**CoDA SERVICE CONFERENCE (CSC) ANNUAL SERVICE REPORT 2015/2016**

**ISSUES MEDIATION COMMITTEE (IMC)**

CURRENT MEMBERS:

Kevin M New York – Chair

Addie M California

Gail S. Nevada

Nancy O. Connecticut

Board Liaison: Christine H. – Arizona

The Issues Meditation Committee continued to meet monthly on the third Thursday (and whenever necessary) by teleconference call and to go over various specific issues. Two subcommittee face 2 faces took place during the year.

**ISSUES MEDIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

The 2015 – 2016 Issues Mediation Committee (IMC) was elected at the 2015 CSC in July. The members voted in were: Returning members – Kevin M., Addie M., Cara S., Gail S., Natasha K., Daniel T; New Members – Nancy O., Kay H., and Sharon F. During the committee’s tenure, several members had to resign for personal reasons, Cara S., Natasha K., Daniel T; and Sharon F. One member passed away, Kay H. Our thought are with her family. The remaining members worked hard on as many as the 2015-2016 goals possible, given the size of the committee.

**CURRENTLY LISTED CASES:**

There were eight inquiries from various groups and intergroups. The IMC responded sending the “Dealing with Disagreements Process”. Response teams were formed and most inquiries were resolved through email or phone calls, by expressing our understanding of Fellowship Service manual, Tradition and By-Laws.

One inquiry, led to mediation. The response team held conference calls with the parties to discuss. A resolution was reached that did require one a member from the IMC and the IMC Board Liaison to travel to assist in an Intergroup meeting. Only one member of IMC was able to attend. IMC's practice is to do mediations in pairs (this protects the IMC members), after discussions and group conscience; the IMC Board Liaison seemed the next logical person to help with the mediation.

**VOTING ENTITY SPLIT:**

No requests were submitted for Voting Entity Division/Split.

**VOTING ENTITY ISSUES:**

There were five Voting Entity Issue assigned at CSC.

2015 AZ01 – Change welcome; In our Welcome it says: "We attempted to use others - our mates, friends, and even our children, as our sole source of identity, value and well being, and as a way of trying to restore within us the emotional losses from our childhoods.” I don’t want the emotional losses from my childhood restored!! I think the intent is to say that "we attempted to use others to take away the feelings from the emotional losses from our childhoods." It could read like the previous line or: “a way of trying to restore us from the emotional losses from our childhoods.”

* Assigned to SSC who sent their recommendation to the Board and still open

2015 TX 01 –The CoDA Texas Fellowship requests that CoDA World remove the photo from the coda.org website of the man sitting with his head in his hands. This is the first photo that comes up when opening the CoDA website. Tabled at 2015 CSC until 2016 CSC

* Tabled at 2015 CSC to 2106 CSC

2015 TX 02 –Texas Board Closed CSC 2015 The Fellowship of CoDA Texas motions that the SOS Management Company employees not attend the CoDA Service Conference as they are an outside entity.

* Closed - Voted on at 2015 CSC, Motion 1505

2015 PA 01 – Recommendation: That the words “or other” be inserted before the final word "systems" in both versions of the Welcome. This would be in the first paragraph of the long version, and the second paragraph of the short version. Change: It is born out of our sometimes moderately, sometimes extremely dysfunctional family systems. To: It is born out of our sometimes moderately, sometimes extremely dysfunctional family or other systems.

* Assigned to SSC whom rejected it. The PA VE decided to bring to 2016 CSC as a motion.

2015 North Cal 01 –In order to add organization and structure to our program of recovery, NorCal proposes offering a variety of tools to be used by our fellowship and trusted servants.

* Assigned to Literature and still open

The IMC continues to review the Quarterly Service Report for reference to Voting Entity Issues that were assigned at the 2015 CSC. Committees are contacted if there is no reference to their assigned VEI's. We encourage those committees that are working on VEI's, to communicate the VE regarding their VEI. As the FSM states:

*“The Board or Committee shall establish and maintain communication with the originating Voting Entity (VE) during their process of deliberation to the extent that is possible and form their issue into a motion and present it at the next Conference. If in deliberation the board or committee decides against the VEI, the VE Delegate has the option to bring it as a motion directly to CoDA Service Conference providing it’s not a Bylaw or legal issue.”*

All VEI’s are updated on the CoDA.org website.

**Voting Entity Liaison:**

At 2015 CSC, the Voting Entity Liaison (VEL) created, distributed and collected contact information forms for Delegates/Alternates and Convention participants for Voting Entity/Intergroup information for CoDA website updates. The VEL is in contact with Board Secretary, Board Web Liaison, and IMC sub-committee on updating CoDA’s website contact list.

Also at CSC, the VEL distributed multiple copies of “CoDA Guidelines for Structure and Development of Intergroups and Voting Entities” document and met with interested trusted servants to discuss Voting Entity structure. The VEL was able to meet with various Delegates and Travel Reimbursement Opportunity (TRO) recipients and ensured that their needs were met.

The VEL sub-committee had a face-to-face in Phoenix, AZ in December 2015. They worked on the update (an interactive form so applicants can use the form online) of the Travel Reimbursement Opportunity application and selection criteria. Members looked at various locations on CoDA’s website to place the application for users to find the application. Members also are updating CoDA’s Intergroup and Voting Entity contact website list by emailing and calling various individuals and CoDA local organizations throughout the U.S.

The TRO instructions and link to application was placed on the CoDA website in the Service info area. The VEL worked with members regarding the Travel Reimbursement Opportunities (TRO). The VEL monitored the Smartsheet and replied to acknowledge the receipt of their application. We have received several international requests.

The VEL along with other 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@coda.org](mailto:imcvel@coda.org).

**ASSISTANCE WITH VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING CSC:**

When the Voting Entities sends their Voting Member (VE Delegate), that Voting Member must be present and accounted for at the Conference in order to vote and must be elected by the Voting Entity.  In the absence of a Voting Entity “service board”, the Voting Member (VE Delegate) must have presented to Issues Mediation Committee an alternative selections process based on group conscience decision making, in a timely manner to attend CoDA Service Conference (CSC).  This is done in order to ensure that this process, which is stated in the ByLaws Article IV Section 2, is adhered to.

The IMC developed a form to assist with this. It can be found at the end of this document and will be distributed at the 2106 CSC.

**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
4. No Voting Entity will receive the (TRO) in two consecutive years

Two international and 3 National TRO’s were awarded. International were Colombia and Canada. Chili was originally awarded but was unable to attend. National were New York, Minnesota, and Georgia.

As the Chair of IMC, it has been my pleasure to work with all the members. Working with everyone greatly enhanced my recovery. Thank you CoDA Fellowship for electing us and allowing each of us to do service on the committee.

Your in Service

Kevin M.

IMC Chair

**IMC Official Voting Entity Service Board Recognition Form**

In lieu of a Voting Entity Service Board, describe the election process of the Delegate(s)

***Please email to IMC (***[***imc@coda.org***](mailto:imc@coda.org)***) after completing this form.***

Please provide the following information to the best of your abilities:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Voting Entity Name: |  | | |
| Mailing Address: |  | | |
| Phone |  | | |
| Email |  | | |
| Website |  | | |
| Delegate 1: |  | Delegate 2: |  |
| Mailing Address: |  | Mailing Address: |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Phone |  | Phone |  |
| Email |  | Email |  |

Do you have a Voting Entity Service Board (VESB)?

How often does the VESB meet?

Does the VESB have By-Laws?

Please list the officers from your voting entity service board.

What is the term of service for the officers and Delegate?

What is the process for electing the Delegate(s)?

How many intergroups are represented in the States Voting Entity (VE)? If VE, is an Intergroup, how many groups are represented?

How many active groups in your state/country?

What efforts have been made to reach out to groups not represented?

How does the VE disseminate information to the Fellowship?

If applicable, provide minutes of meeting in which the Delegate was elected.

Name of person who filled out this form and your service position.

**Today's date:**