



## ALMACA'S FIRST DECADE

by

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The 10th Annual Meeting of the Association of Labor-Management Administrators and Consultants on Alcoholism is a significant event in the history of the occupational alcoholism movement. It signals that the men and women working in our field have been able to sustain a commitment to provide mutual support and education during a period of growth of the profession. Since growth always signifies change, the commitment of the field to its professional organization demonstrates that different philosophies will strengthen ALMACA.

Any organization, whether it is a nation, a labor union, a business, or a professional organization, must have a sense of its history if it is to survive for very long. History not only provides a guide for future actions but a means for acquiring pride, self esteem and uniqueness. While there is no doubt that the period of the late 1960's and early 1970's produced many good changes in our society, it is also true that it focused much on the immediate present. Many of our institutions are now taking time to pause and incorporate the gains of the recent past into the heritage of our society. It is a good time for the growing field of occupational alcoholism to affirm a commitment to develop a profession which will serve ourselves and our other institutions for the future.

Ten years in the history of a movement is really not very long. Since ALMACA has its roots in alcoholism, it is worthwhile to compare where the organization is compared to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous or the National Council on Alcoholism after ten years. Another ALMACA root is traced to labor and the AFL-CIO is, this week, celebrating its 100th anniversary. How many businesses start and fail within a year or two? With these perspectives, I think that we can be very proud of where ALMACA is on its tenth anniversary and appreciate the commitment that we will all have to make to further the growth of our field through our professional organization.

While we learn from history, we should also be aware that we are making history. This requires weighing short range gains and political differences against the longer range objectives of the profession. In this year of single issue politics, we should all dedicate ourselves to retaining ALMACA as the vehicle which will guide the profession for the long run while providing a voice of reason in those single issues that impact on employee assistance programs.

This historical perspective is something that I hope to cultivate for as long as I am associated with ALMACA. If you will provide us with material for the ALMACAN it will become a reference document for the future. Others will contribute to the field. The oral history project that Professor Harrison Trice is directing at Cornell University will be an invaluable resource for the field. At our 1982 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, ALMACA will honor the "Thundering 100" for the ten years of work in the field. We should do something similar each year to remind us not to forget the past as we forge ahead to the future.