



CoDA Quarterly Service Report

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www.coda.org

CoDA Board Report

Hello,

My, how time flies! At the time of this writing, we are preparing for NSC 2001. It is an exciting time, when change is both stimulating and challenging. For the first time in our history, we will be holding our National Service Conference outside the country. We would like to especially thank the joint USA and Canadian committees for their diligent work to bring this to fruition.

We are pleased to report that CoDA, Inc. is once again a corporation in good standing in the state for Arizona. Thanks to our treasurer, Curtis F., we have completed the proper paperwork and have instituted a procedure that will prevent this from occurring again. The board has been busy with many projects that we hope will help CoDA to carry the message to those who still suffer. One is that the CoDA and CoRe boards each appointed three people to a joint "ad hoc" committee. The ad hoc committee will discuss moving the CoDA book to CoRe for publication, in addition to its existing distribution task. Our hope is that in doing so, we can facilitate CoDA unity. In addition, the website has been updated so that it is more user-friendly. We are just beginning a project to "Recover our History," by inventorying, collecting, and archiving our historic documents. Thanks to Rosemary D. for a great idea! We strive to keep things simple, and while it may not always appear to be so, that is our goal.

Please keep in mind that the monthly board conference calls are available to anyone; check the website for guidelines and how to participate.

Rick M., the CoDA board secretary, will be completing his service work to the Fellowship at the close of NSC. I wish to thank Rick on behalf of all of us for his dedication and perseverance in his duties. The board is beginning to show some stability and for the past two years have had no resignations. Thank you, Rick.

Wishing you all a wonderful, spiritual recovery,
In Service to the Fellowship

Tom L. Chair, CoDA, Inc. Board of Trustee

CoDA Service Conference Committee

The committee has been very busy this quarter. Two packets of information have been mailed to the delegates currently in the National Database. If you have not received this information, please let us know. If you have received this information and are not going

to be attending the conference because your term as delegate has ended, please pass the information on to the new delegate.

The hotel arrangements are in order and meal packages have been arranged. The registrations are 26 as of this writing. The local DAA committee is hosting the conference in Montreal and will report on their planned activities separately.

The NSC-US committee has designed special "CoDA Cash" to serve as meal vouchers to those who are participating in the meal packages.

A final packet of information will be mailed the middle of August, which will include the final sections of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Workbook. This wonderful work will complete the workbook started four years ago. Please give these materials the widest range of exposure.

All things are on target, set to go, the committee has done their best to make this conference an exciting and productive event. The agenda includes time for committee work time separately from conference reporting and voting time. Time has been added to the election of Trustees, so as to not rush the procedure. We've done our part, so now do yours and attend this great event!!! The fellowship needs your support. It's not too late to register, you can even register at the door.

Respectfully submitted:

Annie R. Co-chairperson, NSC-US

CoDA Literature Committee

The National Literature Committee (NLC) met in LA from 7/19-7/22 for its second major meeting of the year. Overall, a lot was accomplished, and our entire agenda was completed. This report will update you on the major writing tasks that were finalized and the key decisions that the NLC made concerning next year's agenda and this year's National Service Conference (NSC) proposals.

The NLC completed work on several major writing projects. Step and Tradition Ten of the Workbook project were reviewed, reedited, and finalized. We also completed the final major revisions to Step and Tradition Eleven. Lastly, we completed final edits to Step Twelve. The NLC felt very good about putting most of this project "to bed", as it has been a challenging, long-term commitment. The NLC hopes to complete the final drafting of Tradition Twelve in August and present all five pieces to the NSC in September. Completing these pieces was intensive and took up a majority of the NLC's time at this meeting.

The NLC also began or completed work on several pending projects. Karyn J. kindly agreed to explore the implementation of the Literature Sampler Project (LSP) and was appointed Project leader by a 6-0 vote at the LA meeting. The intent of the LSP is to compile a packet of new and older conference-approved literature that can be distributed for free to new and/or active groups. As Project leader, Karyn J. is exploring this idea and will present a proposal to the NLC in August. The NLC is deeply grateful to Karyn J. for agreeing to head this project, and depending on her recommendation and the group conscience of the NLC, the NLC may also present a proposal for the LSP to the NSC this fall. The NLC is also considering recommendations such as expanding its literature blurb effort by posting descriptions of NLC literature on the CoDA web site.

The NLC also made its final group conscience decisions concerning the *Experiences in Crosstalk* (EIC) pamphlet. The NLC voted 7-1 in favor of submitting a revised draft of the EIC piece which Allison F. and Judi T. worked on this year. The NLC group conscience at the LA meeting was that crosstalk is an important issue to share with the Fellowship. The considerable variety of responses presented in the EIC pamphlet concerning what Crosstalk is, how it's defined, and who defines it, etc., testifies to our sense that

crosstalk is an issue about which many CoDA members want more information so they can make the most informed decisions possible concerning how crosstalk is handled in their meetings. The NLC devoted a great deal of time and energy to producing the EIC pamphlet, and we feel that it will make an important addition to our current literature. We are deeply indebted to Judi T., who initiated this project, and Allison F., who did additional edits with Judi T. We are also indebted to all the NLC members from last year's committee, headed by Marcie L., and this year's committee for their ongoing work on this project. Considering the remarkable variety of input this project has received from all members of the Fellowship, it is probably the richest "group conscience" piece of literature that the NLC has produced thus far.

The NLC also made a major decision about one project it was considering for next year, namely, it was decided by a 6-0 vote that the NLC did not want to revise the CoDA Book. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided by a 6-0 vote (one member had to leave early unfortunately), that the NLC did not want to revise the CoDA Book. While everyone felt that the CoDA Book would benefit from further editing, it was felt that recommending any major revisions to the book might cause too much dissension within the Fellowship, and the NLC feels strongly about serving the Fellowship as positively as possible and being a source of unity, not dissension. The NLC feels that the potential disadvantages to Fellowship unity outweigh any advantages a revision would produce.

The CoDA Book clearly serves many groups quite well and is still the leading piece of literature sold by the Fellowship (\$30,878.80 in sales from Jan. through June 2001) and also, a major part of our history. Therefore, although revising the book seemed inviting in many ways, the NLC group conscience was to let it go. Moreover, the NLC felt that its current autonomy and ability to select, propose, and complete projects--such as the Steps and Traditions Workbook, would be jeopardized if the NLC took on a project as emotionally charged as the CoDA Book. For now, the NLC will recommend to the NSC that any outstanding grammatical edits be completed to the CoDA Book before its next printing, perhaps by the Recovery Writers in Action Committee, or a new committee specifically charged with that effort. Regardless of who completes this work, the NLC feels it is extremely important that the CoDA Book be as cleanly edited as possible, since it probably represents our Fellowship to the public more than any other single piece of literature.

Along with deciding not to recommend any major revisions to the CoDA Book, the NLC also decided to table the new Preamble and Welcome project for this year by a 6-0 vote. The NLC group conscience directed that we give priority to other NSC projects for this year's NSC. Although considerable work was done on both the Preamble and Welcome during the last year, and the Preamble must be addressed as a previous States Issue at this year's NSC, it was decided that, although not "perfect," both pieces are currently serving their purpose.

In lieu of working on the CoDA book project, the NLC voted 6-0 in favor of exploring a separate book project that has tentatively been titled, The Expanded Steps and Traditions Workbook. Although only in the brainstorming stage, we are considering an expanded version of our current workbook project, which is nearing completion. This workbook could include all the previously published workbook sections compiled in one volume as well as additional pieces of literature that the NLC has completed or is currently working; for example, The Expanded Workbook might include excerpts from the *Experiences In Crosstalk* piece; In This Moment meditations; *Boundaries*; *Tools of Recovery*; *Why is Using Conference-Approved Literature Vital to CoDA Unity?* etc. Moreover, the NLC might garner new stories by Fellowship members for an expanded workbook section. These stories/anecdotes could include CoDA members with long-term recovery (perhaps even members who wrote stories for the original CoDA Book) who may wish to share their experience, strength, and hope. The NLC feels far more

optimistic about pursuing this book project as it anticipates much more support from the Fellowship. Although no specific Project leader has been appointed, the NLC plans to explore this idea in depth this year, and make its recommendation to the NSC in 2002. Because of its excellent record of completing writing projects—both large and small—the NLC feels confident that it could successfully complete this effort also.

The NLC also completed more planning work on the ITM project, which Kay M. kindly agreed to head at our last meeting and was elected to do so by an 8-0 vote. Currently, Kay is setting up a system whereby meditations and release forms can be garnered from members of the Fellowship via the NLC's new web site description. Again, the NLC is deeply indebted to Kay M. for taking on the considerable task of keeping the ITM project on course. While the NLC plans to continue supporting Kay's efforts on this project next year, this project will not be designated as our primary effort (see previous paragraph). Any CoDA members interested in submitting ITM meditations should see the appropriate page at our CoDA web site. We could use your support.

Lastly, we reviewed the final draft of the CoDA Poster project that Roger P. tirelessly worked on this year. The NLC was extremely pleased with the final version of the poster (which we'll share at Conference) and voted 8-0 to send it to the printers. We are deeply grateful to Roger for patiently working through the seemingly endless changes that the group conscience process entailed. We believe that the new CoDA poster will be an excellent tool for attracting new members to CoDA and informing them about our Fellowship, without breaking our Tradition of being non-promotional.

Yours in service,
Tony H.
Chair, NLC

Outreach Committee Report

The Outreach Committee placed a help wanted ad on the CoDA web page and received responses from 17 people to date. Surprisingly, two volunteers were not members of the CoDA Fellowship, which generated much discussion, a group conscious decision, and a request to the Board for clarification. The end result was a decision that it would violate the Traditions to accept outside help.

To give the volunteers an opportunity to see what the work would be like, the committee suggested a two-week trial period where the volunteers received the responses to info@codpendents.org e-mail. Out of the 17 volunteers, we have had two people join our committee, Shelly A. and Sandy M. We welcome them and look forward to working with them.

We've answered approximately 950 e-mails from 10/00 to 7/15/00. Last year's total from 10/99 to 9/00 was 867. We still have a couple of months to go before the end of this year and we are well pass last year's total.

Outreach Committee (Karen, Claudia, Nanci, Pat, Dan, Shelly, Sandy)

Teens

See ITI

CoDA Convention Committee

No Report

Service Structure Committee

Website Report

The Web team has given input to several applications from communities that are applying to be linked from the National Website. All links must comply with the guidelines accepted by NSC. Every attempt to assist them to meet these guidelines is being given by the web team and the board of trustees.

The web team has continued to work on the new design of the Meeting Update page. This page will automatically prompt the user for mandatory fields, which will aid the database input by not having to contact the person several times for complete information. This automated form will collect the information, store it into e-mail and send it directly to the input person. This will also speed up the time it takes to update a meeting. This same form is being considered to also register a new meeting. We are hoping this new page will be operational by September.

There continues to be lots of free space out there on the website, we encourage each community to send us information on your activities. You may also contact us for volunteers to work on your websites. Currently National does not have more work than the present team can handle, so we are making a list of volunteers who are able and willing to do web design and maintenance as a part of their program.

Respectfully submitted:

Annie R., Website Project

Finance Committee

No Report

Co-Nnections

The Co-NNconnections committee is hard at work preparing for the National Service Conference (NSC). The Co-NNconnections On-Line (In Print) is due for distribution at the NSC. By the time the CSR is sent out we should be in print.

Submissions to Co-NNconnections have been slow. We have received a total of 17 submissions since the last conference and several "Words of Wisdom".

Eligible for printing: Original stories, poems, artwork and cartoons created by CoDA members that reflect some aspect of recovery from codependency (recovery in other 12 Step programs can be mentioned only peripherally, not as the focus).

Co-NNconnections On-Line is an ongoing project. It is a way for members to share with each other. Each year just before the National Service Conference all of the articles received and posted on the web site are put into a print edition. The print edition can be purchased through the CoDA literature order form.

Co-NNconnections On-Line is your On-Line publication it only works with your submissions.

Hospitals & Institutions (H & I) Report

See ITI

Online Support Committee

No Report

CoRe

No Report

Issue Mediation Committee (ITI)

The Issues, Teens and Institutions Committee (ITI) is alive and well. It has been a quiet year for the Issues Mediation part of the committee. We like keeping a low profile. When we are not presented with any issues - that means everybody is happy with everybody else, right?

Bob C. from Ohio is in charge of the Institution portion of the committee. The last time I heard from him, he was reaching out to several Institutions and making progress. I am looking forward to his report at conference.

We no longer have a vice-chair for the Teens part of the committee. Several people have asked for assistance with CoDA Teen this year, we really need to fill that position. If any one out there has an inclination to do some service work this is a great place to start. If you feel your program needs a boost, service is the best way I know to jump-start your recovery. We need YOU.

Ramona P.

Chairperson ITI committee

Fellowship Services

No Report

Ad Hoc Committee

No Report

Recovery Writers In Action

"Recovery Writers In Action" has a new member, Lea from San Diego, California. Welcome aboard Lea! RWIA has received two new submissions entitled "The Epiphany," a wonderful piece on how doing service helps recovery, and "Expecting Different Results," which packs a punch to the repeating cycle of codependent relationships. These "recovery in action" submissions are valuable examples of the "How It Works" part of recovery - the "tools" we use in our daily life. RWIA continues to ask for contributions from the Fellowship sharing their "recovery in action" experiences. Suggested topics for chapters include "A Step By Step Guide To Practice Healthy And Loving Relationships," "How And Why I Sabotage My Recovery," "How Sponsorship Works," "How Service Accelerates Recovery" and "How To Set Boundaries." The Fellowship is invited to share their wisdom and submit their experience, strength and hope.