



NewsGram

Vol. I, No. 3

C.A. World Services, Inc. P.O. Box 1367, Culver City, CA 90232

October - November, 1987

CHAIR'S CORNER:

Growing pains: issues handled

It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the World Services Convention and I hope to meet and speak to those of you who I haven't met at the upcoming World Services Conference in November.

The office, I am proud to report, is the busiest it has ever been. Our chips and literature sales have increased and are on the rise. On the average we are selling about 20,000 chips and 10,000 pieces of literature per month.

Requests for starter kits have also increased and it's obvious that the fellowship is growing. With that growth, however, comes many growing pains.

An issue that has come up recently is the World Services Office policy on mailing lists. The CAWSO does not provide mailing lists to any round-up or convention other than to its own World Services Convention. If a local area is having a C.A.-sanctioned convention, the WSO will distribute its flyers as a courtesy to that area -- but does not release the names of previous convention attendees or delegates.

There are bound to be growing pains, but, one by one, we have ironed out issues that have come up and are working to protect our first tradition: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon C.A. unity."

As a board our goal has been to open the channels of communication across the fellowship.

We have begun to receive support in both direct donations and in chips and literature sales from new and old areas throughout the United States. I believe that, as an office, we have been achieving our goals.

Coco C.
Chairperson.

4th World Service Conference to decide fellowship's direction

By Jim G.
Editor

The fourth Cocaine Anonymous World Service Conference, the group conscience of world service, will be in November when some 50 delegates gather in Marina del Rey, CA, to talk about the direction of the fellowship.

The conference will be Nov. 13-15 at the Marina International Hotel. It will begin at noon on Friday and go through noon on Sunday.

During that time delegates will discuss ideas and direction for the fellowship.

The conference is the only time all the fellowship's service branches come together at one time. The conference will include delegates, trustees and directors from the World Service Office.

The conference is the legislature of C.A., insuring that the full voice of the fellowship will be heard regardless of area

or size. Each delegate represents approximately 10 meetings.

The delegates, trustees and directors will divide up into the eight committees, at which time suggestions, questions and problems will be discussed. The committees are:

- Finance.
- Structure and By-Laws.
- Hospitals and Institutions.
- Convention.
- National Directory.
- Literature, Chips and Format.
- Public Information.
- Conference.

Each delegate serves on one committee and each committee should have a trustee serving on it.

"We need the conference to insure that any change within Cocaine Anonymous

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Unity, recovery, service: legacies of 12-step programs

By Margie G.
Staff Writer

There are three legacies in the 12-step programs: unity, recovery, and service. Each builds an equal side of the pyramid that represents the structure of the fellowship and the strength of the individual. If one side of the pyramid is weak or fails, the whole structure can crumble. As such, service is a vital spiritual concept in recovery. It is also our primary reason for existence.

"The need for unity and participation is so critical right now that lack of it could impact negatively upon C.A. in the immediate future," said Reggie L., trustee from Los Angeles.

Basic democratic principles underlie the service structure of Cocaine Anonymous. It resembles an inverted pyramid with the groups occupying the large base area at the top.

"In terms of service, the groups are the ultimate authority," Reggie said.

A theoretical idea may start in a group, where it would be approved by group conscience. Then the elected general service representative (GSR) would take it to the next level, the general service office (GSO) meeting, which is an area council. The area councils (GSOs) occupy the position under the groups in the inverted pyramid.

The area councils handle the working affairs of their areas except when an issue affects C.A. as a whole. Then it is passed on to the next level of service, the World Service Conference delegate. Delegates are elected by the councils.

The delegate should know the voice of

See LEGACIES, page 4

1st Concept ensures groups retain final say

By Margie G.
Staff Writer

The 12 Concepts of world services bind the service structure just as the Traditions bind the groups and the steps the individual.

They were written by Bill W. and adopted by the St. Louis International Convention in 1955. It was at this point that World Service responsibility was shifted from the founders to the entire fellowship. There was a need to provide unity of principle and purpose to a growing fellowship, especially after the founders were gone.

C.A. adopted them to provide security and stability for the ever-growing world service structure.

"We needed some guidelines and wanted checks and balances just like the American system of government has," said Trustee H. Lee S. of Houston, TX. "The Concepts provided a skeleton, a backbone for our service structure."

The first concept states: "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship."

This first concept ensures that the groups retain the final say in issues affecting the entire fellowship. The meat of its principle comes directly from the second tradition.

Each of us has a responsibility to see that C.A. works, on a personal level as well as on a world service level; group

consciences must be taken to be heard at the WSC. The ultimate authority is ours, and, along with it, the final responsibility as well. The Concepts help guide us in the right direction.

"We're a bunch of dope fiends, not knowing what our responsibilities are," H. Lee said laughing. "Left to our own stuff, we'll kill ourselves. The Concepts don't limit us. They give us someone to be responsible to. They give us a good foundation and watchdog us from ourselves."

The 12 Concepts provide an integral unity vital to our fellowship. Through unity we will achieve health and growth to reach those who still suffer.



NewsGram

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-- Conference--

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comes only in response to the needs and the wants of all our fellowship and not just a select few," said Ray G. of Riverside, CA, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"Delegates must be knowledgeable about the needs and feelings of their areas."

Hotel accommodations for the conference are \$75 per night, plus 10 percent tax. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at (800)882-4000. In California, call (800)8-MARINA.

Reduced airfare is available through American Airlines, which may be reached at either 800/248-1948 or 602/722-3955. Ask for the rate for Special Group No. CA/Star File No. S-53986.

There will be a special orientation for new delegates at 11:15. New delegates should contact the World Services Office to be placed on the mailing list for information on the conference.

"The World Service Conference," Ray said, "is our senate, congress and government. It is the voice of our fellowship expressed in the group conscience, our only authority, which is then communicated through the conference."

Information Numbers

Canada	(416)445-3896	Illinois	(312)278-7444
Alabama	(205)869-0779	Kansas	(316)264-3066
Arizona		Massachusetts	(617)581-5600
Phoenix	(602)934-0009	Nebraska	(402)556-2126
Tucson	(602)326-2211)	New Hampshire	(603)889-6681
Northern California		New Mexico	(505)984-9207
San Francisco	(415)563-2358	New York	
East Bay	(415)835-8522	Manhattan	(212)496-4266
South Bay	(408)378-6097	Peekskill	(914)739-8105
Mid-Peninsula	(415)367-7107	Westchester	(914)941-7590
Marin County	(415)453-8439	Oregon	(503)256-1666
Sonoma County	(707)578-4160	Pennsylvania	(215)789-5343
Monterey/Santa Cruz	(408)462-1926	Tennessee	(615)327-8990
Southern California		Texas	
Los Angeles	(213)839-1141	Houston	(713)668-6822
San Fernando Valley	(818)988-1777	Austin	(512)397-6700
San Gabriel Valley	(818)447-2887	Utah	(801)266-1793
Inland Empire	(714)369-8220	Washington	(206)722-6117
Orange County	(714)650-1011	Wisconsin	(414)257-1510
San Diego	(619)268-9109	(Please submit any information on new meetings or hotline numbers to the CAWSO, P.O. Box 1367, Culver City, CA 90232.)	
Santa Barbara	(805)969-5178		
Colorado	(303)650-8989		
Georgia	(404)255-7787		

Chips: a measure that the program is working

By Alan G.
Staff writer

The newcomer chip. Perhaps a symbol of surrender for those coming to their first meeting. The words "hope," "faith" and "courage" emblazoned on each of the chips; a welcoming to the individual who has had enough out there. The message: you are not alone.

Giving out chips for varying lengths of sobriety today is an integral part of most meeting formats. However, it wasn't always like that.

Originally, says Ray G., chairman of the board of trustees, AA chips were given out in an attempt to enhance attendance at a Cocaine Anonymous meeting in Pasadena.

A manufacturer was located in Southern California after several months who produced the first known CA chips. Those first chips were square. Shortly thereafter, the manufacturer of the round

plastic chips now in use was located in San Diego.

As many as 2,500 newcomer chips are sent out in a single week from the World Services Office. New meetings are starting weekly all over the country so the requests for chips keep pouring in.

Chips are sent out with starter kits that go out to groups all over the United States and Canada. Most requests are received on the order form available through the World Services Office. Newcomer, 30, 60 and 90 days six and nine, months and for one through 10 years are recognized increments for the various chips.

The plastic chips sell for 25 cents each. Metal chips have recently become available in limited quantity for one through five years and sell for \$1.25 apiece.

Cory C., the office manager at World Services, said there has been an excel-

lent response to the new metal chips. Three hundred of each were ordered initially and an additional 1,000 of each have been ordered.

The next conference will vote on whether to make up metal chips for years six through 10.

The overall distribution process for chips is operating extremely well, Cory says. She reports that all orders are up to date and that new orders are being processed upon receipt. The inventory and disbursement of chips is being tallied by computer, and it is anticipated that invoices accompanying orders will be computerized as well in the not-too-distant future.

As the requests keep coming in for chips -- and greater lengths of sobriety are sought -- one senses that the program is working.

1986-87 Statement of Revenue, Support, Expense

Following is the Cocaine Anonymous World Services Statement of Revenue, Support and Expense for the year ending May 31, 1987:

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Chips and literature	\$40,252.59
Less non-sufficient funds checks	(\$1,836.47)
Events	\$16,973.52
Donations	\$20,018.28
Connection subscriptions	\$2,766.00

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT

\$78,173.92

EXPENSES:

Chips	\$20,122.00
Events (Convention)	\$7,459.30
Conference Delegate Expense	\$10,134.98
Printing and Photocopies	\$10,854.04
Literature	\$1,586.65
Postage	\$3,151.54
Office Rent	\$4,875.00
Phone	\$994.01
Utilities	\$373.57
Salaries	\$2,342.00
Office Supplies	\$3,985.43
Stationery	\$568.75
Petty Cash	\$403.27
Professional services	\$6,335.16
Bank charges	\$110.33
Miscellaneous	\$3,330.39

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$76,626.42

EXCESS REVENUE AND SUPPORT OVER EXPENSE

\$1,547.50

- - Legacies - -

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the addicts he represents. Here the delegate would turn the idea into a proposal to be placed on the agenda of the WSC.

The WSC falls next on the upside-down pyramidal service structure. The conference provides a forum for the idea to be heard, discussed, and voted on by delegates from the entire fellowship.

Other issues, like the 12 Concepts of World Service, come before the conference first, then go back through the chain to the groups for approval. If approved, they are adopted at the next WSC.

The board of trustees, consisting of eight members, occupies the balancing tip of the pyramidal structure. It advises whether or not the proposed idea falls within the parameters of the 12 Traditions, or whether the idea is in the best interest of C.A. as a whole.

Trustees are appointed by and work for the WSC. "The trustees are guardians of the Traditions and are entrusted with broad decision-making prerogatives," Reggie said.

The World Services Office sits on one side of the tip as the administrative arm of the fellowship with the "Connection" a far-reaching extension of that arm. The WSO would implement the idea and

provide a means of making it available to the entire fellowship.

"The WSO is a clearinghouse for C.A. activities and provides literature and chips," Reggie said. "We are there to respond to questions on starting meetings and to disseminate the newsletter with information and news of the fellowship."

A five-member board of directors serves the WSO.

To equate the organization with government, the WSC is the legislative branch, the WSO is the executive branch, and board of trustees is the judicial branch.

Our fellowship is growing rapidly and, as any infant, it often squawks and needs changing. But in order to hand down the legacies of unity, recovery and service, we who are members now must work towards a common goal -- to help the addict who still suffers.

Ensuring the legacies will promote this goal. There is a great need for recovering addicts to donate time and energy back to the program.

"We need people with talent and skills to be of service," Reggie said, "unconditional service for their local areas or for World Services. It is important for people to embrace the World Services structure as an expression of group conscience and not dismiss that structure because it disapproves of certain decisions."

NewsLines

Letter to the Fellowship:

By now, you have probably discovered that the July-August edition of "The Connection" was not published.

As a result of the resignation of the editor and the formation of a board of review and strategies to look into ways to attract subscribers and broaden editorial support, publication of "The Connection" has been temporarily suspended.

It is the sincerest wish of both the World Services Office and the World Service Board of Trustees to resume publication at the earliest possible time. We ask for your patience and your help.

We'd also like the fellowship to join us in thanking Bruce M. of Los Angeles and the staff of "The Connection" for their tireless and unselfish work. Their contributions will be missed.

World Service Board of Trustees

Effective Dec. 1, there will be a new discount for all chip orders of more than \$200 to the World Services Office.

Meeting count

There are now more than 700 meetings worldwide in Cocaine Anonymous. Following is a list of meetings by state and country in 1985, 1986 and 1987

	1987	1986	1985
Alabama	8	3	--
Alaska	3	3	--
Arizona	27	19	4
California	326	221	108
Colorado	8	3	--
Connecticut	21	17	4
Dist. Columbia	10	1	1
Deleware	2	--	--
Florida	23	8	--
Georgia	25	7	7
Hawaii	4	4	1
Illinois	42	28	13
Indiana	2	--	--
Kansas	7	2	--
Louisiana	3	--	--
Maine	1	--	--
Massachusetts	8	3	--
Michigan	11	10	--
Missouri	4	--	--
Nebraska	1	--	--
Nevada	6	2	2
New Hampshire	2	1	--
New Jersey	6	3	3
New Mexico	4	2	--
New York	25	15	8
Ohio	8	7	1
Oregon	8	5	--
Pennsylvania	5	--	--
Tennessee	13	9	2
Texas	26	20	5
Utah	5	--	--
Virginia	2	2	1
Washington	28	10	3
Wisconsin	18	13	4
Canada	11	7	--
TOTAL	701	425	167

These figures are the best available. If you have corrections, please send them to the C.A. World Services Office, P.O. Box 1367, Culver City, CA 90232.

Calendar of Events

California

Fourth World Service Conference, November 13-15, 1987, Marina International Hotel, Marina del Rey, CA. For further information contact C.A. World Services Office, P.O. Box 1367, Culver City, CA 90232.

Third Annual Greater Los Angeles C.A. Convention, November 6-8, 1987, Marriott Hotel, Woodland Hills, CA. For further information contact L.A. Central Office, 6125 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, Attn: Convention Committee

First Orange County C.A. Convention, November 27-29, 1987, Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel, San Diego, CA. For further information contact the Orange County Convention Committee, P.O. Box 0000, Costa Mesa, CA 90000.

Please send any announcements of upcoming events for your region to "News-Gram," P.O. Box 1367, Culver City, CA 90232