

# News Gram

## The Fellowship in Hong Kong

**PETER O.  
HONG KONG**

In May 2002, I attended the CAWS Convention in Portland, Ore., a really great and inspiring event for me.

It was during this convention that I was given a Starter Kit to bring back to Hong Kong, to try to establish a CA meeting in my part of the world.

Apart from a sporadic NA meeting most cocaine addicts, including myself, attend the local AA meetings.

AA in Hong Kong is a tremendous fellowship and we have always considered ourselves fortunate to have such an open and giving fellowship to attend and be part of.

Once back in Hong Kong, after meeting with some of the members of AA we were given one of their smaller rooms to start a CA meeting on Tuesday evenings.

Our first meeting was Sept. 24, 2002, and five people attended. Everyone attending this first meeting was very happy that CA was at last around, but in spite of this, attendance petered off after a month to just two or three people.

In fact on many occasions only Craig J. and/or myself turned up

each week at the meeting.

Boy, did Craig and I share a lot of things with each other during the weeks and months that this happened!

In spite of the struggle to reach greater numbers in our fellowship, we were never downhearted. We felt that as cocaine addicts, the point for us was to be there and to be available for anyone who wanted to be part of the fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous.

We strongly felt that God could and would allow the CA message to be passed on as and when he felt it necessary.

On March 4, 2003, we had a couple of visitors from the UK attend our Tuesday night meeting, and this gave us a record attendance of six people!

I remember how we all gave a big cheer when that meeting started. Attendance then went back to between two to four people but we were starting to receive "hot line" calls, often through AA Hong Kong and while a few of the callers were ready to attend meetings, our contact and conversations with them was working for us; we were

carrying the message and keeping what we had by giving it away!

Then, in January of this year, attendance suddenly picked up. We started to get four, five and six people at meetings, which culminated in a record seven attending our last meeting on March 3, 2004.

Six people were about to listen to the opening CA readings, when suddenly the door opened and a seventh came in to an almighty cheer from us all, as we knew the arrival of this "newcomer" had broken our record!

When we welcomed and told our newcomer why we had cheered, he broke into a huge smile and said he was happy to be able to do something so positive for a change.

Right now the enthusiasm and gratitude from our small group is amazing. Maybe we will drift back to smaller numbers in the future - who knows?

Whatever happens, we now have a CA fellowship in Hong Kong that is helping to keep addicts clean and for us to be able to be of service and show our gratitude in this way is an amazing experience.



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# Notes from the WSO

The WSO is starting to go into the "press-out" mode what with the World Service Convention at the end of this month and the World Service Conference at the end of August. What this means is that our bi-monthly meetings are going longer again (e.g. 11:30 p.m. to midnight) instead of 10:30 p.m. or so. It's a challenge, but we all know it is worth it because it is for CA.

Speaking of the convention, I want to continue to thank all of the work the "Spotlight on Recovery" folks have done to make this another great and profitable convention. It's inspiring to see the dedication and long hours they have been and are spending to bring this to us. Hope all of you can make it.

We've also been working with the other convention committees, 2005 at Memphis, 2006 at Calgary and 2007 at Kansas City. As usual, registration forms for 2005 will be available at this years' convention.

We are also getting excited about the progress on the new storybook, which is moving forward very quickly.

Lastly, we at the WSO wish to thank all of you in the fellowship who have joined the CA Contribution program. Its exciting how this new program is starting to grow. Remember, if just 750 members donated \$5 per month, CAWS's income would be increased \$45,000 each year! Incredible isn't it?

I also want to thank all of the meetings, districts and areas who have shared their donations with us. Please be assured that we never forget that these contributions are the result of 'dollars in the basket' and are to be spent as carefully as possible. If you are not sure how much your area or district has contributed, just look on page seven of the NewsGram.

Thank you for all of your support.

Bob C.  
Chair of the WSO

The NewsGram is always looking for submissions. If you have ideas, cartoons, poems, stories or any other recovery related material send it and the release form below to: NewsGram Editor, C/O CAWSO, 3740 Overland Ave. Suite. C, Los Angeles CA 90034. We cannot publish your submission without a release form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby give CAWSO and the NewsGram express permission to reprint my original work entitled: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Submissions may be edited for publication. Submissions cannot be returned.

# Entirely ready

SHELIA E.  
LOUISIANA AREA CHAIR

## Step 6:

**Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**

I did not realize the magnitude of my character defects until I did a fourth and fifth step.

I had to acknowledge them and become willing to do something about them. I did with Step Six.

Willingness is the foundation of Step Six. I had to become willing to have everything that blocked me from the sunlight of the spirit removed. I had to look at what had been written and revealed in Step Four and Five. I could not shy away from my reality, but use it as an instrument of freedom in Step Six.

By doing my inventory on a daily basis, and letting what to do grow out of that, I have learned that character is built through patience, self-esteem and humility.

Dear God,

*I am ready for your help in removing from me the defects of character, which I now realize, is an obstacle to my recovery, help me to continue being honest with myself and guide me toward spiritual and mental health.....Amen*



## Where to write

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# UK Convention is Fantastic!

By DAVID L.  
TORONTO, CANADA

I recently got back from attending my first convention in the UK – and am still feeling overwhelmed by my experience there.

After a long flight I was met by a new friend at Heathrow Airport, and driven to a little welcoming get-together at the home of our regional trustee Jackie S.; then a late-night tour of downtown London and to bed.

The next afternoon, following some mandatory shopping I caught a slam door train south toournemouth with some CA friends from the USA.

The next morning we were picked up by small buses and dropped by a local treatment center, where all the clients were welcomed onboard for a day trip to Stonehenge — an awesome experience — and then on to Winchester, where we congregated at the famous Winchester Cathedral.

The Big Book came alive for me on the front lawn when I stood in front of the tombstone of the

grenadier mentioned by Bill W.

The Cathedral was amazing and I cannot fully explain my feeling standing in those ancient galleries.

We all congregated at a building, where I had the honor and privilege of attending and participating in the very first Cocaine Anonymous meeting held at Winchester Cathedral. What made for an unforgettable experience, for this addict, was the tremendous job done by Outreach, so that this unique experience was shared with so many newcomers. Carrying the message indeed.

The convention started the next day with a level of excitement and enthusiasm that I can honestly say I have never experienced before. The lounge area was packed from morning to night, hallways were jammed, meeting rooms, restaurants and even the swimming pool and whirlpool were filled with friends and fellowship. Recovery was everywhere.

Our Regional caucus was attended by representatives from Canada, the United States, the UK, Sweden, Holland,

Please see UK Convention on page 7

Want to help the World Service Office during the World Service Conference? We need members to help run copy machines you do not need to be a delegate to help serve the fellowship as a whole.

DATES OF EVENT: SEPTEMBER 1-5

TIME: DAILY FROM 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

CONTACT MISS PATTY AT THE WSO @ 310- 559-5833.

OR E-MAIL: CONFERENCE@CA.ORG



# Carry the Message not the Wreckage

BY SCOTT B.  
WICHITA, KAN.

**Tradition Five:**  
**Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the addict who still suffers.**

Is your group carrying the message?  
I have been in the program for a few 24's and it is my experience that the groups that stick with the message will grow and flourish.  
Those groups seem to be driven by those members who understand, to the very core of their being, that they only have today. There is no cure for our disease, only a daily reprieve.  
They also seem acutely aware that there are addicts out there that are suffering, living in the misery and hopelessness that we all once knew.  
They also seem to understand that we have been placed in a unique position. We have been given the ability to reach someone who has no future, no hope and to show them there is a way out.  
I know that our opening says, "rarely have we seen a person fail," but at the end of Dr. Bob's story in the Big Book he says "It never fails." We need to remember how we got to where we are now. We may have arrived

on different ships but we are all in the same boat.  
It has been my experience that too many times a group turns into a social club or an hour-long rap session. Many newcomers have been taught in treatment centers that it is a good thing to talk over your problems, to let it out. Don't let them or even veterans of the program turn your meetings into a whining session.

Sure, it is good to let it out, talk about what is bothering you. And the social side of our life is also very important. After all, who would want to be here if it wasn't any fun?

The unity days, campouts, dances and conventions will always be there and are an important part in many of our lives. But, we all need to remember our primary purpose, the core of our being. The one thing we all have in common and know will work, regardless of where we came from or what is going on in our lives at the moment. We need to always talk the solution and not the problem.

We need to find within our groups those with the time and desire to reach out. Take H&I meetings. Offer rides to those that can't get there.

To "carry the message to the addict who still suffers."



## Subscribe to the NewsGram

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# Poems from the heart

## I Love CA

BY GINGER L.  
PHOENIX, ARIZ.

Tweekin' out windows  
Crawlin' on the floor  
Noisy birds were chirpin' outside  
Covered up vents & peepholes in the doors  
Cops, FBI, shadow people  
Haunting you and me

Lightin' up the pipe, layin' out the lines  
Friends sticking needles in their arms each night  
Voices outside were really voices in my mind  
Thoughts I could never fight

Went to any lengths to get away-  
Could not breath, could not think  
Did not know how to pray  
Didn't know there was a way out  
Found I had power no more

Just say no and thinking it through  
Those methods did not work for me  
I told my friends I needed help  
They told me it doesn't cost a dime  
A 12-Step program called C.A.

I love C.A. (We love it!)  
I love C.A. (We love it!)  
We love C.A.

I went to meetings  
I worked the steps  
I learned a better way of life  
Being of service  
To God and others  
There's nothing like it nowhere

12 Steps & Traditions? (We love it!)  
Going to conventions? (We love it!)  
Sitting in committee meetings? (We love it?)  
We're free! (We love it!)  
We love C.A.

I love C.A. (We love it!)  
I love C.A. (We love it!)  
I love C.A. (We love it!)



## Owed to the Cocaine Lady

BRUCE K.  
LOUISVILLE, OHIO

You know times are bad.  
You know times are sad.  
When you can't go home anymore.....

Your best friend shuns ya.  
You're not welcome at the bar.  
Your favorite girl denies she ever knew your name.  
Your mama looks at you and sees death in your eyes,  
And your daddy walks away from you in shame.

You know times are bad,  
You know times are sad,  
When you can't go home anymore.  
You know times are sad,  
You know they've gotten bad,  
When your only friends are junkies and whores.

There once was a time you were top-of-the-line,  
People proud just to know your name,  
But you used them and abused them, each and every one,  
Brought them sorrow, tribulation, and pain.

—Chorus—

So take heed my friend, She'll beat you in the end.  
Once you meet her your life's over for sure.  
She'll pray on your body, your mind and your soul,  
And in the end, the Devil you will owe.  
So don't let the times be sad,  
don't let the times get bad,  
Stay close with your friends and family.  
When it comes time, don't you cross that line.  
Live your life, be happy and free!

You know times are bad,  
You know times are sad,  
When you can't go home anymore.....



# 7th Tradition Donations

January - March 2004

## Alabama

Anonymous - Orange Beach	\$35
The Open Door Group	\$50
First Freedom Group - Birmingham	\$120
Jasper CA	\$10

## Arizona

Anonymous Individual - Phoenix	\$10
CA of Arizona - Tucson District	\$448
Cocanuts - Tucson	\$24
No More Delusions	\$60
Saturday Night Live - Tempe	\$149
Sun Valley Intergroup	\$600

## Arkansas

Arkansas Area	\$225
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## California

211 In Progress - Los Angeles	\$52
Total Anonymous Individuals - Los Angeles	\$344
Back 2 Basics - Fountain Valley	\$20
CA Inland Empire	\$250
CA Conoma County intergoup	\$65
CALA - Long Beach/Compton	\$1,141
CALA - South Central	\$1,496
Central California Area - Summerland	\$309
Corner Stone	\$27
Eastside Early Bird Attitude Adjustment - Long Beach	\$100
Grateful in Granada	\$65
Oldtimers/Newcomers Meeting/Topanga	\$30
Rancho Park - Los Angeles	\$45
Recovery on the Nickle	\$5
Relapse Prevention	\$20
San Diego CA	\$500
San Fernando Valley CA	\$320
San Gabriel - Pomona Valley CA	\$757
Santa Cruz H&I	\$300
Saturday Turning Point - Ventura	\$15
Solana Beach Clubhouse	\$47
Ten Years & Up - Los Angeles	\$50
The Turning Point - SFVCA	\$50
Tuesday Nite Men's Step Study - San Diego	\$69
WSOB Meeting - Los Angeles	\$50

## Colorado

Anonymous Individual - Lakewood	\$5
Coconuts - Denver	\$93
Crossroads - Wheatridge	\$29
Denver District	\$75
Denver District Meeting	\$74
Dragon's Den - Denver	\$30
Nirvana - Lakewood	\$254
Relapse Prevention 101 - Denver	\$10



## Connecticut

Anonymous Individual	\$100
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## Florida

Crack Busters	\$7
Sober in South Beach - Miami Beach	\$10

## Georgia

Cocanut - Lawrenceville	\$151
End of the Line	\$128
Georgia Area	\$5,500
Today's Hope - Eastpoint	\$62
Welcome Home Group	\$11

## Illinois Cont.

Daytime Connections	\$30
Hope Faith and Courage Meeting - Normal	\$25
Illinois Area - Chicago	\$600
NW Suburban District	\$1,074
South & West District	\$325

## Iowa

CA District 1 - Altoona	\$50
Drop the Rock	\$35

## Kansas

Free at Last - Shawnee	\$20
Kansas Area Cocaine Anonymous - Wichita	\$30
New Found Life	\$125
Wichita CA District - Wichita	\$200

## Massachusetts

CA Step Meeting - Cambridge	\$20
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## Michigan

Blind Faith - Lansing	\$40
Broken Dreams - Monroe	\$5
Central Michigan Area	\$20
Lansing District	\$40
Saturday Morning Alive - Lansing	\$40

## Minnesota

CA of Minnesota	\$160
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## Mississippi

Anonymous - Jackson	\$4
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## Missouri

Anonymous Individuals	\$46
Mens Meeting	\$49
Working With Others	\$60

## Nebraska

CA of Nebraska	\$275
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Continued on next page

## 7th Tradition Donations

January - March 2004

### Nevada

The Truth, the Whole Truth &  
Nothing but the Truth \$80

### New York

Sober Toast \$90  
The Last Straw \$26

### Ohio

Men's Memories Plus Meeting - Akron \$5

### Oklahoma

Southwest Regional Convention \$1,000

### Oregon

CA of Oregon \$642  
Sunday Night Big Book - Moon Township \$20

### Texas

Intelligent Agents - Austin \$25  
Step Sisters - Austin \$74  
Speed Bumps \$23

### Washington

Blade Runners - Bow \$30

### Wisconsin

A Vision For You - Milwaukee \$113  
Coke Busters- Kewaskum \$30  
Friday Uncolas - Milwaukee \$13  
Higher Powered - West Bend \$30  
Monday Night First Things First - Milwaukee \$84  
Razors Edge - Big Bend \$302

### International

CA Quebec - Montreal \$1,000  
Manitoba Area - Canada \$124  
Northern Alberta Area - Canada \$191

### Online

OSA \$300  
Steps Online \$33

### Birthday

Come Alive Group - Redondo Beach \$60

### Contribution Program

Contribution Program \$714

*EDITOR'S NOTE: All amounts have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.*

# Minority Opinion

ANONYMOUS

**Concept 5:**  
**Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.**

This concept expresses the principle of the "Right of Appeal" that all minorities whether it is our staffs, committees, boards or trustees should always be encouraged to file minority reports.

In addition, this concept allows for any person in our service structure, whether they are paid or not, to petition for the redress of personal grievance. This should be done without the prejudice or fear of reprisal.

Though this is a seldom used right, its existence always tends to restrain those with authority from exercising their power unjustly.

Bill Wilson wrote in the Twelve Concepts for World Service, "Concerning both "Appeal" and "Petition," I am glad to say that in A.A.'s world services these valuable practices and rights have always been put to good use."

These rights of appeal and petition are aimed at the problem of protecting and making the best possible use of the minority opinion.

We, as members should believe that we shall never be subjected to the tyranny of either the majority or the minority.



# UK Convention

Continued from page 3

Majorca and Hong Kong and those in attendance were able to share our varied yet similar experiences of recovery in Cocaine Anonymous world-wide.

The convention closed with a countdown, with every addict that stood with less than 30 days being called to the front of the hall and given a book. When the question was asked "Is there anyone here with a desire to stop using?" Two people went up to the front. They were brought up onto the stage and given books to thunderous applause – when suddenly and unexpectedly fireworks were set off on stage – bringing tears to my eyes.

As the convention closed I was reminded of how grateful I am to this wonderful program for the new life I have been given, the blessings and gifts, friends and opportunities. Thank you Cocaine Anonymous.



# Calendar of Events

## **Step into the sunlight**

Unity Days  
June 11-13, 2004  
Rock Creek Park  
Twin Falls, ID  
Chairperson: Kenneth C.  
(208) 733-2481  
Gene G.  
(208) 732-5731

## **Living in the Spirit...**

19th Annual AZ Convention  
July 2-4, 2004  
Tucson Hilton East  
Tucson, AZ  
Chairperson: Pilar A.  
(520) 358-2853  
Registration: John G.  
(520) 889-0899

## **Life Will Take On New Meaning**

Northern Alberta Area Convention  
July 23-25, 2004  
Inn On 7th  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Chairperson: Corrine M.  
(780) 455-0092  
Vice Chairperson:  
Larry S. (780) 467-8542

## **God Could And Would If He Were Sought**

18th Annual Texas  
Area Convention  
July 30-Aug. 1, 2004  
Omni Houston Westside Hotel  
Houston, TX  
Chairperson: Wilbert L.  
(281) 999-3117  
Registration: Bobbie H.  
(281) 320-9447

## **Join Us on...**

### **Broad Highway**

CALA 2004 20th  
Annual Convention  
Aug. 26-29, 2004  
Wyndham  
Palm Springs, Calif.  
Chairperson: Harold W.  
(310) 639-4086  
Registration: Delitta J.  
(310) 217-9033

### **United in Love and Service**

Cocaine Anonymous World  
Service Conference  
Aug. 31st – Sept. 5, 2004  
Four Points Sheraton  
Los Angeles, CA  
Vice Chairperson: Kim S.  
(847) 437-9757  
Conference Coordinator:  
Jay S. (602) 677-3782

### **Without Unity, the Heart of C.A. Would Cease to Beat**

Sept. 10-12, 2004  
Holiday Inn.  
Akron OH.  
Chairperson: Charlotte R.  
(330) 256-6725  
Vice Chairperson: Eddie J.  
(330) 329-7844

### **The Door is Open / La Porte Est Ouverte**

Quebec Area Bilingual Convention  
Nov. 5-7, 2004  
Delta Hotel  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Outreach: Marie-Pascale P.  
(514) 937-7284  
Chairperson: Jean-Paul B.  
(514) 440-2463

## **The Keys to the Kingdom**

16th Annual Midwest  
Regional Convention  
Nov. 5-7, 2004  
Hilton Northfield  
Troy, MI  
Chairperson: Ezell G.  
(810) 813-9070  
Registration: Paula H.  
(517) 694-1023

## **Serenity in the Southwest**

Southwest Regional Convention  
Nov. 12-14 2004  
Wyndham Garden Hotel  
Albuquerque, NM  
Chairperson: Shane M.  
(505) 250-0528  
Registration: Norma F.  
(505) 328-3229

If your area or district has an event that you would like to list in the Calendar Of Events contact the World Service Office by one of the following ways:  
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Los Angeles, CA 90034.  
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