

ALMACANEWS:

PRESIDENT IS URGED TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR ALCOHOLISM EFFORT

Full funding for alcoholism programs to counter the "roller coaster" approach of the past was urged on President Carter in a strongly worded and comprehensive letter from four Senate advocates.

While they advocate full funding, the Senators told the President that minimum adequate levels required are \$146 million in supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 1977 and \$192.5 million for Fiscal Year 1978 which starts next October 1.

Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and the others applauded the strong support for alcoholism programs voiced by new HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano in confirmation hearings.

"But, we believe that support will mean little if it does not translate into increased budgetary support" for NIAAA programs, they said.

The letter, which termed current funding "grossly inadequate," was also signed by Sens. William D. Hathaway (D-Maine), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics, Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), ranking minority member of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), ranking minority member of the Alcoholism and Narcotics Subcommittee.

They noted that Congress last year reauthorized state formula and project grant funding for three years, but because the action came too late in the appropriations process "these programs are currently functioning at a starvation level of \$124 million under the Continuing Resolution."

Budget requests, they said, have averaged \$50 million less than actual appropriations in each year since the alcoholism program was created. In FY 1972, they said, the President requested \$34.7 million, while final appropriations were \$84.6 million; in FY 1973, the budget request was for \$75 million while the final appropriation was \$156.4 million.

NEW HEW SECRETARY CALIFANO SUPPORTS ALCOHOLISM EFFORT

Support for strengthening the federal effort to combat alcoholism was expressed in confirmation hearings by Joseph A. Califano, the new Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Two key quotations:

"I have no question in my mind that alcoholism is a serious problem in this country...I hope that I can find the right people to help and work in this area, and put an absolute searchlight on this problem so that the American people understand the costs."

"There is no question in my mind that we have to increase our commitment in that area...I think it is one of the highest negative impact areas there are for failure to act."

"This 'roller coaster' funding approach has taken its toll on the effectiveness of our federal alcoholism efforts," they said. "The development of adequate alcoholism prevention programs has been effectively sidelined for lack of consistent support."

The Senators told the President that "research has been downgraded and exiled to a 'medical Siberia' in a broken-down, unaccredited mental hospital, with a total annual budget less than one percent the size of the budgets for the other two leading medical problems in the nation."

They compared the \$10 million spent last year on alcoholism research (the third largest health problem in the country) with \$750 million on cancer research and \$350 million on heart disease. "While some disparity between these figures is obviously justifiable," they said, "the current disparity seems to us to be too great."

"We believe the time has come to put an end to this cycle of uncertainty and inattention," the letter said. "A new Executive (continued on page 2.)"

1977 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM COMMITTEE REQUESTS PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP

The program committee, comprised of Jack Hennessy, Don Magruder and Walter Reichman, for the 1977 Annual Meeting of ALMACA recently mailed to each ALMACA member a request for ideas, suggestions and papers for the Sixth Annual Meeting to be held Oct. 26-30, 1977, at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

The goal, they have said, is to provide a rich, tasty convention. According to the committee they are inviting all ALMACANS to participate with them in designing the convention by sending suggestions. They intend to present a monthly report of their planning activities and they invite comment on their plans. Speaking for the committee, Mr. Reichman said "The plans we have formulated so far include a two track series of workshops, videotaping of sessions, round table discussions, conversation hours and plenty of room and time for informal interactions among members."

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ALMACA THE ALMACAN

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President Urged...

Branch commitment to this problem has been indicated by you and by your advisors and cabinet officers. In order to carry out that commitment, new resources will be needed, and we urge your support for the appropriation of those resources."

The Senators said they are not asking for enormous sums, noting that the authorizing committees "agreed last year to reduce the level of authorization for state grants and projects grants, so that a request for full funding would be a realistic one."

"While the authorizing committee supports full funding of current authorized levels for these programs, there are also minimum levels which we think are absolutely necessary to sustain vital treatment, prevention and research services," the Senators said in outlining those levels as follows:

Proposed FY 1977 Supplemental Appropriations

Section 312*	Project Grants	\$55,549,000
	Treatment—Shortfall	13,000,000
	Total Needed	\$68,549,000
Section 301	Formula Grants (continuing resolution level)	\$55,500,000
	New Formula (hold harmless for small states)	8,700,000
	Total Needed	\$64,200,000
Section 501	Research (additional amount needed for full funding)	7,282,000
Section 504	National Alcohol Research Centers	6,000,000
	Total Needed	\$13,282,000
TOTAL SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIRED		\$146,021,000

* Section numbers refer to the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act.

Proposed FY 1978 Regular Appropriation

	Committee Proposal	Ford Budget Request
Project Grants and Contracts	\$79.1 million	\$56,361,000*
Formula Grants	\$64.2 million	\$55,500,000
Research (including National Alcohol Research Centers)	\$30.0 million	\$13,179,000
Training	\$ 7.2 million	\$ 2,956,000
Management & Information	\$12.0 million	\$ 9,468,000
TOTAL	\$192.5 million*	\$137,464,000*

* Ford budget request does not include \$12,047,000 for Indian programs, which it proposed to transfer to the Indian Health Service. That sum is included, however, in our proposal. Primarily this means that the appropriate "Ford request" total for comparison with our proposal should be \$149,511,000.

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(continued from page 1)

1977 Annual Meeting

He explained the two-track series of workshops is designed to serve the needs of people who are relatively new to the field and of those who have more experience in the field. The committee believes that one function of the convention should be to provide training for new entrants into the profession and Track I workshops will involve elements of a basic training program in occupational alcoholism. They invite suggestions about the content of these workshops and recommendations for leaders.

The second-track will consist of advanced level sessions. There will be symposia, papers, and workshops that assume a fair degree of knowledge of the field from training and experience. Presentations in this track will be innovative, creative, controversial, and thought provoking.

The printed program, which attendees will receive at registration in New York, will indicate which workshops are Track I and which are Track II. No one, of course, will be restricted to attending along a single track, but participants will know what to expect before they get there.

We expect to videotape the sessions and arrange time periods for their showing.

"We expect to set up a series of round table discussions," Mr. Reichman continued. "This will involve small groups of 8 to 10 people exchanging ideas on a topic of mutual interest and concern. There will not be formal presentations but rather discussions of important topics. We invite suggestions for these round table topics."

The idea for the conversation hours, it was explained, is to invite well-known, influential and creative people in our profession to converse with members who are interested in their work. The invited person would spend an hour answering questions, sharing his/her opinions and advise and describing his/her work and theories to a small audience. People outside the immediate occupational alcoholism field may be invited. The committee would like to know with whom the membership would like to have these conversation hours.

One of the great benefits of attending a convention is meeting people. Enough time and convenient places will be provided for such meetings.

The deadline for ideas and suggestions has been announced as May 15, 1977 and should be sent to ALMACA, Inc., 11800 Sunrise Valley Dr., #410, Reston, VA 22091.

The ALMACAN joins the committee in urging your prompt response and support to their request for your participation.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear ALMACANS:

I think we've made a lot of progress since the beginning of the year, and I want to share with you what has happened. A lot of thought has been given to who and what ALMACA is, and what it ought to be. With the improved financial picture, it now becomes possible to concentrate on growth, on better service to all ALMACANS, and on facilitating the occupational program movement. We can deal with issues like this today but couldn't a year ago when our concern was that of survival.

Here is what we have initiated within ALMACA:

- Starting in this month's ALMACAN, each committee head will report to the membership monthly on the goals and progress of the committee. Present committees are: Research, Standards, Public Relations, Labor, Membership, and Chapter Coordinator.
- A new membership form has been developed, making it easier and faster to process an application. And a new membership category—student membership, has been added.
- Very soon, each ALMACAN will be asked to complete a questionnaire covering background and experience. This will help us to better draw upon the strengths of the membership for help.

This is all part of our on-going program of looking at the needs within ALMACA and designing programs to meet them. We need your thoughts and ideas about what we should be doing to provide better services to all of you.

Next is the role ALMACA ought to play in furthering the occupational program movement. Some of this can be generated within ALMACA, but the greater impetus will come from our relationships with other organizations in the field of alcoholism.

I believe that ALMACA is, should be, and will increasingly be the voice of the occupational program movement. There are certain things that we can and must do. The major one is to define the needs that exist. We can then determine how alcoholism organizations—both ALMACA and other groups—can best meet the needs, and take action to try to get the organizations to do the necessary tasks.

For example, Jim Baxter and I had a very productive meeting with the leadership of NIAAA, where they reviewed their plans for the occupational alcoholism field. I think we had a healthy discussion, one which will continue. From our point of view, a major problem quickly emerged: that is that only 5% of the budget of NIAAA is being directed to the occupational area. There was complete agreement about the importance of occupational alcoholism, especially in the areas of earlier identification of alcoholism. There was also agreement that NIAAA can and should play a major role. But when we went beyond generalities, and were asked what specific things we would like NIAAA to do, we were hard put to give specifics. As a result, we were asked by NIAAA to review the needs of the field and to submit to them ideas and recommendations regarding ways in which they should help. This is now being prepared.

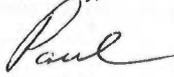
This then is the advocacy role which ALMACA is beginning to play. As the voice of occupational alcoholism, I think it behooves each of us to look very critically at the field and begin to define the needs that exist, both short term and long term. I would like to hear from you on issues like the following:

1. If only about 100 of 1,200 occupational programs in existence are working well, what can and should be done to motivate the remaining ones to upgrade their programs.
2. Is it possible for NIAAA to reward organizations who have a viable occupational program? If so, what kinds of rewards would be most meaningful?
3. What kinds of research programs should be instituted? Short-term? Long-term?
4. Since virtually all programs focus on job performance, what kinds of programs would be helpful to ALMACANS for better understanding the performance appraisal process in an organization? Who ought to be developing these programs?

These are a few of the basic questions that need to be asked. There are many more than can be raised. This is an important task for ALMACA. It can be personally and professionally rewarding for all ALMACANS. And, collectively, we can do a great deal toward furthering the occupational alcoholism program movement.

I'll continue to keep you posted on what is happening, and again please let me hear from each one of you.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Sherman, Ph.D.
President

ALCOHOL ABUSE IS PRIME TARGET IN CANADIAN "LIFESTYLE" CAMPAIGN

Responsible drinking is an important theme in "Operation Lifestyle," a public education campaign to promote health and safety launched recently by Canada's Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The campaign, which includes a \$650,000 alcohol moderation ad campaign, is based on a study by Marc Lalonde, Canada's Health and Welfare Minister, entitled: "A New Perspective on the Health of Canadians."

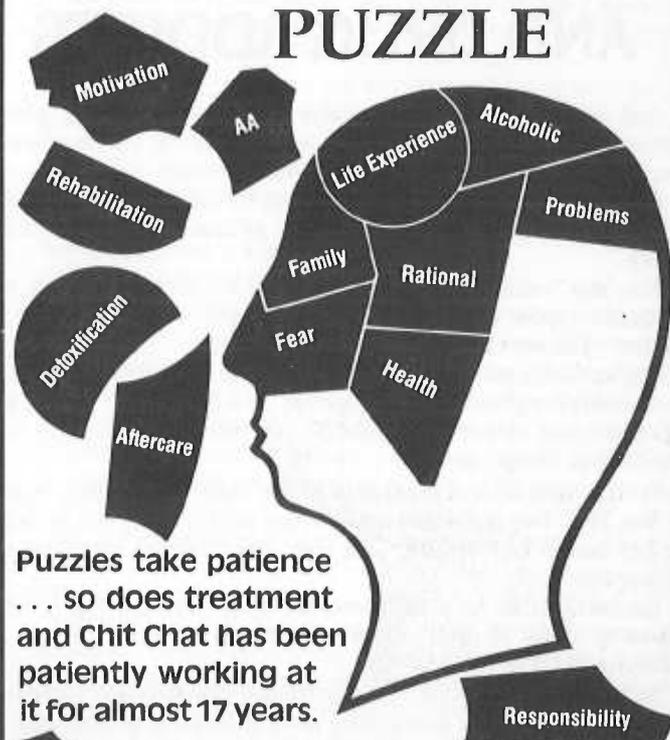
The campaign covers such subjects as heart and lung disease, the importance of exercise and diet, and traffic safety as well as the use of alcohol which is involved in many health and safety considerations.

Minister Lalonde concedes that the federal government can do little to actually change lifestyles but, he adds, it could, over the long term, increase the public's awareness about problems resulting from excessive drinking.

For information on the campaign or packet or materials: Information Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Canada, K1A0K9.

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CHAPTER ACTIVITY

We are pleased to announce a new chapter, the Western Pennsylvania Chapter. By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors the petition for chapter status was approved in January 1978.

FRISCO CHAPTER STARTS NEWSLETTER

The San Francisco Chapter of ALMACA launched a monthly newsletter in January. Donald J. Eaman, an ALMACA member is editor of the letter which he says has three main goals:

- To serve as a "bulletin board" for members on upcoming meetings and other activities, along with agendas and other information.
- To present new information to members on statistics, problems, techniques and activities.
- To bring to prospective employers information about ALMACA and what the occupational alcoholism movement is all about—and what it can do for them.

"Though it's too soon to give any feedback results," said Eaman, "we feel it's really going to provide better communication locally, and provide a channel for new people and/or companies to get help or initiate a program."

HEW REGULATIONS WOULD PROTECT RIGHTS OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTS

Draft HEW regulations include victims of alcoholism and drug addicts among handicapped people entitled to protection against discrimination in employment and other services that receive federal funds.

But, they won't go into effect until signed by the new HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano who is expected to put his name on them before the end of the month.

The "regs," which spell out the Department's position on rights and enforcement under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, were left unsigned on Califano's desk when the old administration departed.

Whether alcohol and drug addiction would be left in the regs, or if Califano would make other changes, was not known as the ALMACAN went to press, but indications were that antidiscrimination protection for alcohol and drug addicts would be retained.

The regs raised a tide of comment when first floated in the **Federal Register** in May, 1976. They were widely discussed and another version was published in July. Another draft prepared since then retains coverage for alcohol and drug addicts.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, amended in 1974, contains what is widely known as a "bill of rights" for the handicapped, of whom there are an estimated 35 million in the country.

Section 504 makes this statement: "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States...shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Just exactly how far protection would extend is not completely clear as regards alcoholics and drug addicts. Full interpretation in practice probably will require some court testing.

The regulation drafters decided that, because medical and legal opinion define drug and alcohol addiction as an illness, they should be covered under Section 504.

Under the proposed regs, for example, a hospital could not discriminate against those with a history of addiction in admission to its emergency ward.

A question of interpretation is raised by the word "qualified" in describing those whose rights are protected as being handicapped. Employers would be required to hire "qualified" handicapped people, for example, but they would not be required to lower standards of performance or behavior under the regulation.

If Secretary Califano signs the regulations, a more detailed analysis of the final version will be presented in the next issue of ALMACAN.

ALMACA OFFERS NEW STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Phil Keller, Chairman of the Membership Committee, has announced that, effective immediately, a new category of membership in ALMACA has been created—that of Student Membership. The annual dues for students has been set at \$10 and the Student Membership is designed for those students enrolled in a degree program in alcoholism with interest in the occupational area and who wish to be kept informed of activities in the occupational field.

A new application form has been designed to include the student category. The form is being supplied, in quantity, to each chapter and board member, and is available to anyone for the asking. Please direct your requests to: Becky Lind ALMACA 11800 Sunrise Valley Dr., #410 Reston, VA 22091 (703) 620-2577

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS



Judy Arnold
Executive Director
Red River Regional Council on Alcoholism

This month we are introducing Judy Arnold, secretary of ALMACA.

As Executive Director of the Red River Regional Council on Alcoholism, since 1972, which serves nine Texas and six Arkansas counties, Mrs. Arnold directed the establishment of five out-patient centers and one intermediate care facility.

Mrs. Arnold is responsible for proposing plans of action to the Board of Directors for their approval and seeks funding when assessment discloses particular area of concern or immediate need. She meets regularly with the Executive Committee regarding policies and is responsible for procedures to implement council plans.

Prior to joining the council, Mrs. Arnold founded the Central College of Personnel Training, a Business School and served as its director for seven years.

Mrs. Arnold has achieved expertise in industrial, governmental, and community public relations and program development.

MAJOR EFFORT TO PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS IN MASS.

The Massachusetts Council on Alcoholism (MCA) has launched a major effort to promote the concept of occupational alcoholism programs throughout the state.

Cooperating with the state Division of Alcoholism, MCA has appointed a task force of 40 to encourage the occupational programming concept through local councils, providing them with technical assistance as needed.

The joint effort includes staffing, planning, program implementation and training. The task force does not manage programs itself, but helps local councils to establish community-based programs that offer treatment to employees of local companies and industries on a fee-for-service basis.

For information: Dr. Jane Matheson, executive director, Massachusetts Council on Alcoholism, 730 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.