

**CoDA Service Conference 2021**

**Motion/Voting Entity Issue (VEI) Form**

**Check one: X Motion Board**

**\_\_ VEI** (See VEI Guidelines on reverse side of this form)

**Committee/Board** or **VE/Delegate Name: CoDA BOARD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: May 8, 2021\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Assigned Number: Motion 5\_\_\_\_\_**

**Revision #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Motion Name:** Identificationof CoDA Foundational Documents

**Motion/Issue:** Move that Motion 20023 be amended to encompass the following seven CoDA Foundational Documents:

The CoDA Twelve Steps, the CoDA Twelve Traditions, the CoDA Twelve Service Concepts, the CoDA Twelve Promises, the CoDA Welcome or the Short Version of the CoDA Welcome, and the CoDA Preamble.

**Intent, background, other pertinent information:**

Clarify which are the Foundational Documents of Co-Dependents Anonymous. The four foundational documents that are required to be read at meetings are the CoDA Twelve Steps, the CoDA Twelve Traditions, the CoDA Welcome or the Short Version of the CoDA Welcome, and the CoDA Preamble.

**Remarks:**

Remarks: See text of Motion 20023 below.

Motion Date:    8/24/2020                         Meeting Type:                                CSC

Number:           20023                               Board Number:

Item Type:       MOTION                         Motion Key:                                   5147

Committee:      Board                               Member Names:                             Salle H

Subject:            Board Motion #3 - Foundational Documents

Amends Motion Numbers:                                                                               Vote:                          2/3 Vote

Description:     Move that amending three of our Foundational Documents – the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Service Concepts– be a two-year process. Any motion to amend these Foundational Documents must receive a minimum of two-thirds (66%) vote to be placed on the next year’s CSC agenda for a second vote. At the following year's CSC, a three-quarters (75%) vote must be obtained to establish the proposed change.

Intent: This is a high bar and is deliberately difficult by design, to provide stability and continuity to our Foundational Documents – the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Service Concepts. The CoDA Board is charged with protecting these three Foundational Documents in the Guidelines section of the CoDA Bylaws (quoted below), because they encapsulate program wisdom. Amending these Foundational Documents to satisfy popular semantic trends places the serious nature of our Foundational Documents at risk. This motion is consistent with the duty placed on the Board of Trustees to protect the Foundational Documents.

Remarks: Per the CoDA Bylaws Guidelines:

The Trustees claim no property rights for the CoDA Twelve (12) Steps and Traditions in a recovery program, as all spiritual truths may now be regarded as available to all humankind. On behalf of the Fellowship, the Trustees shall act to prevent, within their power, any modifications, alterations or extensions of these Steps. Accordingly, the Trustees in their deliberations and decision-making process shall be guided in spirit by these CoDA Twelve (12) Steps, Traditions and Service Concepts and shall use their best efforts to insure that these Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are upheld. On behalf of the Fellowship, the Trustees shall act to prevent, within their power, any modifications, alterations or extensions of these Traditions or Concepts.

Vote: Yes – 32; No – 9; Abstain – 2. Motion Passed by 2/3rds majority.

**This motion or VEI requires changes to: (please check any that apply)**

**X\_\_\_\_ By Laws \_\_\_\_ FSM P1 \_\_\_\_ FSM P2**

**\_\_\_\_ FSM P3 \_\_\_\_ FSM P4 \_\_\_\_ FSM P5**

**\_\_\_\_ Change of Responsibility**

**\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Data Entry Use Only)**

**Motion result: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**VEI Result – Assigned to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date)**

**Guidelines for Presenting Voting Entity Issues to CSC**

1. Local Voting Entity discusses an issue and forms a recommendation to resolve that issue by using the group conscience process. This issue and recommendation is called a Voting Entity Issue (VEI)
2. Voting Entity drafts the VEI, completes the VEI form, and sends it to the Board of Trustees via VEI@coda.org. From this point of submission, all email communication concerning the VEI from all parties must copy VEI@coda.org.
3. Board sends email confirmation acknowledging receipt of the VEI to the Voting Entity within 14 days.
4. Voting Entity Issues (VEI) may be submitted at any time of the year. Submission is not limited to the CSC

submission deadline.

1. Board assigns the VEI to either the board or the appropriate committee within 30 days of acknowledging receipt of VEI. Board notifies the VE at the time the VEI is assigned.
2. Assigned Board or committee examines the issue and through group conscience, develops a response or written plan to address or resolve the VEI within 90 days of being assigned. During the response/plan development, it’s important that the assignee and the VE collaborate, communicate transparently, and work together towards a mutually agreeable plan, in service to the VE.
3. The VEI may not dishonor or be in conflict with any By-laws, Steps, Traditions or legal considerations. If so, in it’s written response, the assigned Board or committee must cite specific reasons for the conflict.
4. Assigned Board or Committee, in collaboration with the VE, may develop a motion to be presented at the CSC.
5. In the event the VE is not satisfied with the response or plan from the Board or assigned Committee, the VE retains the right to draft and submit a motion to the next CSC using the electronic motion form available on the CoDA website. The motion must not dishonor any by-laws or legal considerations, and must meet all criteria for presenting a motion. (See procedures for submitting CSC items in part 4 of the FSM). The VE may request assistance from the IMC in drafting and presenting the motion.
6. The Issues Mediation Committee (IMC) will monitor the progress of the VEI to ensure the process is being followed and the timelines are being met.
7. The VE Delegate is responsible for following up on the status of their Voting Entity issues and reporting back to their membership.