

Clubhouses and Cocaine Anonymous

By Walter J.
Atlantic South Regional Trustee

All over the country (and in other countries now), Cocaine Anonymous meetings are held in a variety of places. Some meetings are held in community rooms at local parks, some are held in meeting rooms at churches, or in hospital cafeterias. Sometimes meetings are held at clubhouses that exist specifically to provide meeting space for Twelve Step groups, and to provide clean and sober people with a place to interact socially. At last year's CA World Service Conference, several referrals from the floor requested guidance and clarification about how CA members and groups can be involved with such clubhouses without violating our Twelve Traditions. The World Service Board of Trustees has discussed the issue at length, and this article is an attempt to explain our understanding of the proper relationship between CA members and any such clubhouse.

Let's start by clearly stating that the CA group is Cocaine Anonymous. The group has been and remains the most effective vehicle for carrying out our primary purpose - "to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering addict." It is in the group that we recover through working the 12 Steps, learn to coexist in unity by applying the 12 Traditions, and continue to grow spiritually through service employing the 12 Concepts. CA members the globe over protect the group as it is the very core of our recovery today, the place where we get sober and grow together, ever more clear-sighted of Tradition One: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon CA unity."

The group is the CA foundation, not only to its members, but to the outside community as well. So any other service entity that is created through a need to serve the CA group should handle its affairs in such a way (with respect to CA's 12 Traditions) as to enhance the effectiveness of the group to carry its message, further allowing each member the opportunity for service that

may come from any group activity.

It is certainly understood that some CA members will have a desire to participate in activities outside the CA group, such as clubhouses. While there will be those of us that find the CA group sufficient to meet our needs, other members have a desire to extend their fellowship beyond group meetings; some in fact seek a CA social life. We think it wise for those CA members that choose to participate in those outside activities take extra care to respect the integrity of the CA group, ever mindful of the fact that affiliation, whether real or implied, misleads the public, confuses the newcomer, and violates CA's 12 Traditions. What this means is that a CA member who might be involved in any way with the operation of a clubhouse should take every opportunity to remind himself and everyone else that he is doing so as an individual, not as a

representative of Cocaine Anonymous.

With all that being said, let it be clearly stated that *Cocaine Anonymous does not have clubhouses*, although members of CA are free to engage in whatever outside activity they choose. In accordance with our Preamble, "CA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; neither endorses nor opposes any causes". Nonetheless when outside activity is engaged in which can easily be mistaken as CA affiliated, such as clubhouses run by CA members, caution must be advised. Remember that not only the public, but more importantly, CA newcomers may get the misconception that these clubhouses are in fact owned or operated by CA. Consequently, outside activities such as clubhouses should be designed for those individual members who wish to participate, while the CA group

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Carrying the Message from Internet to Interaction

By Susan D.
Miami, Florida

I attended the Cocaine Anonymous World Service (CAWS) Convention in Milwaukee this past Memorial Day Weekend. I want to share with you some of my reactions and thoughts about my experience. I have been to many, many conventions during my years of sobriety, but there was something more than special about this convention in Milwaukee.

For the past year or so, I have been involved in an online, not face to face, slow-moving, cross-talking, sometimes smoking, sometimes non-smoking, non-chatroom, share-your-feelings group of Cocaine Anonymous. For those of you who have not yet become computer literate, what this means is that perhaps two hundred of us subscribe to the "Hope, Faith, & Courage" (HFC) meeting of Cocaine Anonymous. As a result, each of us receives a daily dose of recovery, chat,

opinions, stepwork, sharing, and other comments and contributions from anyone else who is subscribed. This can mean dozens of pieces of electronic mail a day, but to me, it's like being an active member of a very large CA group. I began as a lurker, as I usually do in regular meetings, sitting in the back, observing, waiting to be lured into participation. I didn't share much, waiting to see how the interaction went and wondering if I'd fit in. I noted the key players and paid attention to the process. Eventually, I became part of the group and of the process, first commenting, then responding, and finally voluntarily sharing when the spirit moved me. I came to think of myself as a major part of the meeting. All that changed for the better on Saturday morning at the convention.

Whenever he had seen any of us the day before, or recognized an HFC name on a badge, Kevin had given us all green

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A Note from the WSO

Well we are back from Milwaukee and what a great time was had by all. The weather cooperated and everyone that attended the 1999 CAWS Convention took away memories that will last and last. With the adaptation of a children's book and the video presentation shown at the banquet it was apparent to all attendees that the Convention Committee went all out to put on a memorable Convention. Congratulations Milwaukee!

For those of you who don't know yet the next Convention will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona next year. Registration forms have already been printed and are being distributed. You may also get a copy from the Website. Online registration is not available at this writing but we anticipate that it will be available using a secure server before the end of this year. More will be revealed. Hotel rooms at the site for the 2000 convention are going fast. Be sure to make your reservations soon.

A number of World Service meetings were held at the Convention. For the second time a World Service Forum was held and in addition the long-term planning session was well attended. A lot of great ideas were shared. The NewsGram editorial committee met in Milwaukee to discuss possible changes and to confirm structure and format. As was started two issues ago each NewsGram will have as a partial theme one of the Principles. This issue the Principle is Faith and the next issue will be Courage. Short statements or sharing by members of the Fellowship about each Principle are encouraged. You may also e-mail any contributions directly to newsgram@ca.org. In addition the committee agreed that this issue devote some space to the Public Information Committee and its service to the Fellowship and the surrounding community. Next issue will cover the upcoming World Service Conference. Lastly, each issue will have articles covering Concepts, Traditions and Steps. As always, members of the Fellowship (that's you, dear reader) are strongly encouraged to submit contributions to the NewsGram by sending them to the Editor via e-mail or to the address located on the inside cover of this issue. Specifically, for the next two issues we are looking for material about the Principles of Courage and Integrity, and the Fifth and Sixth Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

The Conference will be held again in Culver City at the same hotel as last year. If you have any questions regarding attendance at the Conference be sure to contact the office as soon as possible. Things get very busy around here the last two weeks of August.

We are looking for some (not all) old issues of the Connection and the NewsGram. If you have some and are willing to donate them to the World Services archives please let Mary know.

And recently the CAWSO celebrated the 15th anniversary of World Service Board meetings. During our review of the files in our archives the minutes of the meeting of July 15, 1984 were found. We have found many interesting items in our files and will be presenting them to the Fellowship here and at the Conference and Convention.

Hope that you are having a great summer.

In love and service,

The WSO

Attention: CA Hotline Chairs

If your hotline number covers other area codes, please let the World Service Office know. The other area codes will be added to your hotline number for referencing purposes in the 800 # computer. Please phone (310) 559-5833, Fax (310) 559-2554 or e-mail cawso@ca.org.

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 forward with written permission and your original work to: NewsGram Editor, c/o CAWSO, Inc., 3740 Overland Avenue - Suite C, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Remember, we receive a lot of contributions, so your submission may not be selected, or at least not right away. You may see it in an upcoming issue!

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Signature _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 4th, 1999

1st ANNUAL 12 STEP WORKSHOP
Cocaine Anonymous of Nevada
Doolittle Community Center in Las Vegas, NV
Contact: A'isha A. (702) 247-6773

September 10th-12th, 1999

CANOLA '99
3rd Ever District Service Convention
Landmark Hotel New Orleans, LA. For reservations call 1-800-277-7575. Room reservation cut-off date is August 15th, 1999
Contact: Cindy R. (504) 486-6712 or
e-mail at no2caine@yahoo.com

September 19th, 1999

LAST SUMMER BLAST BEACH PARTY OF THE CENTURY
Westside Hollywood District
Will Rogers State Park, Temescal Canyon, Pacific Palisades CA

September 30th-October 3rd, 1999

ROCKIES X CONVENTION. Recovery in the Rockies.
The Yarrow Hotel, Park City, UTAH
Contacts: Debbie P. (801) 612-0375
or William H. (801) 269-9654
Web Site: www.caofutah.com

October 8th-10th, 1999

WASHINGTON STATE CA CONVENTION
Holiday Inn, Everett, WA. 1-800-465-4329
Contacts: Cynthia C. (425) 869-2071, Heidi B. (425) 513-2024,
Ken B. (206) 367-3311
Website: www.geocities.com/~wsca

October 15th-17th, 1999

3rd ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND
SBBCCA
Pathfinder Ranch, Mountain Center CA
Contacts: Billie P. (310) 216-0729, Penny F. (310) 224-0300,
Bonnie T. (818) 549-0688
Laura T. (818) 549-0688, Erin M. (619) 282-7971

October 22nd-24th, 1999

9th ANNUAL SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION
Adams Mark Hotel, Houston TX
Early Registration by October 1st
Contacts: Linda R. (713) 729-6254, Donna G. (713) 983-9744,
Joseph J. (713) 434-7562

November 5th-7th, 1999

11th ANNUAL MIDWEST REGIONAL
Radisson Hotel Cleveland Southwest, 7230 Engle Road,
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. 1-800-333-3333.
Contacts: Terry B. (216) 231-1517 ; Denisse D. (216) 475-6035
or Rick D. (216) 281-5504

March 9th-12th, 2000

8th ANNUAL Y2K CONVENTION
San Gabriel/ Pomona Valley CA
Hotel Hanelei, San Diego CA
Contacts: Leslie N. (626) 287-6156, Rick V. (818) 957-8358

May 25th-29th, 2000

16th ANNUAL WORLD SERVICE CONVENTION
Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Phoenix AZ
Registration Deadline: May 1st, 2000; Early Registration by
April 1st, 2000.
Hotel Reservations: (800) 306-0059 or (480) 948-5000
Contacts: Evan A. (480) 539-6886, Dawn S. (602) 955-7698

If you are having a Regional, Area or District Cocaine Anonymous Event, please let us know. We can list your event in the NewsGram. Submission deadline is 30 days prior to the publication of each NewsGram. Publication dates are: February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, and November 1st. 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:

ATTN: The NewsGram
c/o CAWSO, Inc.
3740 Overland Avenue – Suite C
Los Angeles, CA 90034-6337
(310) 559-2554 FAX



Carrying the Message...

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ribbons and we walked around the hotel proudly wearing them, as no one else had any. Then, the three dozen or so HFC members who attended the CAWS convention all met FACE TO FACE in a meeting room at the convention. This was very incredible. One by one, we all introduced ourselves by our "addict names" followed by our screen names so everyone would recognize each other. It was wonderful how each introduction and recognition encouraged another "ooh" or "ah" or "so that's who that is" or "so that's what you look like"! I was overcome with feelings of sheer excitement and joy that we were all meeting face to face for the first time. At the same time I was elated and amazed that we were actually able to pull it off, and how utterly grand this project and accomplishment actually was! I sat in total awe as I heard each person's story and was finally able to match faces with personalities as I began to recall little things I'd remembered from one post or another along the way. I remember thinking that this was enough, that the convention could end right now and I'd be grateful. I remember hearing sighs and seeing smiles when I shared who I was and I thought, "Now I'm REALLY a part of this group. I feel like I do at my home group. Everyone here is my friend and it feels good."

Suddenly the allotted magic hour was over. The transition had happened. We all knew in an instant that things would never again be the same. Speaking personally, I will no longer be able to imagine what each of them looks like in that "impersonal way." I will no longer be able to share with uncertainty and lack of investment about topics or comments made by "someone who lives in a place far away and who I've never met." However, I will also never again have to wonder if there's a smile or a frown in response to my posts. I will know in an instant how some of them will react to my joys and sorrows, because I spent real, face to face time with them and got to know each one on that "other" level. The wall has been

lowered and we've hugged and shaken hands and smiled and cried over it resulting in a much more personal encounter that will never allow it to go back to being as it was.

Up until just last year, Internet activities in Cocaine Anonymous were a part of the Public Information (PI) Committee. Through the World Service Office Area web sites and other links posted by members and friends of CA, word of CA online and of this meeting spread throughout the cyber community of Cocaine Anonymous. At the CA World Conference in 1998, a standing Conference Committee on the Internet was established to handle the issues raised by this new medium. It is difficult to say how many sick and suffering addicts will have the opportunity to tune in to this new avenue of recovery, but it is certain that thousands today who have found us online have an awareness and a hope of a better life they did not have before.

I feel emotional in retrospect, as I often do following conventions. I like to think I go to them intending to bring something, learn something, and take something away. At CAWS in Milwaukee I did all three. I brought with me my experience, strength, and hope. I brought humor and joy and my outstretched arms to hug in person all the mystery faces I'd only imagined. I learned how important this contact is, whether it's online or in person. And I'm still processing just what it is I took away. I know my life has been touched by the friendship and compassion I feel from the new friends I have and that I'm grateful beyond measure for the opportunity I received to even go to this convention.

I knew a few of them before this convention and I feel I know them even better now. I feel closer to those I met for the first time face to face, and I shall look forward to getting to know those members who will join this meeting as a result of learning about it at the convention and from reading this story. We already plan another face-to-face meeting of the HFC group at the CAWS Convention 2000 next year in Phoenix and I hope to see everyone there.

Faith

By Lee C.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

I used to think that Faith and Belief were the same thing. I have since learned that I can Believe in something and not have Faith. But I can't have Faith if I don't Believe.

I asked someone early in my recovery what is Faith? He told me it is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. I stared at this person for a moment, thanked him and walked away more confused than ever.

A short time later when a person with years of recovery stopped by my place I asked him, if I can't see Faith and don't understand Faith, how could it ever work for me? He told me to take some food from the freezer and put it in the microwave. Then he said, "Do you believe the microwave will heat your food?" I said, of course it would: All I have to do is press the right buttons, wait a little while and it will be heated. So I pressed start and he said, "Look through the glass and tell me what you see." I saw nothing but my food going around and around. So he asked me how the microwaves in the oven heat the food. I thought for a minute and then confessed I really didn't know.

So he said, "You Believe the microwaves will heat your food. You can't see the microwaves, and you don't understand how they work, but you can still get the benefit of a cooked meal. I learned that day that if I Believe, and take the corresponding action, that I don't have to understand Faith to get the benefits of Faith.

I have Faith in the program of Cocaine Anonymous because I Believe the program works, and I take the Corresponding Action by working the program every day to the best of my ability. I have Faith in the God of my understanding because I Believe in Him, and I take the Corresponding Action by turning my will and my life over to His care every day.

To sum this up,

Belief

+

Corresponding Action

= Faith.

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



REGISTER

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CAWS 2000

“CA COMES OF AGE”

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What: Sixteenth Annual Cocaine Anonymous World Service Convention
Where: Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Scottsdale (Phoenix) Arizona
When: Memorial Day Weekend, May 25th – 29th, 2000

Events

Marathon Meetings
Ice Cream
Light Jazz
Early Bird Speaker
Golf Tournament
Workshops
Opening Speaker
Magic Show
D J Dance
5K Fun Run/Walk
Sedona Tour
Co-Anon Speaker/Luncheon
Live Band Pool Party
Comedy Show
Dance
Coffee House/Music
Conference Committee Meetings
Regional Meetings
Banquet
Keynote Speaker
Sobriety Countdown
Spiritual Hike and Meeting
Poolside Entertainment
Spiritual Brunch
Closing Speaker

Information / Contacts

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Scottsdale Plaza Resort | 800.832.2025 | |
| Outreach: | Michael C. 602.274.7875 | straightedge@uswest.com |
| | Randy G. 480.839.8842 | randr@gnaccess.com |
| Chair: | Burton C. 480.897.2500 | burtonc@burtonc.com |
| Co-Chair: | Diane D. 602.246.6843 | azwoman@aol.com |
| Trustee: | Steve A. 480.755.0668 | az_amelotte@juno.com |
| Hotel Liaison: | Evan A. 480.539.6886 | evanland@aol.com |
| Workshops: | Jon S. | 602.485.0411 |
| Marathons: | Mike F. | 602.809.6262 |
| Fun Run: | Reggie L. 602.234.3762 | rlemay@idsweb.com |
| Events: | Scott B. 602.954.0838 | |
| Needs: | Diane D. 602.246.6843 | azwoman@aol.com |
| Public Info: | Michael D. 520.624.4798 | michael@rtd.com |
| Registration: | Dawn S. 602.955.7698 | dawnl@futureone.com |
| Transport: | Rebecca G. 480.839.8842 | randr@gnaccess.com |
| Babysitting: | Madi G. 602.473.9488 | agram@home.com |
| Auction: | Audra F. 602.203.3493 | |

“Our primary purpose at this convention, as with any other Cocaine Anonymous function, is to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. We also desire to work toward the continued growth of CA in the world, as well as in our own personal recovery, by sharing our experience, strength and hope with each other. Please join us in Arizona as “CA Comes of Age” in 2000.”



What's a Relapse?

By Leslie S., Los Angeles, California

Relapse - Latin - to fall or slide back; re - back; labi - to slide

1. "to slip or slide back - to return"
2. "to slip or fall back into a former condition especially after improvement or seeming improvement. Specifically (a) to fall back into illness after recovery or seeming recovery, (b) to fall back into bad habits, wrongdoing, error, etc.; to backslide."
3. "the recurrence of a disease after apparent recovery."

(Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary, Unabridged 2nd Edition, Copyright 1970)

One day a friend and I were having a thoughtful conversation. Both of us, having substantial sobriety time, were highly opinionated about the meaning of the word "relapse." She shared with me her experience of having gone into a couple of programs for reasons other than to "recover," i.e., drying out, getting some rest, receiving temporary shelter or perhaps just acquiring a meal. She explained that she never considered the "picking up again" a relapse, because she'd never heard anything about the Twelve Steps and never stayed long enough to be relieved of the obsession nor the phenomenon of craving. These brief "breaks" lasted no longer than a day or two which resulted in leaving the program or facility and continuing forth with what addicts do best. I told her I'd never heard her share about this when speaking at meetings, and I've trudged with her for quite a few years. This was a chapter of her story that I'd not know.

She explained that she never shared this because she didn't consider these episodes to be a "relapse." Relapsing, in her opinion, was to relapse *from* something, and she wasn't in the program long enough to even be introduced to the Twelve Steps, much less to hear anything about the disease. My question then was what is to be considered a relapse — a few days, or even a few weeks? Just what makes going back to using a relapse? I looked askance and continued questioning my friend's justification/explanation. Is just the coming into a program enough of a reason to consider going back to using a relapse? Is it the spirit's way of telling us that we're tired, or at least beginning to become tired? How

many times have we heard it shared that people didn't hear anything in their first, second or even twentieth program or meeting? That the "nudge from the judge" was just because they needed a brief rest, but later they came to stay? Does one have to be introduced to the Twelve Steps of recovery to consider picking up one more time a "relapse?"

Who's to say what the answers are? I was told early on that this is the only disease known to man that has to be self-diagnosed. No one can tell another about that person's truth. Being highly opinionated, I had to back off for these reasons. The question of whether my friend had ever relapsed was not about me and my opinion, and today I do understand how to agree to disagree.

My understanding of what constitutes a relapse was formed early in my recovery. Some old-timers told me that anytime that I stopped — whether it was because I ran out of dope, money, or just needed to rest — and then would resume using, I had relapsed. I used to pride myself on having come into this program once and having stayed. But my truth is that, yes, I had relapsed many times. I could not stay stopped. I no longer brag about never having experienced a relapse.

I wonder what Bill W. would have said? Even he called his feeble attempts at staying stopped "relapse." This was before there was a twelve-step program.

Yes, recovery is about one's own truth. No one can diagnose another's ailment but the individual. Who am I to tell another that their story should include all forms of relapses, whether it was before or after being introduced to the Twelve Steps? That is between each individual and their Higher Power. No matter what avenues we take to get here, the real point is: Do we remain to stay, one day at a time?

Clubhouses...

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should remain unimpeded by the activities of these outside entities.

Clearly stated, the CA group business should in no way be associated or affiliated with any outside entities, including the clubhouses in which its meetings may be held. The Sixth Tradition states, "The CA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the CA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose." The tenant/landlord relationship of the CA group to the clubhouse should not include the co-mingling of funds. Nor is it appropriate that the landlord dictate structural parameters for the CA group. An outside entity deciding operational procedures for a CA group or the group servants' responsibilities would be an example of a serious Tradition violation. Of course, a landlord is free to negotiate rent with any group, or to insist that certain cleanup procedures or other restrictions be respected, but should have no input on how the meeting itself is run.

Remember that the public at large will already see CA members heading up these outside activities and may very well view them as CA clubhouses. Thus, those outside entities that are so led by and aligned with CA members should seriously consider being guided by the 12 Traditions as well, although it is clearly understood that CA has no authority to instruct them to do so.

If, after reading this article you still have questions related to clubhouses or other similar outside entities or operations, I encourage you to contact your Regional Trustee to discuss the matter further, or to send your World Service Delegate to the Conference with your questions or concerns.

ART WORK

Celebrate Around The World 2000

We need Artwork for "Celebrate around the World 2000", reflecting the theme:

"CA COMES OF AGE"

Send Shirt Shop Bids & Artwork no later than Aug. 15th, 1999.

Call: Rose Jones (208) 734-5807



UNITY CORNER

"ISM" An Issue of Unity

By Chris P., Tulsa, OK

"I See Me!" When we first get sober and as long as we stay sober, our experience indicates that we will face self, or the "ism," at many different times.

We have found that when we are in this place, no matter how valid the cause or the thought, the price is the loss of Unity in our fellowship. The moment that the "I" comes to the forefront, the "we" and unity fall away.

We are either part of the problem of dis-unity or part of the solution. One is about the "I" as found in self, the other is about the "we" and the gift is unity.

As each of us steps forward one day at a time in Hope, Faith and Courage, we hope that each member of the fellowship will always remember that sometimes "the good" as contained in our best thoughts beginning with "I" and ending in "me" many times is the "Evil of the Best."

The responsibility of our fellowship's Unity rests in the hands of each of us as individuals and how we relate ourselves responsibly to the "we," that two letter word that begins in our recovery.

God's Love Letter

Every one longs to give themselves to someone...to have a deep soul relationship with another...

God says; "No, not until you are satisfied and fulfilled and content with being loved by me alone...Having a unique relationship with me alone discovering that only in me is your satisfaction to be found... then you will be capable of the perfect human relationship I have planned for you."

"I want you to stop planning, stop wishing and allow me to give you the most thrilling plan existing ... one that you cannot imagine. I want you to have the best. Please allow me to bring it to you Just keep watching me, expecting the greatest things; keep experiencing the satisfaction that I am. Keep listening and learning the things, I tell you. Just wait ... that's all."

"Don't be anxious. Don't worry. Don't look around at the things that others have got, or that I have given them. Don't look at the things you think you want. Just keep looking off and away to me, or you'll miss what I want show you."

"And then when you are ready, I'll surprise you with a love far more wonderful than you could dream of. You see, until you're ready and until this person I have for you is ready ... I'm working even at this moment to have both of you ready at the same time ... until you both are satisfied exclusively with me and the life I have prepared for you, you won't be able to experience the love that I exemplifies your relationship with me and is thus perfect love."

"And dear one, I want you to have this most wonderful love. I want you to see it in the flesh, a picture of your relationship with me, and to enjoy materially and concretely the everlasting union of beauty, perfection, and love that I offer to you myself, and know that I love you totally."

Believe It... And be Satisfied

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H&I CORNER

The Belonging

By Don R., Bellevue, Nebraska

As I grew up and realized I had a step-father and a half sister I always had the feeling I didn't belong. Later when I was severely mentally and physically abused by my stepfather, I knew I didn't belong. In fact, I ran away from home when I was in the first grade.

As I reached my teens I fell into a crowd that loved to party and experiment. We did everything from sniff lighter fluid to the pass out game. Drinking beer and smoking pot was as natural as skipping school in order to find time to do it.

After years of being sick and tired of being sick and tired I found Cocaine Anonymous. I talked the talk really well during treatment but I still knew I really didn't belong. I needed more field studying. As my field studying came to an end I still didn't think I belonged, but Cocaine Anonymous was my last hope — so I *had* to belong.

With six years of clean time under my belt I was elected to be a World Service Delegate from my Area. I came to the Conference last year and was told I had to belong to one committee or another, so I chose the H&I committee since after all I did come to CA through a treatment center at a hospital.

Upon returning to my Area I joined the H&I committee on the Area level. I became treasurer and thought I belonged. Seven weeks before the CAWS Conference I was asked if I wanted to take on starting a new meeting at a treatment center. I needed to do more service work so I gladly took on the job. The first five weeks went well and the facility was pleased with the progress of the meetings. The topic of the sixth meeting was Step Two. We finished a little early and I wanted to use the hour to its fullest, so I spoke. I don't know where the words came from or how I managed not to stutter and drift off – but out they came. This incredible warm feeling came over me and I knew it was right. I felt serenity, joy, peace. I felt really useful, and I felt I really **BELONGED**.



7th Tradition Donations

May through July 1999

| | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Arizona | | Missouri | |
| CA of AZ / Tucson Intergroup | \$218.90 | Greater St. Louis District | \$100.00 |
| Coconuts | \$13.00 | We Do Recover | \$3.43 |
| Sun Valley InterGroup | \$900.00 | | |
| Arkansas | | Nebraska | |
| AACA | \$100.00 | Sunday Solid As A Rock | \$18.25 |
| California | | Monday Miracles | \$21.30 |
| Better Late Than Never | \$15.00 | Monday Early Start | \$5.40 |
| Cigar Afficionados of Cocaine Anonymous | \$20.00 | Tuesday Steps To Victory | \$10.92 |
| CA NCSC Area | \$2,000.00 | Wednesday Ladies Night Out | \$1.50 |
| CA Sacramento | \$42.81 | Wednesday H.O.W. | \$22.50 |
| CA of Santa Cruz | \$250.00 | Thursday Scooters | \$4.50 |
| Cen Cal CA | \$309.00 | Friday This Is How We Do It | \$11.40 |
| Clubhouse Anonymous Donation | \$50.00 | Friday It's About Time | \$6.00 |
| Hope Faith & Courage (Online) | \$50.00 | Friday You're Not Alone | \$3.00 |
| Long Beach Compton | \$665.63 | Saturday Boys To Men | \$10.50 |
| Marin District Service Group | \$90.00 | Saturday End of the Line | \$33.00 |
| Monday Night Meeting Canoga Park | \$8.50 | Saturday Solutions | \$12.00 |
| San Diego -Sat Nite Candlelight | \$30.00 | New Mexico | |
| San Diego - CA | \$60.00 | Albuquerque Area Of CA | \$1,739.01 |
| San Diego - Mark G. | \$15.67 | Albuquerque Chapter Of CA | \$50.00 |
| SGPVCA | \$219.54 | New York | |
| San Gabriel Pomona Valley CA Convention | \$800.00 | New Life At The Oaks | \$75.00 |
| South Bay Serv Dist Campbell | \$120.00 | Return to Life Group | \$32.26 |
| South Central District CALA | \$651.00 | Sober Toast | \$73.00 |
| T.G.I.F. Bakersfield | \$150.00 | "60 Minutes" Meeting | \$84.00 |
| Topanga Canyon Book Study | \$40.00 | Ohio | |
| Wed Cornerstone Mtg San Jose | \$59.00 | CATW | \$187.12 |
| Colorado | | Oklahoma | |
| Denver District-CA of Colorado | \$98.76 | Freedom For All | \$14.00 |
| CA of Colorado Area | \$125.18 | SW Region of CA | \$100.00 |
| Dragon Den CA | \$30.00 | CATW | \$100.00 |
| Nirvana Group | \$84.00 | Oregon & S.W. Washington | |
| CA of Colorado Southern District | \$65.52 | Oregon & S.W. Washington Area | \$289.00 |
| Georgia | | CA of PA/NJ/DE | |
| Atlanta GA Today's Hope | \$98.00 | PA/NJ/DE | \$100.00 |
| End of the Line | \$362.37 | Tennessee | |
| Weekend Warriors | \$34.77 | Nashville Area CA | \$125.00 |
| Illinois | | Texas | |
| Bloomington Normal Dist | \$30.00 | Texas Area Service | \$300.00 |
| Freedom to Live | \$115.70 | Utah | |
| Hope Faith & Courage - New Freedom Blm | \$30.00 | Speedbumps | \$35.55 |
| Illinois Area | \$900.00 | Wisconsin | |
| N.W. Suburban District | \$682.48 | Meeting of the Century | \$60.00 |
| S&W District | \$107.50 | UNCOLA'S | \$72.00 |
| Massachusetts | | CANADA | |
| CA Storybook Meeting | \$20.00 | Montreal Quebec La Voie de l'Espoir | \$15.54 |
| CAMI | \$30.00 | Southern Ontario District | \$316.50 |
| 12 Step Meeting Donations | \$10.00 | Winnipeg District | \$50.00 |
| Minnesota | | Winnipeg Manitoba Unity Day | \$50.00 |
| Minnesota Area | \$150.00 | Anonymos | \$10.00 |
| Wed Night Fairview Riverside Rehab Ctr | \$100.00 | Birthday Donation | \$111.00 |
| | | Birthday Donation | \$10.00 |
| | | Total | \$14,215.01 |

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