125 and after March 1, 1977 is \$150.

NIAAA CURRENT FUNDING IS PRIORITY OBJECTIVE

The first priority task for ALMACA members to concentrate on in the 95th session of Congress is to secure speedy passage of the full supplemental appropriation for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Before the 94th Congress adjourned, it has appropriated only \$12.8 million earmarked for support of NIAAA staffing grants and Uniform Act programs.

Because authorizing legislation did not pass soon enough, Congress didn't have time to act on the remaining budget request for some \$98 million—\$55.5 million for formula grants to the states and \$43.1 million for project grants.

Instead, Congress passed a continuing resolution which enables the NIAAA to fund formula and project grants at the fiscal year 1976 level of spending. The Institute will continue to operate on that funding basis until Congress enacts the supplemental appropriation.

It is expected that there will be action on the \$98 million supplemental appropriation before Congress turns its attention to funding requests for fiscal year 1978, which starts next October 1. (The 94th Congress changed the start of the Congressional fiscal year from July 1 to October 1 to allow for more efficient program planning, budgeting and funding.)

Expectations now are for the appropriations subcommittees continued on page 2, column 2

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understanding.

Putting the two together, it becomes obvious that one of the most important services that workers in the alcoholism field can perform is to make personal at-home contact with the men and women who represent them in Washington.

The administration and the executive branch, including the NIAAA, make proposals to Congress for programs and funding, but it is the members of Congress who approve the plans and put up the money.

The more these representatives know at first hand about activities in the field—successes, failures, needs, problems—the more receptive they will be when it comes to voting on proposals.

The testimony and other information provided to Congress by national organizations and prominent experts is important in the process of achieving support for the alcoholism field. But that effort can be strengthened greatly if the lawmaker can relate the dry statistics and large issues to people and progress with which he or she is personally acquainted.

Every Senator and Congressman has one or more offices back home to which they make regular visits, monthly if not weekly. The purpose of these offices and visits is to cultivate voters, to gather information at the grassroots and to develop understanding of what the people are thinking and doing.

A personal visit by a Senator or Congressman to an occupational alcoholism program, and a talk with both its operators and the people it serves, can accomplish much more than any number of letters, phone calls and appeals through official spokesmen.

Your Senators and Congressmen want to hear from you and they will be receptive to your invitations. Now is the time to establish hometown channels of communication and to invite your members of Congress to visit your programs and meet the people involved.

To assist you in making these important contacts, the ALMACAN will publish rosters of Senate and House committee and subcommittee members and their hometown offices in future issues.

Both Chambers of Congress were still in the process of organizing committee memberships as this issue went to press, so detailed listing will begin in the next ALMACAN. Until those details are available, we suggest watching your local papers for information on new members of Congress or checking directories on the offices of returning members.

All members of Congress are important to the alcoholism field, but the committees and their members most directly concerned with the subject are: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health, Education and Welfare; Senate Labor Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics; House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.

THE ALMACAN
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**Association of Labor-Management
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on Alcoholism**

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Reston, Virginia 22091

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of the Senate and House to hold hearings by mid-February on the supplemental appropriation measure.

Once that funding bill clears the two Chambers, they will turn their attention to fiscal year 1978 appropriations requests which total some \$137.4 million for NIAAA, \$3 million less than the 1977 operating budget.

Committees and members to contact concerning the supplemental appropriation for NIAAA are: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health, Education and Welfare (Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman) and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education and Welfare (Rep. Daniel J. Flood, Chairman).

PRESNALL CITED BY ALMACA

Lewis F. Presnall, a pioneer in occupational alcoholism, was the first recipient of the ALMACA Presentation Plaque, to be presented annually for outstanding contributions to the field.

"It is indeed a handsome thing," said Presnall of the plaque, "and I shall cherish the kindly sentiments it conveys from the members of ALMACA, so many of whom have been colleagues in various tasks."

Presnall was cited for his "perseverance, innovative thinking and intuitive research" in the presentation at the annual meeting in San Diego.

Presnall, who makes his home in Phoenix, Ariz., was attending a seminar in British Columbia at the time of the meeting and the plaque was accepted in his behalf by John Lavino.

ALMACANS ON THE MOVE

Edmund J. Stepnowski, OPC, has been appointed Director of Occupational Programming and Coordinator of the State Troubled Employee Programs for the State of Delaware.

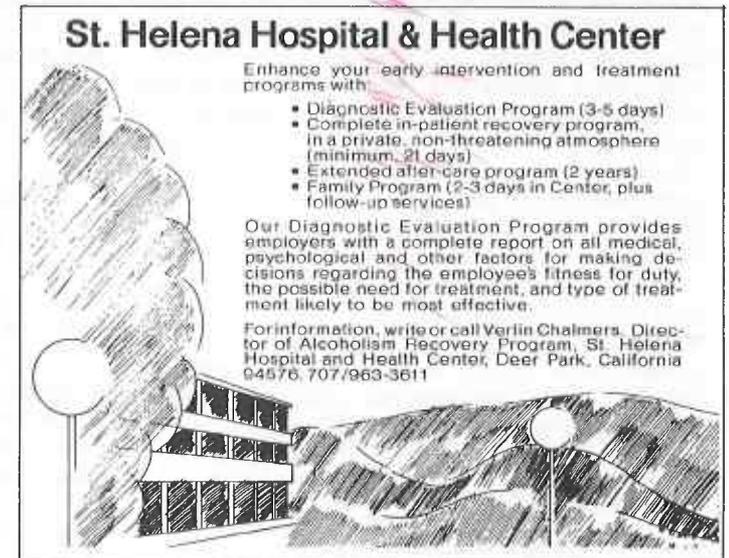
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- * History of Occupational Alcohol Programs, the Employee Assistance Concept, Cost Factors in a Company Program, Reasons Company Programs Fail
- * Alcoholism as a Disease, The Problem Drinker on the Job and Problems Other Than Alcoholism
- * The Roles of Management and Unions in a Company Program
- * Functions of Industrial Relations, Personnel and Medical Departments
- * Establishing, Designing, Installing and Implementing a Company Program
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For Further Information Contact:

Herbert Martey
Director of Training
P.O. Box 426
Amityville, N.Y. 11701
516-264-4000 Ext. 273

The South Oaks Foundation Alcoholism Education Center (Amityville) is offering a Spring program of 10 specialized courses, each providing 30 hours of instruction, relating to various aspects of alcoholism. Open to the general public, these courses are held at South Oaks Hospital on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings beginning the week of February 28th.

Among the courses to be offered are: "Counseling Families of Alcoholics", "Group Dynamics", "Communication Skills for Alcoholism Counseling", and "Alcoholism: Methods for Prevention/Education."

College credit is available in some instances (affiliation list provided upon

request).

For further information, write or call the Alcoholism Education Center, South Oaks Foundation, P.O. Box 426, Amityville, New York 11701 (516/264-4000 Ext. 273.)

MACHINISTS UNION ADOPTS ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM POLICY

Employers will be asked to contribute to a fund to support occupational alcoholism programs under a policy adopted this fall by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW).

The 2,300 members attending the IAMAW convention approved a policy statement declaring the union recognizes that "alcoholism is an illness and that recovery is both possible and probable."

The policy directs that all those under the union's jurisdiction "be urged to negotiate with companies with which it has agreements, that each company pay one cent per hour worked, per member, into a fund" to be used for:

- Treatment not covered by insurance.
- Outpatient care.
- Counseling.
- Follow-up.
- Expense and training of coordinators to include lost time.

Special tribute was paid to Bill Combs, a member of ALMACA, who is Director of the IAMAW District 141 program in Burlingame, Calif., and Director of the California Labor-Management Plan which is funded by the state.

The goal of the California Plan is to establish occupational alcoholism programs in local unions throughout the state. Since funding began in 1974, more than 180 programs have become operational.

Jerome A. Becker, state coordinator of occupational programs, told ALMACA that the IAMAW policy is "a direct result of the California Labor-Management Plan's operation" and that "Combs has done a spectacular job."

Combs made a strong statement in support of the IAMAW employer contribution policy, telling the convention that "our work is not over."

"We will have much to do in expanding this program and educating our membership to the simple fact that, with adequate help, alcoholics can and do recover," he said. "We need to educate the members, our shop stewards and local lodge officers on the ways to detect this problem in the earlier stages and how to make referrals to the proper people and facilities so that help can be obtained."

The IAMAW policy statement said, among other things, that:

"The IAMAW believes that a joint labor-management program should be established in all locals and/or districts for the purpose of helping the individual with this disease to recover..."

"The diagnosis of alcoholism and treatment thereof should be the responsibility of an individual who has been trained in this field..."

"That all under (IAMAW) jurisdiction be urged to negotiate programs, policies, insurance coverage and work rules in order to further this program..."

"That the counselor or program coordinator be a union representative selected by the local and/or district, whichever is applicable."

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INFO EXCHANGE

We are seeking information on active programs and need your help. If you are aware of any programs in your area, please let us know of their existence. If possible, the name of the person to contact in each program would be helpful. All information we receive will be considered confidential in nature. Please direct your response to:

ALMACA
11800 Sunrise Valley Dr. # 410
Reston, VA 22091
(703) 620-2577

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS

When you come across a good idea—your own or that of someone else—don't forget your colleagues in ALMACA. Exchange of information is one of the organization's most important functions and the ALMACAN is your pipeline. Don't hesitate to use it.

Dr. Paul Roman, of Tulane University, reminded us at the recent annual meeting that there is a great need in the field of occupational alcoholism for full communication of methodologies and ideas.

We couldn't agree more. But further, we consider our membership a prime national resource of ideas and valuable information.

We urge all members to keep the ALMACAN in mind when you find ideas that might be useful to others—innovative programs or activities, articles, papers, information on efforts that proved successful or that didn't work.

A special section of the ALMACAN is set aside to cite items of interest for the benefit of the membership. Just send us the reference, a brief summary of the subject, some idea of why you think it's important, and a contact for further information. Your ideas will be included in the Information Exchange section of the newsletter.

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRMEN NAMED FOR 1977 ANNUAL MEETING

Jack Hennessy, Director, NYSA—I.L.A.P., Don Magruder, Director of Special Health Services for Continental Insurance Cos. and Walter Reichman, Ed. D., Assistant Professor at Baruch College, C.U.N.Y. have been selected as program Co-Chairmen for ALMACA's Sixth Annual Meeting. Publicity Chairman for the meeting is William Christian, Project Director of the New York City Corporate Headquarters Project.

The meeting is to be held October 26-30, 1977 at the American Hotel in New York City. The hotel has guaranteed room rates of \$30 for a single to \$40 for a double, plus tax.

Ed Marchesini, Meeting Chairman for 1977, has announced that the registration fee will be \$50. There are two luncheons planned, \$15 each, and one banquet, \$25. A student registration fee of \$15 has been set and for those able to attend only one day of the meeting a registration fee of \$25 has been set.

The Program Co-Chairmen are already hard at work planning a program that will meet the needs of the broad spectrum of expected attendees. They have promised a program description for publication in the next issue of the ALMACAN.

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS INCREASING

Bechtel Corporation, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Monte Villa Hospital have all expressed their support of ALMACA by graciously joining the association with a generous contribution of \$500 or more.

As the number of corporate contributors increases, ALMACA's financial independence becomes solidified. And we can begin to see improvement in service to our members and are better able to meet the challenges before us.

It is with gratitude and appreciation that these needed contributions are accepted.