**CoDA Service Conference 2021**

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

**Check one:    \_x\_ Motion**(Committee/Board)

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

**Committee/Board**or**VE/Delegate Name: \_Meli C AZ Voting Delegate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_July 30, 2021\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Assigned Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

**Motion**or**VE Issue Name: \_\_NEW PROPOSED CODA PREAMBLE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Motion/Issue:**

NEW PROPOSED CODA PREAMBLE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE:

Preamble  
Co-Dependents Anonymous is a fellowship of **people** whose common purpose is to develop healthy relationships. The only requirement for membership is a desire for healthy and loving relationships. We gather together to support and share with each other in a journey of self-discovery — learning to love the self. Living the program allows each of us to become increasingly honest with ourselves about our personal histories and our own codependent behaviors.  
  
We rely upon the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for knowledge and wisdom. These are the principles of our program and guides to developing honest and fulfilling relationships with ourselves and others. In CoDA, we each learn to build a bridge to a Higher Power of our own understanding, and we allow others the same privilege.  
  
This renewal process is a gift of healing for us. By actively working the program of Co-Dependents Anonymous, we can each realize a new joy, acceptance and serenity in our lives.

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

The intent of this motion is to invite any codependents, men, women, and those outside of these labels, into the fellowship and its sacred message. To do so, it is important to keep the messages in the foundational documents preserved. Therefore, simple small word changes are in order to preserve that message and still invite all people to Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA).

No one gets to choose the host body that they are born with. As a biologist, my experience has been that the research shows evidence that people are born on a spectrum of sex and gender. Across cultures, people are recognized to live outside the men and women labels. This spectrum exists in many living beings. For example, garden snails do not exist as male or female. They are called hermaphrodites, having both male and female reproductive parts. We don’t call snails men and women. We call them snails, the worms with shell homes. People are people, the codependents. We can be inclusive without using the word “inclusive”.

The original CoDA preamble from CoDA.org as it stands on July 30, 2021 with the words “men and women” equals living in fantasy The NEW PROPOSED CODA PREAMBLE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE with the word “**people**”, which replaces “men and women”, equals living in reality.

The more time passes, the longer time codependents that identify outside of “men and women” will potentially suffer and look away from this fellowship. The sacred foundational texts should carry the message to as many codependents as possible, globally.

If this motion passes, this motion will be effective immediately on all CoDA documents that contain the CoDA Preamble, including the Foundational Documents.

**Remarks:**

For this motion, the only words changed in the original CoDA preamble were "men and women" to "**people**'', as **bolded** and highlighted above in yellow in the NEW PROPOSED CODA PREAMBLE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. The original Preamble as of today 7/30 on the CoDA.org website states, "Co-Dependents Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women...". The proposed motion would change this first sentence to "Co-Dependents Anonymous is a fellowship of **people**...".  Everything else in the original CoDA preamble on CoDA.org is preserved to keep the sacred text and message of our collective group conscious in this fellowship.

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

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

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

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

**\_x\_\_\_  Other: \_\_everything that uses the previous original CoDA preamble\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Data Entry Use Only)**

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

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

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

a.     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)

b.     Voting Entity drafts the VEI, completes the VEI form, and sends it to the Board of Trustees via [VEI@coda.org](mailto:VEI@coda.org). From this point of submission, all email communication concerning the VEI from all parties must copy [VEI@coda.org](mailto:VEI@coda.org).

c.      Board sends email confirmation acknowledging receipt of the VEI to the Voting Entity within 14 days.

d.     Voting Entity Issues (VEI) may be submitted at any time of the year. Submission is not limited to the CSC

submission deadline.

e.     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.

f.      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.

g.     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.

h.     Assigned Board or Committee, in collaboration with the VE, may develop a motion to be presented at the CSC.

i.       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.

j.       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.

k.     The VE Delegate is responsible for following up on the status of their Voting Entity issues and reporting back to their membership.