

## PRESIDENT'S PRECEPT

**Greetings, Fellow Members! Again this is the Captain speaking!**

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By now you will all have received a preliminary announcement of the first annual meeting of our family association, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 15, 1988.

I hope you are planning to attend and urge you to do so. I realize that for some of you it is very short notice to make travel and lodging plans and perhaps juggle other plans you may have had. Seems like everyone plans meetings and other events in October, I guess because it is the first decent weather after a blistering summer.

By way of explanation, the officers of the Association had been discussing for about a year the when and where of our first annual meeting when an unexpected confluence of circumstances practically screamed out that we should meet in Atlanta on Oct. 15. At our meeting we hope to set the date and place of the next meeting so that long range plans can be made.

As we meet this year, let us try to keep in mind the bottom line of the primary purpose of this Association-which is gaining and disseminating more information about Alford's. As old Samuel Gompers said about the long-range goals of the labor movement: "More! More! More!" So, more about Alford's! And also keep in mind that this is not a social organization. While some of the stated purposes of the Association touch on social aspects, there is no doubt that the total thrust of all our listed purposes is more information.

Another point to consider as we prepare for and attend the meeting we don't want the planning and organizational work for this meeting, as well as the details of administering the Association during the year to detract from our primary purposes. These administrative details are only a means to an end, so let's not get preoccupied with the means and forget the end.

It will help if we can spread and share the work load of administrative and organizational tasks. In preparing for this meeting, I have asked various members to serve on committees or perform specific tasks. Because of time constraints, some of these appointments were made without prior consultation with the individual concerned. For this I apologize and assure everyone that normal procedure in the future will be prior contact.

Stop the presses! I just thought of another reason why you should come to the meeting in Atlanta. I am curious as the devil as to what you look like! Seriously, I am looking forward to seeing you hope you can make it.

Lodwick H. Alford  
AAFA President