

# CoDA Service Items

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**Motion Key:** 4874                      **Number:** 17001                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:** 2/3 Vote

**Committee:** Board

**Member Names:** CODA Board

**Subject:** Literature previously approved by a VE or CSC committee can be presented as a motion to CSC for endorsement.

**Description:**

Literature that has been previously approved by a VE (voting Entity) or CSC (CoDA Service Conference) standing committee can be presented as a motion to CSC for CSC endorsement. It is presented (either by the VE or their spokesperson) one year as a motion to consider for a year and distributed as a draft, with a "CoDA Service Conference Endorsement Pending" as a footer on every page. The following year, it is presented as a motion for CSC endorsement.

**Intent:**

To create a way for literature to come directly to CSC.  
The year lapse between presentation and endorsement allows for feedback from the Fellowship.  
Instructions in Motion #3

**Remarks:**

Pros - 1) see as good procedure to get more literature for Fellowship, many voting entities are creating recovery items that could be used for the entire Fellowship 2) opportunity to move literature forward more quickly, the voting entities are vetting these items and would be able to get out before CSC. 3) Point out that the motion is recognizing the autonomy of countries as well.  
Cons - 1) concern that a small group or entity can approve something that as a group we may not be comfortable with and may be available from sometime before it is approved or denied at CSC; 2) vote for this if don't want to 2) its a very complicated detailed process, literature committee's intention is not to hold up literature, but concerns about literature coming to CSC without CLC able to look over it to edit, vet it, etc.  
Crafting - YES - crafting was done.  
Vote - 34 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions. Motion carries

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**Motion Key:** 4875                      **Number:** 17002                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:** MAJORITY

**Committee:** Board

**Member Names:** CODA Board

**Subject:** Instructions and requirements for bringing a VE or CSC committee literature to CSC.

**Description:**

The following are instructions and requirements for bringing a VE or CSC committee literature to CSC:

1. Literature must be presented by a standing committee or VE, with same requirements as any motion (60 days in advance of CSC). The actual literature will be sent with the motion. Printed with "CoDa Service Conference Endorsed Pending" on the footer of all pages.
2. It must be in compliance with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
3. It must have limited copyright releases by all authors at the time of initial submission and complete copyright releases by all authors at final submission.
4. VE/CSC committee must be amenable to feedback, and adjust as needed.
5. It must comply with the literature committee style sheet (in FSM).
6. It must contain recommendation of service item or for sale.
7. If passed, it is given to the CoDA board, along with all copyright releases, to send to CoRe.
8. The standardization process used by Literature Committee may be consulted within the year.

**Intent:**

To provide instructions when literature is presented directly to CSC. See Motion #17001 that was passed.

**Remarks:**

Pros - 1) glad to see this motion so that we can bring more literature to the Fellowship faster 2) in favor because it gets literature from other countries and other VE's so that it can get into the process faster; 3) there has been history of items that have taken a long time, like 7 years, so things that are already being used should be shared and brought to CSC.  
Cons - 1) would like to see Literature be brought more into this motion; 2) against as reads because there is a possibility there will be a motion to accept a piece of literature and that doesn't work for me; 3) opposed to the motion, don't think the procedure is ready to be voted on.  
Crafting - YES  
Vote - 22 in Favor, 8 against, 5 Abstention - Motion Passed by majority

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**Motion Key:** 4888                      **Number:** 17005                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:** TABLED

**Committee:** Outreach

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** Approve 2 brochures as a package

**Description:**

Approve the following brochures as a package  
1. "Information for Professionals" (pdf attached)  
2. "Your First Meeting" (pdf attached)

OLD BUSINESS - send the motion back for revision and come back in old business at CSC.

**Intent:**

To Create a package that can be given to professionals that will introduce Co-Dependents Anonymous to them and their clients. This may also be used for outreach of all kinds.

For use as a service piece, i.e. a piece available for downloading from the www.coda.org website

**Remarks:**

Pros - 1) to have another option to help people and professionals 2) great piece especially for first timers at a meeting 3) This is great to have something that talks about first meeting.

Cons - 1) issue that people will look at this and not go to a meeting. 2) would prefer to see this go through the process to make it look like other CoDA literature. 3) inside it talks about meeting record book passed around, not everyone does.

Crafting - YES discussed crafting to the actual pamphlet

Vote: TABLED

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**Motion Key:** 4895                      **Number:** 17022                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** The annual ICC/CSC flyer be published on the website in English and Spanish.

**Description:**

We move that the annual ICC/CSC flyer be published on the website in English and Spanish.

BOARD RECOMMENDED SENDING THIS VEI TO THE FLOOR IN NEW BUSINESS.

**Intent:**

To foster inclusivity

**Remarks:**

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**Motion Key:** 4896                      **Number:** 17023                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** Confusion concerning "Peeling the Onion" booklet

**Description:**

Background (How did this issue arise?): Many members have picked up the "Peeling the Onion" booklet and been confused by the title and content.

Issue: The title "Peeling the Onion" can mean many different things, but the booklet seems to focus a lot on sex and romantic relationship issues, rather than on all relationships.

BOARD ASSIGNED TO THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

**Intent:**

Add the subtitle "Codependents Look at Love, Sex and Relationship Addiction and Avoidance" on the cover.

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## Remarks:

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**Motion Key:** 4897                      **Number:** 17024                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

### Vote:

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** Change both versions of the Welcome

### Description:

That in both versions of the Welcome the words "and/or other" be inserted between the word "family" and the word "system."

That this change be implemented immediately in all versions of the Welcome on the web and be inserted into printed versions as they are reprinted.

That the present version of the long form of the Welcome continue to fulfill the requirement of being read at every meeting until meetings are able to make the change in their meeting documents.

BOARD ASSIGNED THIS TO THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

### Intent:

Some of us who feel a need for CoDA may not come from families that are particularly dysfunctional, but we have been exposed to other dysfunctional systems that have contributed to our codependency. These may include sexism, racism, consumerism, cut-throat competition, and religious organizations and schools, among others.

The family may or may not also be a significant contributor. Indeed, for some, the family is a refuge from that dysfunction, so that suggesting that codependency is rooted only in the family may hinder recovery.

To make CoDA more welcoming to codependents who have experienced their families as refuges from societal dysfunctions such as racism, class discrimination, gender stratification or bullying.

To offer a basis for forgiveness and understanding of families whose dysfunction arises from societal influences. This is important for recovery for many.

### Remarks:

Here are responses to some objections to the motion:

All dysfunction comes from the family. Even if that statement were universally true, it leaves open the possibility of the family itself being influenced by the larger society, which surely happens for some families at least. As codependence underlies so much addictive and compulsive behavior, so also can a society infect families with stress and dysfunction.

Adding the words would let the family off the hook. This objection was raised by one meeting in the process of voting at the intergroup level on the original proposal. This first proposal called for the insertion of simply "or other" between "family" and "system." In an effort to accommodate that objection the present proposal was crafted.

The Welcome is a most basic document. We should not even consider changing it. This surely is a serious objection. Here are some responses.

CoDA and all our documents constitute a living program meant to evolve in service to suffering codependents as their needs evolve and as we advance in our understanding of our program through the guidance of our Higher Power. Change has been written into the very structure of CoDA through the establishment of the Service Structure Committee (SSC) charged with considering and presenting to Conference possible changes to foundation documents.

The motion was presented at CSC 2016 and voted down after very little discussion. The PA meetings, having themselves come to support the motion only after considerable discussion, instructed their delegate to present the motion again at CSC 2017 with the hope for more extensive discussion. This is the result of that mandate.

CoDA Colombia recently decided at their national assembly to join in this re-presentation of the motion.

CoDA is an inverted pyramid with individual meetings, guided by a Higher Power, at the top. All other levels down to World Service committees exist to provide service to those meetings. Therefore, even foundational documents such as the Welcome are subject to Group Conscience from that top level of individual meetings. That Group Conscience is being implemented by first one, now two, Voting Entities, and presented for approval by the whole Fellowship at the CoDA Service Conference.

For clarification, here is the Welcome with the change proposed shown in italics and underlined.

Short Form used in some CoDA publications:

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Codependence is a deeply-rooted, compulsive behavior. It is born out of our sometimes moderately, sometimes extremely dysfunctional family and/or other systems. We attempted to use others as our sole source of identity, value, well being, and as a way of trying to restore our emotional losses. Our histories may include other powerful addictions which we have used to cope with our codependency.

Long Form used in other publications and required at all meetings:

Most of us have been searching for ways to overcome the dilemmas of the conflicts in our relationships and our childhoods. Many of us were raised in families where addictions existed - some of us were not. In either case, we have found in each of our lives that codependence is a most deeply rooted compulsive behavior and that it is born out of our sometimes moderately, sometimes extremely dysfunctional family and/or other systems. We have each experienced in our own ways the painful trauma of the emptiness of our childhood and relationships throughout our lives.

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**Motion Key:** 4898                      **Number:** 17025                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** Explication of the "discussion" in the minutes emailed on December 23, 2016 as highlighted on page 9 and 16.

**Description:**

We are requesting explication of the "discussion" in the minutes emailed on December 23, 2016 as highlighted on page 9 and 16.

The sections for reference:

- 1) Under heading October 17, 2016 - Executive Session - 11:18am, it reads: After discussion, MOTION WITHDRAWN.
- 2) Under heading October 20, 2016 – New Board Meeting – 6pm- AGENDA - Section 4 - Events Issue, it reads: Chris seconded. Discussion. Concerned about whether this sets a precedent. Motion withdrawn.

Rationale: The board minutes that were published and emailed included verbiage that does not clarify what happened during the board meeting discussion. It is not clear as to why the motion was not presented at CSC concerning a commemorative coin. Would like clarification regarding the decision-making process as to why the motion was not brought up for a vote.

Conclusion:

-The SoCal CoDA Board voted in favor of the voting entity issue concern regarding the transparency of the decision made by the CoDA World Board to not let the fellowship (delegates) use the group conscience process. Our questions are made in the spirit of Traditions 2 and 9 with leaders being trusted servants, they do not govern and committees are directly responsible to those they serve. The SoCal assembly also recently ratified the motion mentioning Concept 12, specifically "Every member has the right to know what is happening within our organization". We, as the Voting Entity, would like more transparency concerning the decision that was made to not make the commemorative coin available to CSC/ICC.

-The issue was significant enough to be presented on multiple occasions; at least five times between October 15th and 21st. At the initial meeting on the 15th, the Legal Group recommendations state the Attorney suggested that it be presented at CSC with a ratified permission letter and any questions regarding legalities were also addressed.

-We request explication on the first motion that was for an agreement to distribute with conditions, it was seconded, followed by "discussion", followed by "Motion withdrawn", and then a motion to hand over ownership. Why the change? What happened?

-For the second, the minutes read favorably...IMC is involved and there's a motion for future consideration, the motion was seconded, then "discussion", followed by "Concerned about whether this sets a precedent", and followed by "Motion withdrawn." The SoCal CoDA Voting Entity requests clarification on the discussion that led to the motion being withdrawn.

Thank you for the opportunity to honor our FSM (Part 4) and share our voice as equal members of CoDA.

In the Spirit of Loving Service and Carrying the Message,  
SoCal CoDA Regional Committee of Co-Dependents Anonymous  
Athena A., SoCal Delegate  
Darlene H., SoCal Delegate  
Kirsten S., Alternate SoCal Delegate

ASSIGNED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Intent:**

**Remarks:**

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**Motion Key:** 4899                      **Number:** 17026                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** ADD TO THE FSM PART L TO THE SECTION ON VOTING ENTITIES

**Description:**

ADD TO THE FSM PART L TO THE SECTION ON VOTING ENTITIES

"That no State, Country, or Voting Entity be considered to have surrendered their rights to Representation and Voting at the CoDA, Inc. Service Conference (in spite of any affiliation) without having surrendered those rights in writing to CoDA, Inc."

BOARD RECOMMENDED THAT THIS GO TO THE FLOOR AT CSC IN NEW BUSINESS.

**Intent:**

To clarify that a "perception" of and/or affiliation with other states, countries, or voting entities is not enough to deny a state, country, or voting entity its right to representation at CSC

**Remarks:**

This motion was presented as a VEI for consideration at the 2016 CSC. Since it has not been acted upon we are now submitting it as a motion per the VEI process.

Remarks from 2016 submission:

I received the following email following discussion about whether Connecticut could send 2 delegates to CSC if Massachusetts was being represented at CSC.

"I spoke to.... from IMC about New England as a voting entity. ...explained that historically, New England has been the unofficial voting entity that included the six states. However, technically, each state can have two delegates but none of those states have officially said they are part of their own voting entity. It would have to be discussed."

Many times in the past New England has sent 3 or more delegates (never more than 2 from a state) to CSC. New England has never considered itself a voting entity "unofficially" or otherwise and has always elected delegates by state not region.

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**Motion Key:** 4900                      **Number:** 17027                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** Colorado CoDA Prayer be renamed to the "CoDA Recovery Prayer" and become Conference approved.

**Description:**

1a) We move that the Colorado CoDA Prayer be renamed to the "CoDA Recovery Prayer" and become Conference approved.

CoDA RECOVERY PRAYER:  
God help me to:  
Accept other people as they are,  
Recognize my own feelings,  
Meet my own needs, and  
Love myself just as I am.

1b) Upon approval, this will be added to the Meeting Handbook on page 31 under the subheading:

"Another prayer commonly used at CoDA meetings is the Serenity Prayer, as follows: Last Revised: July/2017  
Changing the sub-heading from that above to: "Other commonly used prayers in CoDA are: Serenity Prayer CoDA Recovery Prayer"

BOARD RECOMMENDED THAT THIS GO TO THE FLOOR AT CSC IN NEW BUSINESS.

**Intent:**

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To share Colorado CoDA's prayer with the rest of Co-Dependents Anonymous around the world that is all encompassing and enhances our recovery.

**Remarks:**

This prayer has been recited at CoDA meetings in Colorado for over 25 years. As discussed at the 2016 CSC that this prayer be edited from 'helps' to 'help,' our Colorado CoDA has GC'd this and is now reflected in the revised prayer. Our VE GC decided to continue the use of 'God' rather than replacing it with 'Higher Power' in keeping with other commonly used CoDA meeting prayers.

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**Motion Key:** 4901                      **Number:** 17028                      **Item Type:** VEI                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Voting Entities

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** Add a new "Pattern and Characteristic" under 'Low Self-esteem Patterns'

**Description:**

We move that:

1a) Add a new "Pattern and Characteristic" under 'Low Self-esteem Patterns': "Codependents often guess at what normal is."

1b) Upon approval, this will be added to all the "Patterns and Characteristics" under subheading of 'Low Self-esteem Patterns'.

BOARD ASSIGNED THIS TO THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

**Intent:**

To clarify questions new CoDA members frequently ask and express confusion regarding this issue and to be included with all Patterns and Characteristics of Codependents to avoid this confusion.

**Remarks:**

This seems to be a common thing within our fellowship and wanted it to be reflected in CoDA's literature.

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**Motion Key:** 4907                      **Number:** 17029                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:** Board

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** CSC and ICC to not overlap

**Description:**

CoDA Service Conference (CSC) and International CoDA Convention (ICC) cannot overlap.

**Intent:**

To allow those attending CSC to be able to attend ICC, and to allow those coming to ICC, if early, to observe CSC.

**Remarks:**

The overlap of CSC and ICC has created low attendance by delegates to the last half day of CSC and prevents those attending CSC for the last half day to get full participation at ICC.

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**Motion Key:** 4908                      **Number:** 17100                      **Item Type:** ACTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:**

**Committee:**

**Member Names:**

**Subject:** 2017 CSC Day One Start and End

**Description:**

2017 CSC started at 9am on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 with 36 delegates and 24 is a quorum. CSC Day One.

CSC adjourned at 4:49pm.

**Intent:**

**Remarks:**

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**Motion Key:** 4909                      **Number:** 17101                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:** 2/3 Vote

**Committee:**    **Member Names:** Jen/Athena

**Subject:**

**Description:**  
Jen made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Athena seconded. 35 yeses, 1 abstention. Approved  
Updated agenda will be posted on the website.

**Intent:**

**Remarks:**

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**Motion Key:** 4910                      **Number:** 17103                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:** 2/3 Vote

**Committee:**    **Member Names:** Jen/Gerry

**Subject:** To give voice to observers and chairs

**Description:**  
Jen made a motion to give voice to observers and chairs. Gerry seconded. 33 votes, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

**Intent:**

**Remarks:**

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**Motion Key:** 4912                      **Number:** 17104                      **Item Type:** MOTION                      **Date:** 10/10/2017

**Vote:** UNANIMOUS

**Committee:** Outreach    **Member Names:** Addie/Nancy

**Subject:** Extend Outreach Committee time 15 minutes

**Description:**  
Addie made a motion to extend the Outreach Committee report for 15 minutes. Nancy seconded. Approved by voice vote.

**Intent:**

**Remarks:**

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