

**CoDA Service Conference 2022**

**Committee Report**

**Issues Mediation Committee (IMC)**

**2022 July 23**

Members:

Darlene H.(OH - Ohio) (**Chair)**

Vacant **(Vice Chair)**
Steve S. (FL - Florida)

Chris J. (IL - Illinois) (**VEL – Voting Entity Liaison)**

Gillian A. (U.K.)

Laurie C. (GA -Georgia) (**Vice-VEL – Voting Entity Liaison)**

Shannon O. (Canada)

Jorge B. (Guadalajara)

Board Liaison: Katherine T.

Back-up Board Liaison: Florence F.

Finance Liaison: Judi T.

The Issues Meditation Committee meets by teleconference call on the third Sunday of each month. We use Zoom.us as the platform for our meetings.

* We have tentatively set the date for our Face-to-Face (F2F) as 2022 September 16-18. Any new IMC members who join at CSC 2022 would be encouraged to join our F2F virtually.
* Voting Entity Liaison (VEL) has been meeting monthly with CSC 2022 Prep Team which will meet more often as needed leading up to August 21st. Delegate registration is underway and our VEL has begun contacting those registered so the vetting process may begin.
* We are currently in need of a Vice-Chair. We invite those that are past or present CSC delegates to let us know if you intend to apply for IMC service. Please consider joining our IMC family of choice.
* We do have concerns about the disbanding of the Service Structure Committee (SSC) who have been responsible for keeping the Fellowship Service Manual (FSM) up-to-date; in addition, we have concerns about keeping the language easily understandable and consistent as some parts are quite confusing, especially referring to Voting Entities (VE), Alternative VEs (Alternative Format Meetings (AFM), and travel/delegate grants and for speed in including any updates for 2022 after CSC this year.
* There are concerns about the new process for VE’s to submit motions which are now Voting Entity Motion (VEM) {formerly called Voting Entity Issues (VEI)}. What is the process for presentation on the floor at conference? How will VEMs be tracked – previously IMC was responsible for tracking VEIs}. Also, in the FSM there are a number of now incorrect references to the former term of ‘Voting Entity Issues’ rather than the newly named Voting Entity Motions. We feel VEM sends a more positive message to our Fellowship that their voices and ideas are important and will be heard by means of submitting a motion via same process as all committees {more inclusive}.
* Committee members have been asked to consider their intentions to continue on IMC after CSC 2022 when new members are voted in and current members are reaffirmed.

**IMC Mediations and VE Requests:**

* Guidance given to meeting with concerns about the use of non-CoDA endorsed literature, referencing guidelines from CoDA Service Conferences (link) and CoDA traditions <https://coda.org/meeting-materials/policy-regarding-outside-literature-at-coda-meetings/>
* Request to remove a meeting due to concerns about: the distribution of CoDA literature and potential infringement on CoDA’s copyright; 7th Tradition violations. IMC followed up and Group Conscience was honored with acceptable outcome and mediation is not necessary. The Board has been asked to pursue any legal action of copyrights have been infringed upon.
* Alternative Format Meetings (AFM): our bylaws allow AFMs to send two delegates and an alternate; the online meetings need to organize and decide who to send; we are working with several CoDA members who have served as delegates for this VE and/or regularly participate in these meetings. The goal is to hold a business meeting as we work together to establish processes so that members from AFM may nominate and vote on delegates for participation at yearly CSC.

**Discussions/Plans:**

* Synergy Project: We have discussed two options for this project and are giving time for our Higher Power to guide us as individuals and as a group. The purpose of this project is to clarify Voting Entity (VE) concerns and help in CoDA unity. This includes Voting Entity Structure options and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for new VEs and IMC related issues. As it develops, additional pieces to include a Toolkit for new IMC members and additional collaboration with the Chairs Forum.
* Cross-training for members in the IMC roles:
	+ VEL
	+ Public Minutes
	+ Budget
	+ VEI Tracker
	+ QSRs
	+ Synergy Project
	+ Toolkit
	+ FAQs
	+ Setting up Monthly Meetings and Agenda

Cross-training is underway for several of our roles.

* Within VE structure, create ‘How to Attract Individuals to become a Delegate’ for service at CSC

**VOTING ENTITY ISSUES (VEI’s) now called Voting Entity Motion (VEM):**

**SoCal Healing Prayer 2021 – Assigned to Literature Committee.** Move that CSC endorses as a CoDA approved prayer to be included in CoDA literature. *Higher Power, thank you for pulling up this memory. It’s a painful one. Thank you for starting to uncover this part of me. Higher Power, I welcome your healing light to shine on all corners of this memory so that I can love this part of me, too.* **Communications ongoing with Literature Committee and SoCal CoDA Board/delegates. Request is pending for a Literature Committee motion for CSC 2022.**

**Canada Inclusive Language VEI 2021 – Assigned to Board.** Similar to 2020 Arizona Preamble VEI and 2021 Georgia Preamble VEI but for all CoDA literature, documents, media, etc. The Arizona and Georgia VEIs were assigned to Communications and combined in a motion CSC 2021. It *did not pass*. However, on the last day, the Arizona VE presented new business as yet another Preamble motion directly to CSC. That one was *passed* but is not a VEI because it was presented direct to CSC. But, this Canada Inclusive Language VEI is about more than just the Preamble. **Canada’s VEI to be presented as a motion at CSC 2022 by the Board.**

IMC can be reached at IMC@coda.org