

NEWS



GRAM

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MY GIFTS OF RECOVERY

By: Jean-François L..
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

My name is Jean-François and I am a grateful recovering addict.

Somewhere around the end of 1981, I made it to a meeting because someone else worked her 12 Step on me. I wasn't ready to apply this program in my life, but someone was out there after she got clean and sober to carry to me this simple message: "If ever you meet someone that has an addiction problem, send them to us, we have a solution".

I never even tried to question if the solution worked or not, because there she was, sober, taking a recovery chip. The speaker she had managed to get that night was serving 25 years in prison for killing his wife. It happened on a blackout and to that day he had no clue how it did happen. I can't remember how much time he had, but he testified that he was sober using the program, and that his motivation for staying sober was to never wake up again to find out that he had killed someone. I was very happy that the program existed for my friend and for this poor man. Their testimony was that it worked for them, and more importantly, they never said that I needed that solution, so therefore this was not a threat to me or to my "way of life", and I had no reason to question their solution. That's the first gift I got out of recovery, old timers that had read their book, and I wasn't even in recovery, yet.

My sobriety date is June 10th, 1992. I was 33 when I walked in. I had started using LSD at age 13. I phoned the helpline that morning and asked for a meeting's address. It's not that I had come to understand that I was an addict, I had known that for a long time. It's just that I was desperate that morning, I did not know where to go, who to talk to. I felt dead inside. The night before while trying to get numb, I had felt something "break" inside of me, something just said "game over". It's not the kind of thing you talk about over breakfast, in fact it's not the kind of thing you tell anyone.

My life was falling apart and I did not have a solution. Using wasn't working anymore, but I could not stop. The only thing that I did admit that morning on my way to a meeting was that I needed to try something, anything, even the solution "they" had. I had a plan b if that did not work, crash my car in a concrete wall on the highway next to the meeting. It was easy to explain why I was there, I did that in one sentence: "In all my years of using, I did all the things that I did not want to do! ". I did not have to wake up in a cell one morning to find out that I was going to prison for 25 years, but I did get to wake up most every day for 20 years trying to remember what I had done, or, trying to forget what I had done by using. But then one day the drugs stopped working. The pain, the guilt, the shame, my hatred of everyone and everything was then always present. Using wasn't the game anymore, finding oblivion was. As said in the doctor's opinion, I had come to the point "that I could not differentiate the true from the false".

So here I am 25 years later, writing about the gifts of recovery. 25 years is a good start to name one of the gifts. It's not the time that's important, it's the fact that I'm happy and grateful about the amount of time. I learned in program that I am maladjusted to life, and that to a great extent. Our program has helped me dealing with all my shortcomings. I became teachable. I became honest. I became trustworthy. I have learned to trust others. I have learned to set my limits, and to accept my limits. I have learned to be happy. I have learned that being happy is more important than being right. All the things I learned were gifts. The program has helped me come back to the values my parents gave me, from my dad I got the giving to others, from my mom I got that my relationship with my higher power is the most important thing. I laughed at those values for so many years, and today they are at the center of my life. The program has opened my mind, has opened my heart.

(Cont. on page 2)

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MY GIFTS OF RECOVERY?

By: Jean-François L..
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada

(Continued from Page 1)

I was given a chance to reclaim my spiritual values. It's those values that makes me appreciate all the other material gifts I get from recovery. The importance of these spiritual gifts makes listing the material ones irrelevant. It's not the higher education diploma that's important, it's the fact that I was given confidence and self-esteem and shown to turn my fears to God that got me that diploma. It's never about what I have, it's always about what I am blessed with, and blessed I am.

The greatest gift I have today is the ability to sit down with another struggling addict and walk with him through the solution using the big book. "Life will take a new meaning, to watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish ... is an experience not to be missed" says the Big Book, and I fully agree. Nothing is more important in my life than carrying the message that was given to me.

My home group is an open Big Book Study meeting called "There is a Solution". WE have no problem saying "If ever you meet someone that has an addiction problem, send them to us, WE have a solution". I am a living proof of that, I got that gift!

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FEAR AND SERENITY

By: Francesco R.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

It was during active addiction that I felt as though I was alone and without any hope. I had no faith in anyone, anything, or any part of me to live life normally. Going through each day with my selfish attitude and idea that nothing else (not my wife, not my family, not my friends, not even myself) mattered only gave the darkness strength to remain present.

I am currently 41 years old. It was after a long 20 years of living in darkness, with many bottoms, that I came to a sudden, inexplicable realization that there must be another way for me to live. For the first time in early May 2017, I began to bring my physical self into the rooms not being sure if my mind (or spiritual self) would follow or believe what was being shared by people. By the Grace of God, I came to believe, after a few more weeks of continuous and attending meetings, that if this program and these 12 simple yet difficult can bring so much happiness to the lives of the people I have met, it could and would work for me.

I found a sponsor, he got me a Big Book, and I took action. I got myself into detox. Immediately following those fourteen days at St. Joe's, I was accepted into a 28 day treatment program in Toronto. It was during these six weeks that my connection to MY Higher Power grew stronger. I truly came to believe that my Higher Power was doing for me what I could not have imagined doing for myself, as long as I followed the direction of my sponsor and the principles laid out in The Big Book, and prayed for Him to Help me. I am grateful for having an open spirit to not only receive this, but also that I am now able to live a life of Honesty, Open Mindedness, Willingness, Love, Patience, Tolerance and Humility.

These two poems were written during my 28 days in treatment. I'll tell you this, FEAR was written quite easily because it had been my closest friend for so many years. However, SERENITY was written over a period of five weeks or so because I had yet to fully understand what it meant, or how it would feel. I suppose, SERENITY can be written in different words with each new day I surrender and live outside myself.

FEAR

I HAD A FEAR,
A FEAR THAT WAS ONCE LESS FAR,
AND OH SO VERY NEAR.
I ONCE HELD ONTO IT NEAR TO ME, VERY CLOSE.
IT WAS A FEAR, THAT OF WHICH I ALLOWED
NO ONE TO KNOW.

I KEPT IT ALL, WITHIN MYSELF,
SHARED IT WITH NO ONE.
I KEPT IT HIDDEN,
HIGH AND DEEP UPON MY SHELF.
THIS FEAR I THOUGHT,
WAS IT THE ONLY THING REAL?
TO EVERYONE ELSE, I THOUGHT,
IT WAS NOT A BIG DEAL.

IT ANSWERED TO NOT JUST ONE NAME.
YET IT ANSWERED, EVEN WHEN NOT CALLED UPON, JUST
THE SAME.

ALL IT EVER WANTED
WAS TO PLAY A DEADLY GAME.
NEVER ONCE DID IT GIVE ME A CHANCE,
TO WIN AT ALL COST IT,
WOULD KEEP ME DEEP IN A TRANCE.

IT WANTED TO PLAY A GAME,
TO PROVE FOR ME IT WAS THE BEST.
PLAY UNTIL MY DEATH,
FOR ME TO LAY NOT IN PEACE,
OR AT REST.

SERENITY

FREE OF THE CHAINS THAT BOUND MY SPIRIT,
I NOW FEEL LIKE THERE ARE NO LIMITS.

ONCE I FELT LIKE I WAS SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS,
UNTIL THE DAY CAME WHEN I SAW THE LIGHT,
THE LIGHT OF SUCH AMAZING BRIGHTNESS.
LOVE, PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE ARE PART OF WHAT FILL
ME NOW,
THIS NEW WAY OF FEELING EACH TIME I BREATHE, OPEN MY
EYES,
I CAN ONLY SCREAM WOW!

I SHARE MYSELF AND LET OTHERS IN
WHEN THEY NEED A PLACE TO LET IT ALL OUT,
I STAY CONNECTED AND STAY AS MY TRUE SELF,
THIS IS WHAT LIVING IN THE LIGHT IS ALL ABOUT.

I FOUND THIS NEW WAY TO LIVE MY LIFE.
YES, IT WILL ON DAYS HAVE ITS MOMENTS
SOME WILL BE A TREMENDOUS STRIFE,
OTHERS WILL SIMPLY FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CUT UP WITH A
KNIFE.
IN TIMES LIKE THESE I SAY MY PRAYER,
TO THE POWER GREATER THAN ME,
BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE AND HOW
I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO BE FREE

* * *

WHEN I FINISHED MY 4TH STEP!

By: Rudy R.
Fontana, California, USA

When I finished writing my 4th Step, I went right into the 5th Step which is full of promises: I can look the world in the eyes and be at perfect peace with myself, the world and be free! In doing Step 5, fear falls from us. You ever see the movie "The Matrix", towards the end where he's fighting the men in the hallway, they are shooting bullets and bullets at him, he stops running, his hand out, arm stretch out, the bullets stop right in front of him and just fall to the floor, they have no power to kill him. When I finished reading my 5th Step to my sponsor I have no fear, I can look anybody in the eyes and it's ok, there is no fear whatsoever. Negative fear had been ruling me forever and a day, I didn't feel alone or lonely anymore, I was at perfect peace with myself and the world. When I'm physically alone I don't feel lonely and scared, I feel solace and at peace with myself. We are driven by 100 forms of fear and my troubles are my own making, this is my experience,

I had just finish my 4th Step for the third time. This time it was 100% to the best of my ability. I stopped in front of my sponsor house, sitting in my truck praying since I left the house, Oh! What an order! See, when my first sponsor, when I finished my Steps with him, told me that when It was time to do the Steps again, to get a black man as a sponsor - cause I have issues with black people – so the third time doing my Steps I asked God to guide to that person that will help me with my prejudice's issues, and he did. I went into his house and we started the deal, 5th Step, reading my inventory to him, all of it! It took 2 Saturdays, 15 hours each session. When I was done he told me I've done something not too many people finish all of the 5th Step, thanks to God first and foremost, my sponsor especially you people that have done a complete 5th Step, thank you for sharing your experiences with your 5th Step.

See, Step 5 it is full of promises and truth about me and it was the beginning of true kinship with man and God, it deflated my ego, pride, Step 5 is necessary to have longtime sobriety (that's how I been sober 14 years) and peace of mind, body and spirit, I have no more deep dark secret's I swore I take to the grave with me, I have shared everything with another human being (my sponsor). There are things my Dad, Mon, sisters, brothers or wife don't know about me except my sponsor and God. It's been my experience that I was unable to stay sober for a long time always in and out, until I cleaned the house

Another big promise from the 5th Step is that isolation I suffer from that terrible sense of loneliness

just left me, gone with the wind. I just felt this peace around and inside me, when I was reading my inventory to my sponsor I balked for a second, my sponsor understood so he shared some of his dark deep character defects of his he swore he take to the grave, and then I shared all of my inventory with him, all of it! I didn't feel unique or different from all of you, I felt this sense of being part of a whole with God and Cocaine Anonymous and mankind. I felt forgiven for all I had done over and over, and I was able to forgive anyone for harm done to me.

* * *

Trustee Corner

FROM NOWHERE TO SERVICE

BY: George M.
Atlantic North Regional Trustee
Franklin Park, New Jersey, USA

It was a cold dreary day in November that I finally surrendered. A few weeks after that I was introduced to Cocaine Anonymous. From that moment on I found a home.

I was introduced to service, which until this day I have continued. From coffee maker to chipper, secretary, group chair, district chair, area chair, World Service Delegate and now Trustee.

The journey has been one of education, fellowship and humility. In my role now as Trustee it will afford me an opportunity along with my peers to help guide our fellowship along with the group conscious of the Conference.

It is a humbling endeavor and I ask every day for guidance not only from peers but from my "Higher Power". To be entrusted with such responsibility is an honor which I could not have imagined that day in November. I pray that I may be worthy of this position that was given to me. I look forward to serving and to be a voice of reason, compassion, and humility during my tenure

* * *

MY RECOVERY AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE C.A. FELLOWSHIP FROM BEHIND BARS

By: Joshua C.

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

My name is Joshua C. I am 35 years old, and live in Salt Lake City, Utah I am also addict/ alcoholic. My sobriety date is Oct. 29, 2015. And if all goes according to plan, I will spend my 2nd anniversary of being clean and sober behind bars.

With good time, I'll do 7 months of my 10-months sentence. I have come to think of my time here as another 9th Step amends. The only one in fact, that came and found me. Like many of us in recovery have discovered, sometimes the destruction from our past addictions can appear like a dark storm from a clear sky.

Luckily, this court process took a few months it gave me enough time to find someone I can count on, to take my place managing the sober living, at which I stayed. I was able to get most of my life into a storage unit, before my sentencing. When the judge sent me straight to jail from court. I was able to call upon my local fellowship of C.A. to get the rest of my things, and move them into the unit I rented. I am so grateful for the service that my fellowship was so eager to provide.

In recovery, I've been told about the danger of expectations. But that didn't stop me from forming some pretty grandiose visions of my stay at county. I'm not going to say that I pictured walking into jail with a small chunk of recovery time, like being one of those televangelists on youtube.com, knocking parishioner after parishioner down with his suit coat of salvation, or you know, holding the big book of Alcoholics Anonymous to the forehead of addicts to cast out the demons of un-healthy coping mechanisms. But to be honest, that's not too far from what my "expectations" told me.

The reality is about as far from that as you can get. Jail is full of victims. They are victims of a psychotic wife or girlfriend, victims of angry judges, or incompetent attorneys. And of course even the victim, of your garden-variety snitch.

You'd think that in jail, personal accountability and rigorous honesty would be a side effect of getting your ass kicked by addiction. For me though, it's been a study of my own past behavior. Like looking at myself in a mirror, wishing I could reach through the glass and shake the blindness of addiction from the eyes of the person looking back at me.

For me, acceptance has been the operative attribute to work on. I think we, as humans, are most durable and resilient, when we are affectively practicing acceptance. When I look at my historical heroes. I see them practicing acceptance. They appear to seamlessly accept the fact that difficulty, pain and heartache are required for progress, growth, and even victory. I honestly thought that my time in jail would be more like a vacation. Given my previous experience, I thought I knew what to expect. But it has not been easy. It has been very difficult.

The most difficult, and startling aspect of my experience. Has been the most surprising and least anticipated. After 19 months of recovery, I had carefully chosen the people in my life from the C.A. fellowship, with the attributes I most admired. Things like kindness, charity, patience, love and mercy. I have grown accustomed to basking in the warmth and comfort of the C.A. family I had adopted. Coming to jail was like being dropped into the dark icy waters of the arctic. People struggling in the cold waters of anger, jealousy, deceit and hatred suddenly surrounded me. And I have found it difficult, at times, not to feel saturated by those harmful emotions. It is a difficult balance to find. Being able to properly insulate myself, protecting my emotional and spiritual well being. And sharing my experience strength and hope with someone who may, or may not, be listening.

During my stay in jail, I have received multiple letters, and money deposits on my books from people in the fellowship I know and don't know. I miss my C.A. family dearly. And every time I hear from them, or benefit from an act of service they preform, my heart grows. And I look forward to the time when I can return the favor and be of service to them. The time will come, and is not too distant. That I will return to the open arms of my fellowship of free men. Then I can claim victory over this time of difficulty and hardship. Their support and love has been the way my higher power has shown his love for me, and the power the 12 Step program has to heal me and my friends. To snatch us from the frosty waters of addiction. I am eternally in the debt of recovery. I will pay it forward to the newcomer. With that I will work towards another 24.

* * *

CÉLÉBREZ C.A. SANS FRONTIÈRES – CELEBRATE C.A. WITHOUT BORDERS

By: Patrick R.
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

The promises of the 9th Step are realized when we work imperfectly, but resolutely this program. They can happen very quickly or really slowly specially if you decide to work your program one step a year. For newcomers, it is important to mention that it is fortunately written nowhere in our literature to do this that way.

But what about the gifts of recovery? What are we talking about exactly? To answer these two questions, imagine all the energy and time spent in the past for your drug abuse and now channelled into activities that make sense of your life: for some, it will be to undertake a new training or to finish studies; for others, it will consist of consolidating existing links or starting a new family. Among us, some will be realized by their profession and others will have to find another way no less profitable.

Through the encounters and hardships, you will have to overcome, such as the loss of a loved one, their memories will always permeate your mind and have shaped your own personality for the better. Others among us, whether to discover themselves, will have this irrepressible need to go to new spaces and open up to new cultures to find peace. The gifts of recovery are the results of all that you have accomplished and that no matter what happens to you, you will never be able to take it away as dignity, esteem, freedom, hope, faith and courage.

In many cases, these gifts require from us that we commit ourselves fully to the realization of our dreams, even if it means sacrificing immediate pleasures in order to push back the limits that we had too often imposed on ourselves, especially through consumption.

The Quebec C.A. fellowship is already working on the ground for several months to make your stay unforgettable. The evocative theme reminds us of our regional disparities, but also the unity needed to make recovery accessible to all, regardless of our personal horizons. We wholeheartedly hope that this experience and all that surrounds it will be part of the great moments of your recovery and will be included in the list of your gifts.

The showcase of the World Convention on Montreal and a strong affluence of the members of the whole world will contribute to the magic that we all know... Now it's up to us to share it and celebrate humbly our personal victories. Welcome to "Celebrate C.A. Without Borders", the World Convention of Cocaine Anonymous in Montreal, which will be held from June 28 to July 2, 2018.

We all expect you at **CAWS 2018 in Montreal.**

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FOUND SERENITY BEHIND BARBED FENCE

By: Simonne A.
San Francisco, California, USA

Being new in recovery and in my first attempt at the program; I recall working on Step 8 in my 1st Step Group and asking, "How am I going to find many of the people I had harmed in my 33 years of addiction?" One member turned and said, "God will put them in your path when you are ready." I remember thinking to myself what does that mean.

My addiction took me to prison. Sixteen days shy of my 2nd-year clean'n'sober, the judge handed me a four-year sentence. Being stripped of everything - my family - the fellowship of C.A. - my freedom; but the one thing they could not take away from me was My Conscious Contact with My Higher Power. Having worked closely with my sponsor in completing a couple of sets of the 12 Steps prepared me to be able to apply them in my life on a day to day basis. It gave me the tools and confidence to help other women if they too wanted a new-found freedom.

One day while I was in the yard, this name came over the PA system. I stop dead in my tracks and thought oh my God I owe that person an amends. They weren't on my list as I had totally forgotten about harming that individual. Now I understood what the meaning "God will put them in your path when you are ready." I went back to my cell, took out my Big Book and read the instructions on how to make an amends. "I'll never get over drinking/using until I right the wrongs I have done...". My sponsor had told me there's nothing worse than having to make an amends for making an amends. Therefore, I checked my motives as to why I wanted to make the amends and wrote out the harms I had caused. When the opportunity presented itself, I made my amends to him. Let me tell you the Step 9 promise about finding a new freedom and serenity was in full bloom. I had a huge grin on my face that I just couldn't erase. The other woman would say take that f...ing grin off your face. I couldn't cause I had found serenity behind a barbed wire fence!

* * *

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FINALLY LET GO

By: Ruby L.C.
Roy, Utah, USA

Here is a story about a truck. My first husband passed away in 2009. I held onto his truck for almost 7 years after he passed. I drove it just enough to keep it running. At first, I had hoped to give it to one of our sons when they got a driver's license; but, neither one wanted it because it is a stick shift. Then, I held onto it hoping one of them would change their mind. Then, I held onto it because I just couldn't bear to part with it. Then, I held onto it longer because the idea of getting everything organized to sell it was such a hassle. Then, I still held onto it because the idea of the selling process caused so much fear and anxiety. Then, finally, an opportunity presented itself and I sold the truck to a friend in Recovery. . . . That is the story of the truck.

Now for a story about a ring. The ring was nothing much, just a silver band with the circle-triangle symbol around the band. My first husband bought it for me for \$20 from a recovery club back in the early 2000s. It was a splurge for us at the time and it was my first piece of Recovery jewelry. It became one of my prized pieces of jewelry. Shortly after my husband died, I was driving the truck. I had my 3 rings in my pocket. At a stoplight, I reached in my pocket and pulled out the 3 rings to put them on, but I only had 2 rings. The silver band with the recovery symbol was missing. When I got where I was going, I searched the truck, but did not find the ring. When I got home, I searched everywhere in the house, just in case, but did not find the ring. I had my sons help me search the area around the driveway where the truck was normally parked, but did not find the ring. I cleaned everything out of the truck and searched again, but did not find the ring. I was heart-broken. During the first couple years while the truck sat in the driveway, I would occasionally search through the truck looking for the ring. I finally gave up looking for the ring. . . . That is the story of the ring.

A couple days after selling the truck, I saw my friend who bought the truck. He mentioned he had cleaned/vacuumed out the truck. In jest, I asked if he found anything interesting. He said, "Yea, I found a ring." As he handed me the ring that I had lost and searched for all those years ago, I was too amazed to say anything. I did shed a few tears over the ring when I got home later that day. I view that ring as a gift from my Higher Power for finally, finally letting go of the truck. The ring is again one of my prized pieces of jewelry, but for a new reason now.

* * *

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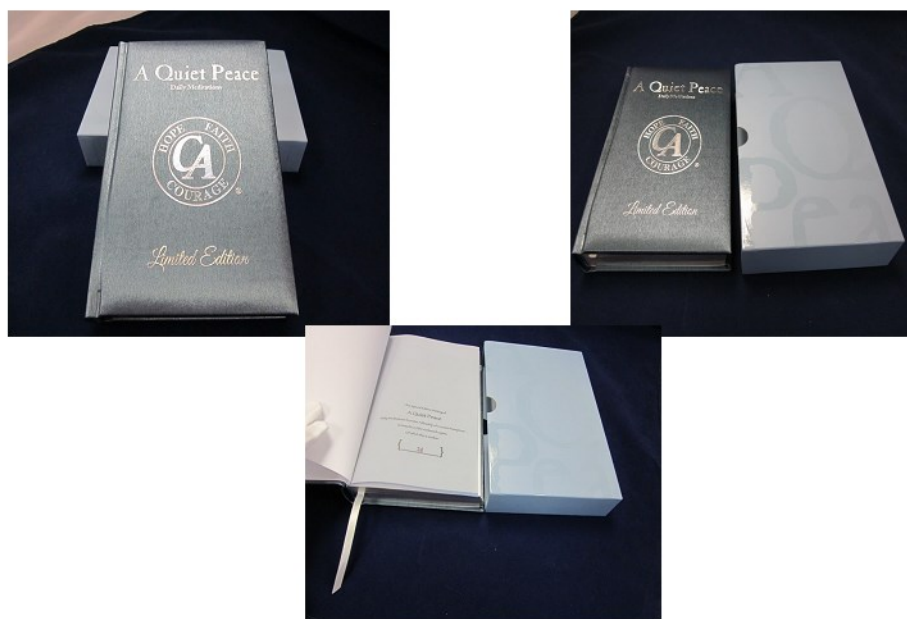
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A Quiet Peace

A Commemorative Limited Edition

The distinctive cover of this limited edition features a beautiful textured blue faux leather with silver lettering, as well as silver foil edged pages. The cover opens to an onion skin hand numbered page it also features a white satin ribbon page marker and comes in a glossy raised printed gift/display box.

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_____	_____ Year	_____
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Violet



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Camouflage



Orange/Noir



Améthyste



Vert



Rouge



Rose



Bleu



Noir

DERRIÈRE



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Pourpre



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Titane



Camouflage



Orange/Noir



Améthyste



Vert



Rouge



Rose



Bleu



Noir



Share Your Experience, Strength and Hope for C.A.'s First 12 Steps & 12 Traditions Book and 12-Step Workbook

We need **YOU** to help make these books a reality! The Conference has approved the concepts, but as with all new C.A. books, the Literature, Chips, and Format Committee needs YOUR submissions. Be a part of C.A. history and help write these books!

12-Step Workbook:

This workbook will be a tool to be used with a sponsor and in conjunction with literature approved for use at C.A. meetings as listed above. Submissions should be 1-2 pages long and include the following:

- Quotes or references to suggested readings from literature approved for use at C.A. meetings (C.A.'s meeting format, pamphlets, *HFC* or *HFC II*; The Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, or *Service Manual*);
- Your personal experience on a particular Step;
- Four to twelve questions to help the reader have his or her own experience with the Step;
- A worksheet applicable to the Step (optional); and
- A prayer or spiritual exercise to conclude the section on that Step.

C.A.'s 12 & 12

Help us write C.A.'s own 12 Steps & 12 Traditions book based on our Fellowship's experience with the Steps and Traditions. Provide 1000-2000 words on the Step/Tradition focusing on your own experience, strength and hope, with a closing paragraph summing up your gratitude for that particular Step/Tradition and how it relates to your recovery. For more information, please contact Jason L., Subcommittee Chair, via e-mail at jason_lmc@yahoo.co.uk.

Guidelines for All Submissions:

Don't worry about grammar, spelling or punctuation; we have people to help 'polish' whatever you write. Other than cited quotes, each submission must be the author's original writing. In keeping with the 11th Tradition, submissions will be reviewed anonymously and the authors of material ultimately selected for publication will be asked to maintain their anonymity. Replies will be sent when the selection process is complete for each project. Electronic submissions are preferred. Each submission also requires a properly executed release form (available at www.ca.org or on page 11). You may send your submission(s) and release via e-mail to submissions@ca.org or by regular mail to: CAWSO, Inc. Attention: LCF Committee, 21720 S. Wilmington Ave., Ste. 304, Long Beach, CA 90810-1641. For more information, please call 310-559-5833.

No more excuses...If you have a phone, computer or tablet, you can get to a meeting!



The C.A. Online Service Area, (OSA), allows access to our Fellowship from all over the world! The OSA provides C.A. recovery to the homebound, members who travel, and to all those for whom there are no local or nearby face-to-face meetings. OSA meetings are many times the first contact newcomers have with C.A. and recovery in general.

If your work schedule prevents you from attending meetings, you spend time stuck in traffic, or you just want to expand the scope of your recovery, online meetings offer an effective solution.

We hold 16 weekly meetings via email & Skype*. Go to

www.ca-online.org

for information & meeting schedule.

*In the spirit of the Sixth Tradition, we are not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution.

- Area and meeting service positions available.
- **Want to start a meeting? Contact webservant@ca-online.org**
- The OSA seeks to partner with other C.A. Area, Regional, and World events to raise funds and allow all C.A. members to take part in events they otherwise would not be able to, except by means of alternate meeting software.

We're Here and We're Free®

STOCKHOLM SYNDROME 2019

Do YOU want to speak or hold a
workshop at the CA World Convention
2019 in Stockholm, Sweden?

PLEASE SEND YOUR TAPE FOR CONSIDERATION TO :
speakers2019@ca-sweden.se



CAWS 35, 4–8th July 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden

STOCKHOLM
SYNDROME
2019

CAWS 35
4–8th July



C.A. WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

Every Object Has a Story

Toronto Area 10th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion (circa 1997)

The First Toronto Group was established on February 2, 1987. According to early members, the sub-culture of cocaine users was quite different than that of AA, so it was exciting to have a meeting focused entirely on recovery from cocaine and all mind-altering substances.

In 1997, the Toronto Area (now known as Southern Ontario Cocaine Anonymous) decided to host "TORCA I" on October 25, 1997 with the theme, "Carry the Message." C.A. original member, Johnny S. (Los Angeles, CA) would be the Saturday keynote speaker.

To raise the necessary funds to host such an event, the Toronto Area Unity Committee sponsored a number of fundraising events throughout the year. One such event was hosted by the Winner's Circle Group on Sunday, July 20, 1997. Featuring a chili dinner and a "Gold C.A. Medallion Raffle. The event raised \$266.00 (suggested ticket price was \$3.00).

The C.A. 10th Anniversary Commemorative Medallion pictured here was won by Henry B. I had heard about this medallion through my talks with early member Jimmy B. (Toronto, ON) who was the Unity Chair in 1997 and responsible for coordinating the fundraising activities for that year. Jimmy helped me locate Henry in July of 2011 and I called him to see if he still had the medallion (he did indeed still have it) and invited me to come over to see it. My intent was to photograph the object for the SOCA Archives. Upon meeting Henry and chatting with him at some length about that first Toronto Conference, he said to me, "Cameron rather than taking pictures, why don't I just donate the medallion to the archives for all of C.A. to enjoy. I felt like the "relic hunter" who had stumbled across some forgotten C.A. treasure which could now be resurrected—its story to be told again and again for the posterity of Cocaine Anonymous.

* * *

CAWSO – What's going on at the office!

by: Linda L Francisco, CAWSO Director of Operations

We (Sheila, Adrienne, Nicole and I) are keeping busy at the World Service Office. We work hard in keeping the orders shipped in a timely manner, Inventory on the shelves and phone calls answered and directed to the folks that can help the find their answers.

As the Holiday approach, please be aware that the office will be closed from December 25th reopening January 2nd. No we are not all on vacation (DARN! J)...we will be in the building counting inventory, cleaning and straightening the warehouse all in preparation for a very exciting 2018!

*The World Service Office Staff
The World Service Office Board
And The World Service Board of Trustees
Wish you and your family
A Happy New Year!*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 30, 2017 - Jan 1, 2018

The 28th Annual Ohio Area Convention

LOCATION:

Holiday Inn Columbus-Worthington
Worthington, Ohio

March 9-11, 2018

2018 Tri-state Convention

LOCATION:

Holiday Inn Boardman
Younstown Ohio

March 9-11, 2018

SGPVCA 2018 Convention - A Life Worth Living

LOCATION

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Ventura California

March 30-April 1, 2018

1st European Region Convention, hosted by Central UK Area

LOCATION

Hilton Birmingham Metropole
Birmingham England
Little Rock, Arkansas

April 13-15, 2018

2018 NEODCCA Unity Convention

LOCATION:

The Double Tree Westlake
Westlake Ohio

April 20-22, 2018

Alantic South regional Convention

LOCATION:

Holiday Inn
Memphis Tennessee

June 8-10, 2018

C.A.tch the BUZZ

LOCATION:

Macdonald Holyrood Hotel
Edinburgh, EH 8 8AU United Kingdom

Get the word out about your local Event

Use the form at:

**www.ca.org/event_form.html
to get your event
listed on both the
website and the NewsGram**

or notify us by mail to:

**NewsGram C/O CAWSO, Inc.
21720 S. Wilmington Ave., Ste. 304
Long Beach, CA, 90810 USA**

Or email:

newsgram@ca.org

THE NEWSGRAM

IS LOOKING FOR YOU!!!!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PUBLISHED???
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY???**

The Newsgram is looking for your article, recovery jokes, recovery poem, suggestions, ideas, recovery drawing, or spiritual thoughts. This is YOUR publication!! We're looking for small items of 1 or 2 lines up to articles anywhere from 200 to 1100 words. If you write an item, please fill out the Release Form on page 4, or at www.CA.org and print out the Release Form and submit along with your item to:

**NewsGram / C/O CAWSO /
21720 S. Wilmington Ave., Ste. 304 /
Long Beach, CA 90810, USA**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (PAGE 2)

C.A. World Service Convention

**CÉLÉBREZ C.A. SANS FRONTIÈRES
CELEBRATE C.A. WITHOUT BORDERS**



SMCA 2018 CAWS 2018
34th CONGRÈS MONDIAL 34th COCAINE ANONYMOUS
COCAÏNOMANES ANONYMES WORLD CONVENTION
MONTREAL, QC MONTREAL, QC
28 JUIN AU 2 JUILLET 2018 JUNE 28th TO JULY 2nd 2018



INFORMATION, REGISTRATION, RESERVATION

CONVENTION.CA.ORG

LOCATION: Le Centre Sheraton Hotel;
1201 Rene-Levesque West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H3B2L7

**Below is a reprinted Article from the NewsGram Issue
4th Quarter 2016**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PERSONS WITH
CRIMINAL RECORDS WHO PLAN ON ATTENDING
THE 2018 WORLD SERVICE CONVENTION IN
MONTREAL CANADA
BY: Steve A. and David J.**

The Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous is preparing to hold their annual World Services Convention in Seattle over the 4th of July weekend at the Doubletree in Seattle Washington. At the end of that Convention there will be a presentation for the 2018 World Service Convention in Montreal, Ontario, Canada. Canada has stringent laws regarding Convicted Felons and persons that have DUIs and this article is designed to help our members with

those challenges prepare for traveling to Canada and perhaps to other parts of the world (remember, the World Service Convention will be in Sweden in 2019). The time to begin the process is now because it will take some time and considerable effort.

Many of us have suffered the consequences caused by some of our choices and having a DUI or Felony on our record can give us some of the biggest headaches. There are several methods to have some of our rights restored. The Internet offers many assets that address these issues and give very helpful hints for us to reestablish our rights as citizens again.

There are several issues in Canada's immigration law that will restrict people with felonies and/or DUIs from entering into Canada and name them as "inadmissible." Some of those are; security risk, human or international rights violations, criminal history, health problems, financial problems, dishonesty with applications to enter Canada, failure to meet conditions in the Canada's immigration law, and a member of your family is not allowed into Canada. You can find a list of criminal offences in the [Criminal Code of Canada](#) and the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#).

Any and all of those issues could make one inadmissible to Canada; you will not be allowed to enter. However, if travel to Canada is necessary, they may issue you a [temporary resident permit](#). "To be granted a TRP, the applicant will need to demonstrate a required need for entering Canada, such as work, an emergency situation, or a humanitarian/compassionate reason. "The goal of a TRP application is to demonstrate that the individual is not a threat to Canadian security during the period they will be in Canada, and to convince the office that their reason for being in Canada during that period may be a benefit to Canada (for example, if the person is attending a work meeting and will be bringing business to Canada). The benefit of a TRP is that unlike Criminal Rehabilitation, it can be applied for at either a Canadian consulate or at any Canadian port of entry (borders, airports, etc.) Making the application at a port of entry will most likely be significantly faster than through a consulate – which often have long wait times. Wherever you file it, a TRP application can take up to six months for processing and a personal interview may be required."

If convicted of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, probable cause will be found to make you criminally inadmissible to Canada. As of March 1, 2012, you may be able to get a temporary resident permit for one visit without paying the \$200 processing fee (Canadian dollars).

Check with your local State authorities before booking travel, as every State has different paths to reestablish your rights. This will help make sure that when you arrive in Canada, a border services officer has enough information to decide if you can enter Canada. The officer will still check to make sure you are not inadmissible for other reasons.

Depending on the crime, how long ago it was and how you have behaved since, you may still be allowed to come to Canada, if you: convince an immigration officer that you meet the legal terms to be [deemed rehabilitated](#), or [applied for rehabilitation](#) and were approved, or were granted a [record suspension](#) or have a [temporary resident permit](#).

Most states have now passed laws to have felonies forgiven once all of the prescribed requirements are met. (Time Served, probation completed, fines paid, etc.) Please check with your individual state and local for their regulations.

Resources to assist in deciding what path to take:

<http://www.ezbordercrossing.com/>
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/inadmissibility/conviction.asp>
<https://exoffenders.net/felon-voting-rights>

**TRANSFER AND ASSIGNMENT OF ALL RIGHTS,
TITLE AND INTEREST IN ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK
AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ORIGINALITY**

(This form is intended for original material submitted to Cocaine Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Cocaine Anonymous World Service Office, Inc., and must accompany all submissions in order for such material to be published. All materials submitted become the property of Cocaine Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Cocaine Anonymous World Service Office, Inc.)

With this document, I, the undersigned Cocaine Anonymous (hereinafter referred to as "C.A.") member, hereby grant permission to COCAINE ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC., a California corporation (hereafter referred to as "CAWS") and COCAINE ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC., a California corporation (hereafter referred to as "CAWSO"), their successors, assigns, and those acting on their authority, to publish the attached material entitled or described as follows:

I further acknowledge and agree that:

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2. This transfer includes the assignment and transfer of any and all claims I may have to United States and foreign copyrights, claims of authorship or origination.

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Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

7 th Tradition July - September 2017 Category or Group		
LOCATION	NAME / CITY	TOTAL
CANADA		
	Southern Ontario CA	\$1 529,40
	CA Quebec	\$3 127,93
EUROPE		
	CA Netherlands	\$255,05
	CA NE UK	\$179,95
USA		
Alabama	First Freedom Group	\$60,00
Arizona	Arizona Area CA	\$18 000,00
California	C.A.L.A Cocaine Anonymous, LB/Compton,	\$103,50
	CA NorthBay Service Group	\$60,00
	CA San Diego Jan17	\$1 530,52
	CA SouthBay Cities	\$500,00
	CALA South Central District	\$50,00
	Come Alive Group	\$60,00
	Crack Heads on a Mission of Long Beach,	\$40,00
	Foothill District	\$211,00
	I.E.A.S.C.A,	\$125,00
	LJ Platinum Inc.	\$336,90
Colorado	CA of Colorado	\$250,00
	CA of Colorado, H&I	\$92,34
	Group Nirvana	\$225,31
Iowa	Monday Miracles Group in Omaha NE	\$600,00
Illinois	I.A.C.A South & West District	\$145,20
	IACA Inc.	\$300,00
	IACA Inc.	\$269,58
	Honeymooners Group	\$14,00
Kansas	Free At Last Group	\$150,00
Michigan	Saturday Morning Alive	\$25,00
Missouri	End of the Line Group	\$112,00
New York	Big Book Experience Group	\$25,00
	Circle of Strenth Bensonhurst	\$45,00
Ohio	AM Sunday CA Group	\$175,00
Oklahoma	Southern District CA Oklahoma Area	\$75,00
Oregon	CA of Oregon	\$50,00
Pennsylvania	Serenity In The Slate Belt	\$25,00
South Carolina	Common Solutions Group	\$80,00
	There Is A Solution Group	\$100,00
Texas	North Texas Area CA	\$50,00
	Freedom & Hope Group Conscience	\$30,00

7 th Tradition July - September 2017 Category or Group		
LOCATION	NAME / CITY	TOTAL
World Contribution Program	See form on page 7	\$2 542,00
Celebration Contributions	Anonymous	\$1 449,92
Total 7th Tradition		\$32 999,60

GET \$.M.A.R.T.

SAVE MY A\$\$ RECOVERY TRANSFER

**DID THE FELLOWSHIP OF COCAINE
ANONYMOUS SAVE YOUR A\$\$? DO YOU WANT
TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION? JUST
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS!!**

- * **STEP 1:** Log into your Bank Account
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**THAT'S IT!! JUST SET IT UP AND THEN YOU
DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT**

*Typically a free service with most bank accounts

(The A.A. Book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, the book *Hope Faith & Courage*, book *HFCII* and *A Quite Peace* are used with permission.)