

Our Most Precious Asset

By Chris P., Trustee at Large
Tulsa, Oklahoma

In Cocaine Anonymous, our only asset and therefore our most precious one is our name and its related logo. I say this as I depart a Celebrate Around the World function, where I again experienced that special feeling as those around me shared their Hope, Faith & Courage. It's our name, that some of those before me chose, that allows us both individually and collectively to "find freedom from Cocaine and all other mind altering substances." It's this name that gave rise to our fellowship that ought to protect today and tomorrow as we would our individual homes. Cocaine Anonymous is the place where together we found relief in meeting others who decorated with tinfoil, smoked white specks from the floor, or required knee pads and peep holes to party in paranoid bliss. The protection of our asset and the Fellowship built around it comes from our traditions and those responsible for following through with Discipline in Spirit thought and actions, are each of our groups, districts and areas. My hope is that in this article we can all perhaps find where and how we can protect ourselves from neglecting our most precious asset.

First, we must recognize that any violation of the spirit of our traditions can create harm for us all by excluding as few as one addict; therefore, we'll look initially at some types of violations that may endanger us and our name:

- A. Affiliation by outsiders (treatment centers, churches, therapists, etc.)
- B. Affiliation by endorsement of the fellowship of outsiders, spiritual or religious opinions (verbal, written or in artwork with our name or logo)
- C. Involvement of our name in any activity involving an outside issue (politics, drugs, policies, etc.)

Any of the above incidents, and others, threaten our fellowships legal and spiritual integrity and our unity. When another group, individual or entity directly uses our name, after a time, they may attempt to lay claim to it and in a worse case scenario insist that we no longer use it at all. When affiliation is inferred or implied, we run the risk of excluding a person or group of people. Yes, we through our recklessness may promote fear and resentment rather than our fellowship's Hope Faith & Courage.

It was because of these risks to our fellowship's legal and spiritual survival, the World Service Conference made a unanimous decision. Any individual group, club or district, ought to get approval for use of the C.A. name or logo and its intended form of use, from the appropriate service group ahead of time: A person, group or club goes to the district if available. If not, the area acts as the district would.

It was in this unanimous decision that our collective conscience chose to return the responsibility to our local membership. This was to protect us from disappearing because of either reckless or well intended, however misguided use of our name and its logo. It is during this process that we are asked both individually and as a fellowship to remember that "the good is many times the evil of the best." Therefore, insuring that what is ours remains ours, always a sign of unconditional love and acceptance contained in our hope, faith and courage. Beginning each day when: **We admitted we were powerless over cocaine and all other mind altering substances; that our lives are unmanageable.**

Thank you for this Day of Hope.

Story of Steve P.

Hello. My name is Steve P., and I am a recovering cocaine addict. I would like to share with everyone the many gifts I have received from this program. Five years ago, I wanted to commit suicide. I was using all night, and I had enough. I was tired of the insanity I was living in. I had just been fired. I was in a blackout with a client, and God knows what I had done. At this point in my life, I had already lost my family's trust, my business, and my home. I had no self worth. I wanted to die so that my children would receive money from my life insurance policy. They could finish school. My guilt would be gone.

However, God works in strange ways. One night while getting loaded, I blew crack smoke in my dog's face. He attacked me. It seems he had more sense than I did! I called a friend to take me to the hospital to have my nose sewn up. This incident started my journey to recovery. After being sewn up, I was admitted to the hospital's detox unit, then to their rehabilitation program. The same hospital I sold insurance for.

A volunteer came in to say hi. After a while, he told me how I was always falling up, not down. My bottoms seemed always to have bonuses in them. It hit home. I decided to let go of all control and turn it over to those who knew better. I asked God to be there for me, and realized He never left, it was me who had gone astray.

I started on a sober journey. I took a job as a short order cook in a local recovery club. Getting humble was a tough pill to take, but I had to be busy to help keep from using. What a better place to be then surrounded by those in recovery?

A fellow recovering addict told me about a program that helps addicts re-enter the work force. I applied for the program. Being a cocaine addict, I qualified as disabled. Later I enrolled into the local university. Soon after, I went to work in a psychiatric hospital in the

(continued on page 5)



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A Note from the WSO

With each issue of the NewsGram, I include a note about the goings on of the World Service Office. As we continue to grow, we create the atmosphere of a well-oiled machine. Our staff works well together, ensuring that each Group, District and Area receives its chips and literature in a timely manner. Occasionally, that well oiled machine needs a little maintenance. It often needs a service call as well. Short of the bumps and ditches, we continue to progress toward perfection. Progress. I am quite proud of the work we do. I am certainly dedicated to my job. One thing I look for in a new employee is for someone who wants to be here. Who wants to serve the fellowship. The sole purpose of the WSO is to serve the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous. We do that by providing meeting materials, information, conduct the day to day business of CA, keep the money straight, pay the rent, answer the phone with the endless questions from members and non-members alike. We even get a call from the press sometimes. It's so exciting to receive that first order from the group in a small, remote area, who recently received a free starter kit. If there is anything you need, or if you have a question, please feel free to contact us. If we can't help you, we probably know who can.

The WSO Board recently approved medallions through 20 years. They are now available. The Tools of Recovery pamphlet has been modified by the WSC Chips, Literature and Format committee to include reference to our book. A new pamphlet, Being of Service will be available soon.

NewsGram subscriptions are available. If you would like to receive this newsletter in your mailbox at home, please complete the form in this issue.

We hope to see you all in Denver. If you can't make it, be sure to plan for the World Service Convention in 1998. It will take place in Southern California. Come for some fun and sun! The committee is looking for volunteers to serve on this convention. If you live in the Southern California region, and would like to participate, please contact the WSO for more information.

- K.D.

Where to Write:

CAWS, Inc. Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 492013
Los Angeles, CA 90049-8013

CAWSO, Inc. Board of Directors
3740 Overland Avenue - Suite C
Los Angeles, CA 90034-6337

ATTN: NewsGram Editor
c/o CAWSO, Inc.
3740 Overland Avenue - Suite C
Los Angeles, CA 90034-6337

The NewsGram presents experiences and opinions of Cocaine Anonymous members. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual contributors and are not to be attributed to nor taken as an endorsement by either Cocaine Anonymous or the NewsGram.

The NewsGram is always looking for submissions! If you have ideas, cartoons, poems, stories or any other recovery or service related material that you would like considered for publication in future issues of the NewsGram, please fill out the form below and forward with your original work to: NewsGram Editor, c/o CAWSO, Inc., 3740 Overland Avenue - Suite C, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

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Signature _____

Calendar of Events

May 2, 3 & 4, 1997

"The Courage to Change, Here and Now"

Illinois Area 14 Years of Unity Convention

Wyndham Hotel Northwest, 400 N. Park Blvd., Itasca, IL (630) 773-4000; for information contact Kim S. (847) 297-2224, Kevin F. (630) 968-3471 or Tim N. (847) 329-7728

May 2, 3 & 4, 1997

Central California Area "Seaside Celebration '97"

Harbortown Marina Resort, Ventura, California; for more information contact the Cen Cal Area Help line at: (805) 969-5178. *Tell the service that you wish to speak to someone regarding the convention.*

May 23, 24, 25 & 26, 1997

"We Carry This Message"

13th Annual Cocaine Anonymous World Service Convention

Hyatt Hotel-Downtown, 1730 Welton Street, Denver, Colorado. Reservations: (303) 295-1234 or (800) 358-5593; For convention information: Jay (303) 777-0874 or Hugh (303) 722-8054

July 3, 4, 5 & 6, 1997

Arizona Area Convention

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, Arizona; for more information Email Skip at: skipspace@inficad.com or call Karen T. at (602) 934-9261.

July 26 & 27, 1997

"Unity Days"

Rock Creek Park, Twin Falls, Idaho; for more information contact: Susan or Gary (208) 734-7242

July 31, August 1, 2, & 3, 1997

1st Annual New Mexico State Convention,

With God, Ourselves & Many Others.

Rio Grande Inn, Albuquerque, New Mexico; for information call Donald at (505) 298-2515 or David I. (505) 856-0628.

August 8, 9 & 10, 1997

Sortir De Lombre (Into the Light)

11th Annual Bilingual Quebec Regional Convention; Hotel du Parc, 3625 Ave. Du Parc, Montreal, Quebec Canada H2X 3P8 (800) 363-0735; For more information contact Darlene at (514) 521-8987

**New Dates!*

August 15, 16 & 17, 1997

"Laissez le bon Temps Rouler" (Let the Good Times Roll)"

Recovery on the River

New Orleans District Convention; Best Western Landmark Hotel, Metairie, Louisiana (800) 277-7575; For more information, write CANOLA; P.O. Box 6391, Metairie, LA 70009-6391.

August 21, 22, 23 & 24, 1997

"Steps Toward Unity"

Los Angeles Area's 13th Annual Convention; Riviera Resort, 1600 N. Indian Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, CA (619) 327-8311; For more information call the CALA office: (310) 216-4444.

August 22, 23 & 24, 1997

"Show Me Recovery"

Greater Missouri Area of Cocaine Anonymous; Holiday Inn Convention Center, St. Louis, Missouri. For information contact: Pearl B. (816) 333-1984 Jeannette W. (314) 972-0406

August 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31, 1997

Cocaine Anonymous World Service Conference

C.A. Fellowship's Annual Business Meeting; Radisson Plaza Hotel - LAX, Manhattan Beach, CA For reservations: (310) 546-7511; for more information contact the World Service Office: (310) 559-5833.

August 29, 30, 31 & September 1, 1997

Serenity in the South. Alabama Area Convention

Kings Arrow Ranch, Lumberton, Mississippi; for information, call the Alabama Area Help Line at (205) 888-3558 or Email: Vance N. at: vancen@zebra.net.

September 26, 27 & 28, 1997

Surrender: Sky's the Limit. Flint District Service Convention

Radisson River Front Hotel, Flint, Michigan; for information call William W. (810) 234-6049 or Ellen S. (810) 232-1522 or Anthony J. (810) 767-7119.

October 9, 10, 11, & 12, 1997

"Recovery in the Rockies VIII"

Utah Service Area's annual convention; Hotel Olympia Park, Park City, Utah (800) 234-9003; for convention information call: Scott J. (801) 363-3963 or Ruby L. (801) 731-3798 or Email: BiggTerry@aol.com

October 17, 18 & 19, 1997

Southwest Regional Convention

Join us in the Sunlight of the Spirit

Travelodge Hotel, 112 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK; for information call: Danny F., (405) 424-0838, Barry H. (405) 636-1751 or Terry W. (405) 946-1792. Or Email: George J. at: georgej@ionet.net or Pauline L. at: XPCTMIRAKL@aol.com

October 24, 25 & 26, 1997

"The Courage To Change"

1997 Midwest Regional Convention

Holiday Inn at Old Mill, Omaha, Nebraska; for information contact Barb L. (402) 558-9275.

October 25, 1997

Toronto Area One Day Convention (starts at 8:30a.m.)

Christ Church, Younge and Heath Sts., Toronto, Ontario, Canada; for more information call the Toronto CA help line at (416) 927-7858.

If you are having a Regional, Area or District Cocaine Anonymous Event, please let us know! We can list your event in the NewsGram. Submissions should be made in writing, as soon as you know the date and location. Deadline for submission is 30 days prior to the publication of each NewsGram. Publications dates are: February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1. We will publish up to a year in advance, and continue the listing until the event. Submissions will be published at the discretion of the editor and/or the World Service Office Board of Directors. Submissions should be made to:

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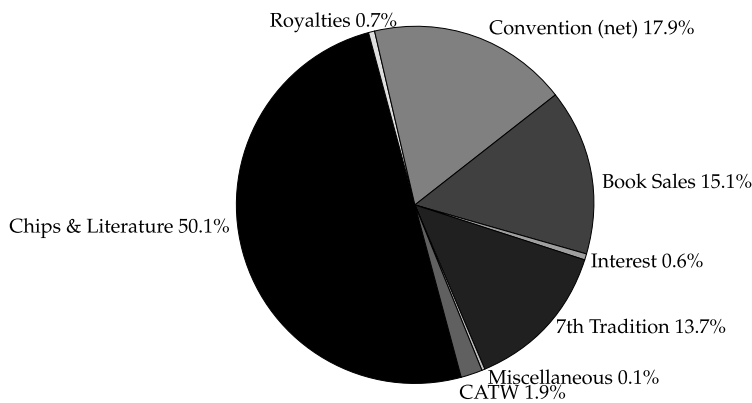
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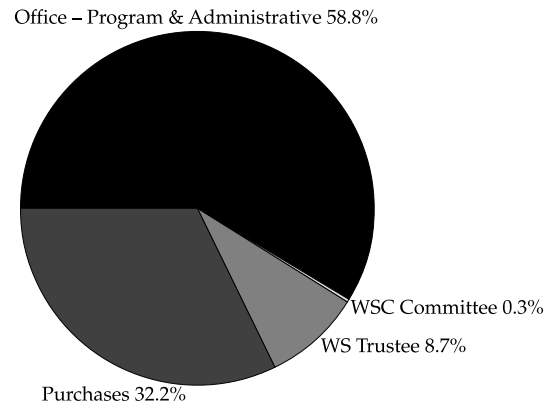


1996 Finance Report

Revenue Sources (1996)



Expenditures (1996)



1996 has proved to be a satisfactory year financially however, overall CAWSO showed a small loss, which was quite a bit below the projected deficit from the approved 1996 budget. The total loss from all operations was just under \$5,000.00.

The loss was held to this amount even though there was a significant shortfall in Chips and Literature sales versus the amount hoped for in the budget as well as the increase in freight charges noted at the '96 Conference. The revenues for 1996 were substantially boosted by increases, greater than anticipated, in Storybook sales, 7th Tradition donations and the 1996 CAWS Convention in Atlanta proceeds.

The expenditures for 1996 were generally held close to anticipated amounts. The Office segment of the chart includes the Conference costs for 1996, the finishing of all of the authorized public service announcements and the printing of the Newsgram.

1996 was also marked by the completion of the French version of the Storybook as well as the purchase of 15,000

copies of the 2nd printing of the Storybook in English. These items were paid out of the Book reserve which is funded by a percentage of each Storybook sold.

A review of the annual operations disclose that the Office, in the performance of its duties for CA as a whole, must receive continued support from the Fellowship. It is heartening to see the steady rise in 7th Tradition contributions as this allows CAWSO to be able to continue its service to the Fellowship with less dependence on the sales of Chips and Literature. Lastly, the Convention is an integral part of our Fellowship's raising of the funds necessary to "carry the message". We hope to see the same fantastic support in Denver that you gave in Atlanta.

In love and service,

WSO Finance Committee

Ed G., Treasurer CAWSO

Scott S., Chairperson CAWSO

K.D. Z., Director of Operations CAWSO

Co-Anon's Relationship to C.A.

By Chris P.

For the CAWS Board of Trustees

As a Fellowship we cannot deny the impact that we in our disease have had on others. Neither can we deny the assistance that some of us have received in finding recovery and the subsequent growth. We believe that this is the foundation of the principle of *willingness*. In Tradition Six, we in Cocaine Anonymous are guided to willingly cooperate with Co-Anon in thought, action and spirit without outright affiliation. We feel that as we attempt to sew the seam between cooperation and outright affiliation, constantly guarding against inhibiting either fellowship's growth, both may prosper.



Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

So you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
Or do you meet in private and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belongs?

Do you work on committees? To this there is no trick.
Or leave the work to just a few, and talk about the clique?

Please come to the meetings often, and help with hand and heart.

Don't be just a member, but take an active part.

Think this over, members, you know what's right from wrong.
Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

(continued from page 1)

cocaine addiction unit as a nurse's aide, while I attended school. I was the first recovering addict they had ever hired. I felt honored. I started a CA meeting at the facility. It still meets. I was receiving so many gifts from our program that I was in awe. I progressed on in school and employment. I was hired as a counselor/therapist in the very hospital I was treated for my addiction! Who would believe it?

I received my bachelor's degree in social work in April of 1995. I am so grateful to this program for giving me so many rewards. I stated graduate school and became an HIV Case Manager/Therapist. I was happier than I had ever been. I was fulfilling my dream of obtaining a degree and doing work that I enjoyed.

September 19, 1996, I discovered I needed a very serious operation. I was told over the telephone that I had can-

cer of the left tonsil. The first thought that came to me was the Serenity Prayer. I dropped to my knees and prayed. I was so grateful to have learned how to live life on life's terms through Cocaine Anonymous. The thought of using never even crossed my mind. Having to do a lead that night, helped me to stay focused on the reality of what was occurring.

I survived a twelve-hour operation. Seven months later, the cancer reappeared in the roof of my mouth and left jaw. I was to face another operation and further treatments. I was in school, working and did not want to stop my life! I was devastated! I thought I had beaten the odds, but I had not. I know I was given a new life by being sober. A gift that was and still is. I accepted what had happened but was determined to continue living my life. I continued going to meetings, calling my sponsor, and reading the Big Book. Remembering that this is a simple program and that as in

"the Promises," I would continue to receive the benefits of this program. The second operations left me more speech impaired and eating became difficult. The impairment of these abilities taught me how fortunate I was to have any speech at all.

I am a survivor, nothing could make me return to what I was before I got sober. Friends held meetings in my hospital room, called, sent cards and prayers. I knew I would recover and continue. This program has given me so much, and I am ever so grateful for C.A. The very day of my fifth anniversary, I received my Master's Diploma in the mail. I cried tears of joy. I called friends and family to share my happiness. Who would believe that a fifty three year old former crack addict and alcoholic could reach such heights. I thank my Higher Power and all my friends in C.A. who have been there for me in my times of need. The promises of this program are real. The gifts are unlimited.

Thank God for H&I

By Scott B.

When I got sober, I heard someone say at a meeting: "Do H&I or kiss your butt goodbye!" My first question was, "What is H&I and how does it relate to keeping me alive?" I asked my sponsor what this H&I thing was all about and simply, he told me that I would be getting an H&I meeting. When I asked him why, he said that if I wanted what he had then I should do as he did. Little did I know then that Hospitals and Institutions would in fact save my life.

My sponsor was then the H&I chips and literature person. Following his "suggestion," at around 90 days of sobriety, I went to the H&I business meeting. At the business meeting they assign H&I commitments. The chair person would read a list of meetings and the people who chaired those meetings would report on how their meeting was doing, and whether they needed help or not. As they went around the room, a girl reporting for her meeting (who just happened to be the best looking girl there) said she needed help. Naturally, I volunteered.

My newly acquired commitment was on a Tuesday night. I showed up for my first H&I meeting with just under 90 days sober. The girl from the business meeting said I would be the speaker. Of course, I couldn't say no. Three weeks later she quit doing the meeting and I ended up chairing it for the next two and a half years.

Nine months into my sobriety, I was sharing custody of

my son with his mother. During the time, my ex-wife was dating my ex-drug dealer. One night I took my son to his mothers' and my ex-drug dealer opened the door. I wanted to kill him. I went to a phone and called my sponsor and he said, "Don't you have a meeting to chair? Let God take care of your son, and you take care of your meeting!" I went to my H&I meeting and shared with some of the kids who were in the treatment center then. After the meeting the kids came up to me and thanked me for showing up and sharing and I felt like everything was going to be all right. Occasionally I see one of those kids at an outside meeting. The feeling I get in having played a small part in helping someone change their life is incredible. Thank God for H&I!

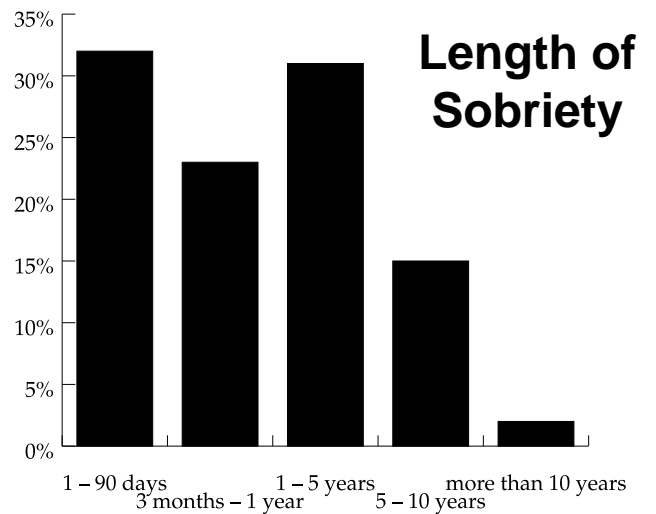
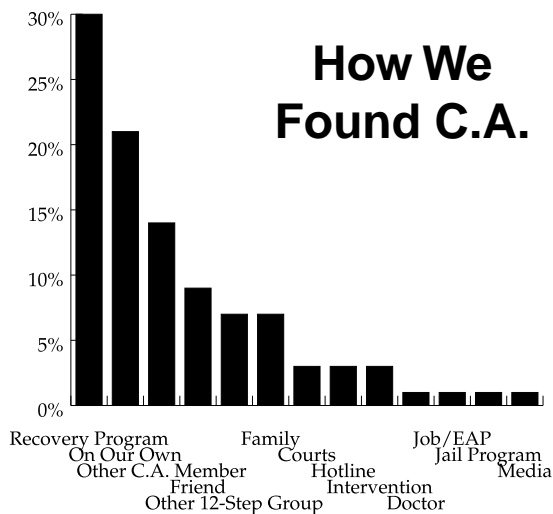
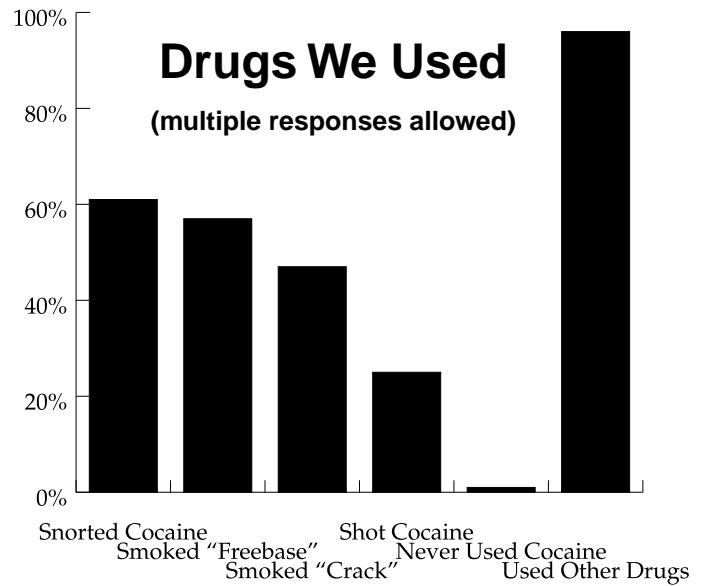
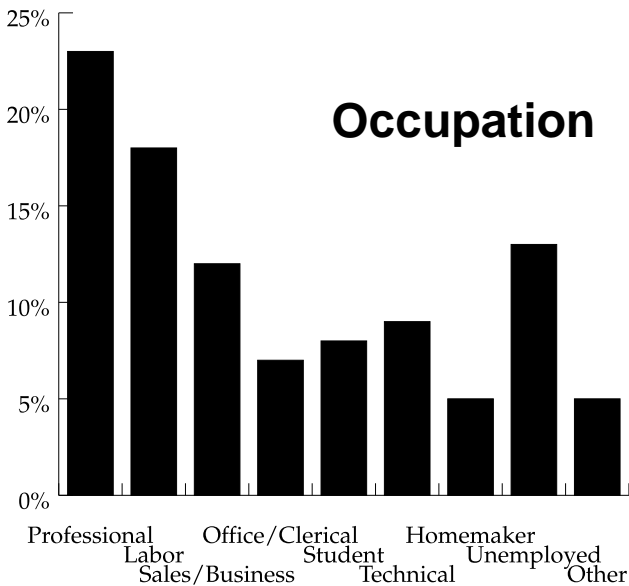
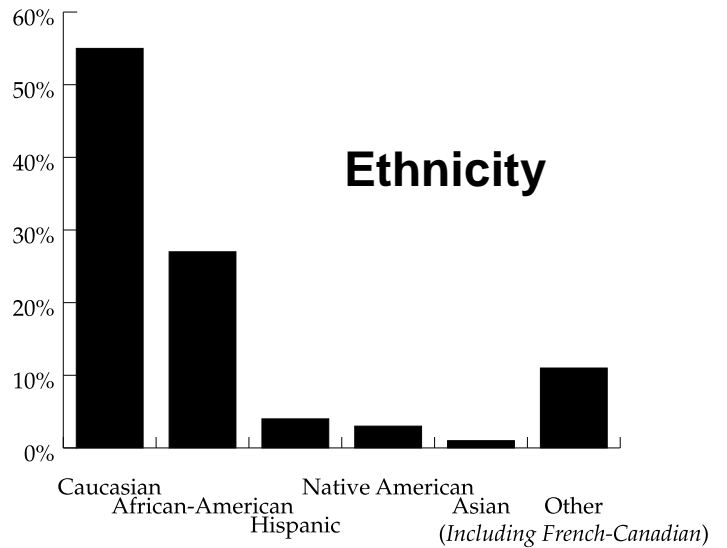
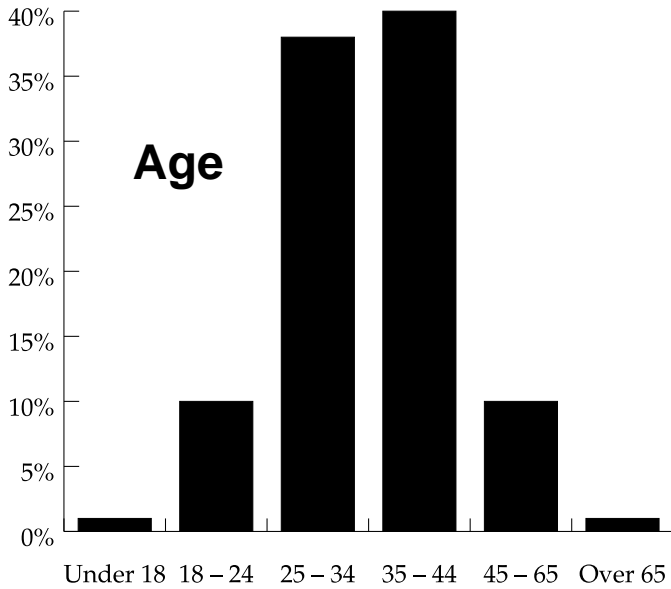
Over time, I found out that by showing up at the H&I business meeting and giving my report, and by doing H&I meetings; I began to meet lots of people and make new friends. I saw that the people who were involved in H&I were staying sober. Later, I went on to become the co-chair, and today I have the honor and pleasure of chairing the H&I committee for my district.

Today, still, the most important thing I do is continue chairing and attending H&I meetings of Cocaine /anonymously. During my past four and a half years of sobriety, I have worked with a number of people. I have had the joy of watching many go from living on the streets to owning their own homes, and from not being able to see their children to having them live with them. Today I know that H&I has done more for me than I ever have or can do for it. Simply by getting involved and offering what I could, I have received far more than I ever could have dreamed.



1996 Membership Survey

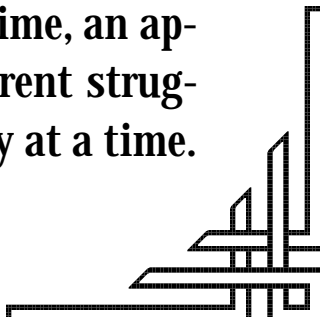
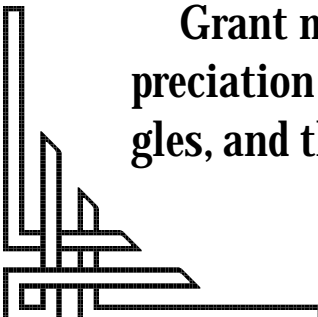
Due to the nature of C.A., we keep no formal roster of our membership. However, we conduct membership surveys from time to time. The most recent survey, conducted throughout North America in early 1996, gave the following snapshot of our membership during our 14th year of operation. The results are based on a non-scientific sample of over 1000 C.A. members.





The Extended Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know
the difference.



Grant me the patience with the changes that take time, an ap-
preciation for all I have, tolerance of those with different strug-
gles, and the strength to get up and do it again, one day at a time.

Visit us in CyberSpace!

The Cocaine Anonymous World Service
Home Page is available at
<<http://www.ca.org>>

You can E-mail us at <cawso@ca.org>

Happy Surfing!

**The 1998 World Service Convention
Committee is looking for members! if
you live in the Southern California Area
and would like to help out in this mon-
umental event, please contact the WSO
at (310) 559-5833, or E-mail (at left).**

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Subscriptions are now being accepted for the NewsGram. For the low, low price of \$10.00 per year, you can receive each copy of the NewsGram before your friends. Before your group. Before the neighbors.

Complete the form below, and send your check, money order, or credit card information, and worry no more about finding a NewsGram!

I have enclosed my:

Check Money Order MasterCard/VISA # _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date _____ (required for all Credit Card orders)

Name: _____

Street Address or P.O. Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____-_____ Country: _____



7th Tradition Donations

January through April, 1997

Alabama		Indiana	
Decatur		Fort Wayne	
The Freedom Group	50.00	Fort Wayne District	50.00
Arkansas		Iowa	
Little Rock		Des Moines	
Arkansas Area	100.00	District	150.00
Arizona		Kansas	
Tucson		Wichita	
Tucson District	134.36	New-Found Life Group	30.00
Coconuts Group	20.50	Wichita Dist/SW Regional Conf	1,000.00
Colorado		Minnesota	
Denver		Minneapolis	
Startin' Over Group	30.00	Minnesota Area	58.00
Denver District	310.00	Nebraska	
Colorado Springs		Omaha	
Recovering Snowflakes	65.48	Friday New Creations Group	4.00
California		Monday Madness Group	12.00
Fresno		Thursday Scooters Group	7.50
Tuesday Night Group	50.00	Friday U-R-Not Alone Group	7.50
Los Angeles		Sunday Solid as a Rock Group	15.90
Long Beach/Compton District	302.50	Wednesday H.O.W. Group	70.50
South Bay Beach Cities District	144.00	Ohio	
Westside/Hollywood District	20.00	Toledo	
Jeff S.	15.80	K.I.S.S. Group	120.00
I need another meeting group	1.00	Toledo District	130.00
Saturday Noon SNM Meeting	15.00	North Royalton	
Malibu		Southwest Thursday Group	100.00
Bagels by the Beach	10.00	Oklahoma	
North Hollywood		Tulsa	
SFV H&I Committee	27.40	Freedom Group	10.08
Summerland		Pennsylvania	
Central California Area	309.00	PA/NJ/DE Area	50.00
Solana Beach		Tennessee	
Clubhouse Group	28.85	Nashville	
Santa Cruz		Nashville group	50.00
Santa Cruz District	50.00	Memphis	
Georgia		Cokebusters Group	50.03
Norcross		Texas	
End of the Line Group	82.39	Houston	
Over the Hump w/o a Bump Group	10.00	Texas Area	200.00
Columbus		Austin	
Ain't no Shame Group	25.00	All Saints Group	50.00
Idaho		Washington	
Boise		Bellingham	
One Liners Group	25.00	Freedom Fighters Group	84.07
Illinois		Wisconsin	
Bloomington		Milwaukee	
Faith, Hope & Courage Group	30.00	Lawrence Center Group	60.00
Chicago		Wisconsin Area/Convention Donation	961.09
Illinois Area	100.00	West Allis	
Straight & Grateful Group	17.50	Let's Stay Together Group	24.00
Northwest Suburban District	353.47		
Elk Grove			
Freedom to Live Group	177.41		
Peoria			
Turning Point Group	25.00		

