

**CoDA SERVICE CONFERENCE (CSC) ANNUAL SERVICE
REPORT 2016/2017
ISSUES MEDIATION COMMITTEE (IMC)**

CURRENT MEMBERS:

Gail S. (NV – Nevada) (Chair)

Nancy O. (CT - Connecticut)

Greg B. (MN - Minnesota)

Paul N. (GA -Georgia) (VEL – Voting Entity Liaison)

Liliana R. (Colombia)

Board Liaison: Jen L (AZ – Arizona)

The Issues Mediation Committee continued to meet monthly on the third Thursday (and whenever necessary) by teleconference call and to go over various specific issues. We did not have a f2f (Face to Face) this year.

ISSUES MEDIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The 2016 – 2017 Issues Mediation Committee (IMC) was elected at the 2016 CSC in October.

The members voted in were:

- Returning members – Gail S. (3rd year), Nancy O. (2nd year)
- New 2017 Members – Greg B., Paul N. and Liliana R.

We did not lose any members in 2017.

2016 we lost one member to illness and one to death.

IMC 2017 CASES:

- We are happy to report that we did not receive any inquiries/concerns from various groups and/or intergroups!
- The previous year we had a total of 8 inquiries/concerns. This is a huge improvement from previous year!
- There are no unresolved cases from prior year(s).
- In 2013 IMC created “Dealing with Disagreements Process” to assist the still suffering codependents at all levels of service to use to open up healthy dialogue to resolve their challenge(s). This year upon suggestion by a former IMC member, we created and posted on the CoDA.org website a “Dealing with Disagreements” printable brochure

- Link <http://coda.org/default/assets/File/Literature/Dealing With Disagreements TriFold.pdf>

VOTING ENTITY SPLIT:

No requests were submitted for Voting Entity Division/Split.

VOTING ENTITY ISSUES (VEI's):

Definition:

- Voting Entity Issues are those issues that are formed as a result of a group conscience process at the Voting Entity level.
- They are not submitted in Motion form since they are usually assigned either to the Board or to a Committee for further action

There were eight VEI's assigned at 2016 CSC.

VEI: 2016 CO.01 (Colorado)

Colorado CoDA would like to suggest a change to our seal. With service being such a huge part of our recovery, placing it as one of the legacies on our seal and coin could possibly alert new members to its importance too. This would involve moving "Self" to the same side with "Respect" becoming "Self Respect" and putting "Service" on the 4th side. See artwork suggestion below.

Result: Tabled

VEI: 2016 CO.02 (Colorado)

Colorado CoDA has used our closing prayer for over 20 years in our VE. We've had previously put in a VE issue to have it shared in the Fellowship Service Manual as a closing prayer for the entire fellowship to learn and use if they so choose. It was turned over to the Literature Committee – who denied our request because they claimed CoDA does not use the word "God" in their prayers. That is simply not true. We would like to see the following prayer be added to the FSM under CoDA closing prayers CoDA Recovery Prayer God helps me to - Accept other people as they are, Recognize my own feelings, Meet my own needs and Love myself just as I am.

Result: Tabled.

Motion was presented to CSC 2016 and then tabled by CO to take back to their fellowship.

VEI: 2016 CO.03 (Colorado)

We voted against the Roman Numerals being changed on the coins. We believe that the motion was confusing and that examples of what the changes were going to look like needed to be presented. It was one of the last motions heard on the floor and we don't believe the will of the fellowship was represented. We are requesting that the 2015 motion be reconsidered and brought back to the floor for further discussion.

Result: Motion came to CSC 2016 floor and did NOT pass.

VEI: 2016 NY.04 (New York)

In order to maintain the safety of Co-DA meetings, now and for future generations: It is moved that what has been known as the No Crosstalk/No Feedback "guidelines" be elevated to one of the core principles of what defines a Co-DA meeting. The principal of No Crosstalk/No Feedback shall be incorporated into the opening format and read aloud at all Codependents Anonymous meetings, worldwide.

Assigned to SSC:

- This VEI requested "the No Crosstalk/No Feedback "guidelines" be elevated to one of the core principles of what defines a CoDA meeting. The principal of No Crosstalk/No Feedback shall be incorporated into the opening format and read aloud at all Codependents Anonymous meetings, worldwide."
- SSC voted to take no action since we felt that it violated Tradition 4: "Each group should remain autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or CoDA as a whole."
- SSC sent their recommendation to the Board and once the Board's agreement was received SSC notified the New York delegate.

Result: Resolved.

NY may now bring this issue as an actual motion to the CSC 2017

VEI: 2016 NorCal.05 (Northern California)

CSC/ICC to be held in July each year. Events Committee to determine specific dates within the month of July.

Result: Tabled

VEI: 2016 MA.06 (Massachusetts)

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

Assigned to Board

Outcome: Resolved

- From QSR (Quarterly Service Report) 2017 Q1
- The Board agrees that no State, Country, or Voting Entity gives up its rights to representation and voting at CoDA Service Conference.

Included below is the portion of the By-Laws that is relevant to this issue.

- Link to QSR 2017 Q1:
http://coda.org/default/assets/File/QSR's/2017%20QSR's/QSR_Q1_2017_final.pdf

VEI: 2016 SoCAL.07 (Southern California)

That CoDA World pursue the possibility of obtaining a group exemption letter from the IRS (Form 1023) which would allow Intergroups and Voting Entities to receive automatic IRS recognition as a non-profit entity.

Assigned to Board

Outcome: Resolved

- From QSR (Quarterly Service Report) 2017 Q1
- The board of trustees has responded to the SoCal VEI (voting entity issue) The CoDA Board of Trustees was assigned the SoCal voting entity issue, asking for CoDA, Inc. to apply for a group exemption for all VE's/inter-groups. After much investigation, including a formal opinion from our CPA, we are declining to take this action. We find, because we are an inverted organization and do not have control over the local VE's or inter-groups, applying for a group exemption is not in the best interests of CoDA as a whole.

- Link to QSR 2017 Q1:
http://coda.org/default/assets/File/QSR's/2017%20QSR's/QSR_Q1_2017_final.pdf

VEI: 2016 SoCAL.08 (Southern California)

VEI:

SoCal supports the Voting Entity Issue submitted by NorCal shown below with one addition shown in *italics*:

- CSC/ICC to be held in July each year. Events Committee to determine specific dates within the month of July. *The Fourth of July holiday weekend should be avoided and no one should have to travel on that weekend.*

Outcome: Tabled

IMC will continue to review the Quarterly Service Reports (QSR) for reference to any assigned Voting Entity Issues (VEI's). Board and/or Committees are contacted if there is no reference to their assigned VEI's in their QSR. We encourage those committees that are working on VEI's, to communicate with both the VE and IMC regarding their assigned VEI.

IMC wishes to thank SSC for their suggestion that a separate form be created for VE's to present VEI's. We agree/believe the creation of this form separate from previously used form used for actual motions may aid in lessening the confusion about the VEI process. Thus, links to the two newly created documents are now available on the website: "VEI Motion Form" and "VEI Motion Submission Guidelines".

Voting Entity Liaison (VEL)

2017 CSC is IMC's third year of development, improving and implementing the role and responsibilities of the VEL.

Information for the TRO was disseminated via emails to general members and Delegates, inviting VE Delegates to apply. The website structure and location of delegate information, including the TRO information, TRO application, delegate check list, and FAQs is difficult to find, redundant, and we believe this needs to be fixed.

In addition to general emails, the VEL built relationships and contacted potential TRO applicants. The VEL recommends that volunteers, throughout the year, be engaged to contact VEs who do not send delegates, and educate them on the importance of sending a Delegate to the CSC as well as the TRO.

Other material including the FAQs, email strategy, VEL job description, and orientation were updated throughout the year with collaboration of IMC members and others.

The VEL and IMC members maintained a strong ongoing support to Delegates and TRO applicants/participants. We, along with all members of CoDA will assist all delegates attending CSC to receive information that will benefit their understanding of our CoDA Service Conference business meeting. The Voting Entity Liaison can be contacted at imcvel@codas.org.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT OPPORTUNITIES (TRO) PROCESS:

- The VEL acknowledged all the TRO applications and worked with the requestors to obtain information to help determine their eligibility.
- The IMC then met to award the TRO based on Eligibility for TRO:
 1. A person is eligible to apply if they have been selected by their Voting Entity as a Delegate
 2. Priority is given to new attendees/Voting Entity
 3. No Voting Entity/Person is eligible more than twice in a lifetime.
 4. No Voting Entity will receive the (TRO) in two consecutive years

2017 CSC TRO recipients:

(Allowable per TRO guidelines is 2 international and 3 national).

- **Two International recipients:**

- Italy

- South Africa (Johannesburg)

- **National recipients:**

- Illinois

- Michigan (Michigan subsequently choose to decline).

As the Chair of IMC, it has been my pleasure to work with all the members of IMC as well as the board and other committee chair members. Working with everyone greatly enhanced my recovery.

Thank you CoDA Fellowship for electing us and allowing each of us to do service on this committee.

Yours in Service,
Gail S
IMC Chair
9-10-2017