

# News Gram



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## World Service Conference 2001

Kevin M, Los Angeles, CA

The 2001 Cocaine Anonymous World Service Conference was held at the LAX Sheraton Four Points Hotel, August 29th – September 2nd. Approximately 100 voting members were present, with addicts from across the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom present and participating.

For those who have never attended a conference, the WSC is the ultimate “voice of CA as a whole.” The five days of business and committee meetings serve the Fellowship in setting policy, creating literature, overseeing finances, and dealing with any other issue that requires the Group Conscience of CA as a whole. I have attended the last 10 Conferences in several roles (Area Delegate, non-voting observer, PI Committee Chair, and currently as a WSO Director). Each Conference seems different, and all seem extraordinary. I am always left at the end with a spiritual renewal as I watch the leading servants of each Area come together and find common ground. I’m usually also exhausted.

This conference was no exception. We had the usual hour-long debates, late nights, new friends and old friends, heated words and heart-felt amends, as 100 folks who serve Cocaine Anonymous with all they have tried to bring their diverse experience, strength and hope to bear to find consensus. As usual, we succeeded. Despite the hard work, it is an experience to remember for each attendee.

Some of the highlights from the 2001 WSC, whose theme was “Unity Has No Borders”:

Wednesday: The South Central District of Texas becomes the South Central Area of Texas. The Board of Trustees reports on activities in the various Regions. The WSO Board reports on activities and status at the World Service Office. WSO budget and finances are a main point of interest. The Regional slates for Trustee candidates are

approved. The various Conference Committees report on work done since the last Conference and pending issues.

Thursday: A Conference co-secretary, Kathy H, is elected. The floor is opened for referrals to committee, and many delegates bring items from their Areas for consideration by the relevant committee and the Conference as a whole. About 200 items are referred to committee. The Conference then adjourns to Committee. Each Conference member works and votes on one of the various Standing Committees.

Friday-Saturday: Committees return and report. Committee motions that are approved by the Conference include:

Internet: A policy for approval of listing local CA web sites to the World CA web site is passed and added to the Internet Committee Guidelines. The WSC Internet committee can be contacted at [wscic@ca.org](mailto:wscic@ca.org).

Public Information: The results from the 1999 Membership survey are announced and the 2001 Survey is approved for distribution. A “Columnist Form Letter” is approved.

Convention: The 2004 World Service Convention will be held in Southern California. The 2005 Convention will be held in Tennessee.

Literature, Chips & Format: The Helpline Handbook and the Traditions Group Inventory pieces are approved. Additional reading options are added to the Suggested Meeting Formats. A survey regarding future CA Books is approved for distribution.

Structure & Bylaws: The World Service Manual is revised to include Areas outside of North America. Standing Rule 14 regarding timely notification of major business prior to the Conference is clarified.

Finance: The 2002-2003 budget is approved. Committees are given authority to request multi-year budgets for special projects.

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## The Portland Experience

The 2002 CAWS Convention Committee

Hi all. The CAWS 2002 Convention planning is coming along nicely. We have been busy doing fund raising: our most recent fund raiser was the Jet Boat Ride that is also listed as a Special Event at the Convention. We figured that most of us would be unable to attend the special event in May (we’ll be busy at the Convention), so we decided to make a fund raiser out of it. It was more fun than we imagined. Captain Ward was our guide and a great one he is. He says to be prepared for water fights and other “wet” times. As we raced up and down the river we were soaked, then dried out, then soaked again. We did spins and “break tests”. Everyone was laughing and having a generally great time. We did however get very wet and cold. There will only be space for about 120 people on this ride. We hope you sign up early! Oh and a reminder, plan on wearing warm clothes and maybe a rain poncho. Even if it is sunny! It was the best time and we’re sure all of you will want to sign up for this great experience.

The Mt. Hood tour also promises to be a “must do” event. It will be considerably more serene than the boat ride, however. The road to the Timberline Lodge weaves through the town of Hood River and up through the acres of fruit orchards and into the Mt. Hood National Forest. Our Columbia Gorge with the majestic waterfalls is breathtaking. Timberline Lodge itself, was built by hand and is a masterpiece of stone, iron work and huge timbers. A massive fireplace is the focal point as you enter. Often, Heidi, the St. Bernard can be spotted snoozing near the fire. Bring your appetite, as the food at Timberline is excellent! The ride back to Portland will bring you down and out of the Mt. Hood National

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## A note from the WSO

It seems hard to believe that the calendar year is almost over. This has been a very busy and productive year for your World Service Office. Of course, the most important business we conducted since the last NewsGram was the 2001 CA World Service Conference. Every year it seems like there's more and more work to be done by the Trustees, Office Board, Delegates and committees, and somehow we manage to get it done in only five days. A brief but comprehensive report of this year's Conference is in this issue, but if you have any questions please contact your World Service Delegate, the Office or a World Service Trustee.

We continue to work to improve the productivity and efficiency of the Office. Our Office Manager, Patty Flanagan, has been promoted by the Board to the title of Director of Operations in recognition of her outstanding service. Since Patty's arrival about a year and a half ago she has hired an entirely new staff; we believe a more dedicated and hard-working staff than ever. We have already achieved our goal of completely eliminating back orders. A new staff does mean that a learning curve as well as higher goals are in place. In our ongoing efforts to resolve our financial difficulties, the Office developed an internal budget, since ratified by the Conference, designed to allow us to live within our means. Staff members have even agreed to take unpaid time off to cut office expenses when necessary – an incredible sacrifice which demonstrates their dedication.

We also want to thank the Fellowship for their increased Seventh Tradition contributions. You have heard about the needs of the World Service Office and responded as we knew you would. If you wonder where some of that money goes, and if it helps carry the message, consider this: Since July 1, 2001 the Office has sent out 74 starter kits (at a cost of \$26.00 each) to individuals who want to start meetings, and 97 Hope, Faith & Courage books (at a cost of \$5.00 each) to prison inmates. The total cost to the Office to provide these materials exceeds \$2,400.00, and it can't be done without your help. In fact, if starter kits are needed in your Area we hope that the Area can order them (and pay for them) so that the Office funds can be used to send kits to locations where there are no local CA meetings.

Please also note the H&I Corner article this issue that discusses the need for funds for the video project developed by the WSC H&I Committee. If your District or Area has collected H&I funds which are more than those needed to purchase literature, we hope you'll send them to the Office and designate them as contributions to the video project.

Finally, a reminder that it's time to start making your hotel reservations and other plans for next year's World Service Convention in Portland, Oregon over Memorial Day weekend. More about that in our next issue. Until then, thanks for letting us be of service, and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

In love and service, your World Service Office

## Where to Write:

### CAWS

Board of Trustees

P.O. Box 492013

Los Angeles, CA 90049-8013

### CAWSO

Board of Directors

3740 Overland Avenue - Suite C

Los Angeles, CA 90034-6337

### ATTN: NewsGram Editor

c/o CAWSO

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 forward with written permission and your original work to: NewsGram Editor, c/o CAWSO, 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!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give CAWSO, and NewsGram express permission to reprint my original work entitled:

\_\_\_\_\_ in any future publication. I understand materials submitted may be edited for publication or may not be used, at the discretion of the Editors. Original work cannot be returned. All future publication rights remain those of author.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **In The Light Of The Spirit**

**6th Annual Wisconsin Area Convention**  
February 1st - February 3rd, 2002  
TBA  
Dave Sa. (262) 968-5337 or  
email: glvcl@execpc.com  
Randy K. (414) 541-7192

## **It's up to you in 2002**

**10th Annual SGPVCA Convention**  
February 28th - March 3rd, 2002  
Riverside Resort  
Laughlin, NV  
Hotel Reservations (800) 227-3849  
Chair: Jimmie A. (626) 648-1949  
Vice Chair: James Mc. (626) 206-3100

## **A Vision For You: Recovery 2002**

**Tri-State Convention**  
March 1st - 3rd, 2002  
Central Michigan Area  
Lansing Michigan  
Chair: Carol (517) 485-5040  
Registration Chair: Paula (517) 694-1023

## **Mountain Jam**

March 15th - 17th, 2002  
Celebrate Around the World  
SFVCA  
Chair: Chase (310) 837-6806  
Registration Chair: Gwen (818) 368-1519

## **Pacific North Regional Convention 2002**

**Step Into the Light of the Spirit**  
March 29th - 31st, 2002  
Idaho Area  
Boise, Idaho  
Info: (208) 732-5317  
Susan T. Chair: (208) 333-8425

## **This Exit**

**2002 Atlantic South Regional Convention**  
April 26th - April 28th, 2002  
Holiday Inn Select  
Fort Meyers, FL  
Hotel Reservations (941) 482-2900  
Sean H. (941) 275-6603  
Dennis H. (941) 822-5958

## **Today is the Gift**

**Illinois Area Unity Convention**  
May 3rd - 5th, 2002

## **Wyndham Hotel**

Itaska Illinois  
Hotel Phone (630) 773-4000  
Jimmy (847) 922-0000  
Anna (630) 207 5780  
Michael R. (847) 331-8518

## **Moment Of Clarity**

**18th Annual CA World Service Convention**  
May 23rd - May 27th, 2002  
The Portland Hilton  
Portland, OR  
(800)Hiltons or (503)226-1611  
Chair: Lynn G. (503) 281-1336  
Vice Chair: (503) 768-4700  
Hotel Liaison: (503) 655-7784  
Programs Chair: (360) 576-5972

## **INTERNATIONAL:**

### **Message of Hope**

**The 10th Annual UK Convention of CA**  
April 19th - April 21st, 2002  
The Hilton Brighton West Pier  
East Sussex, Brighton, England  
Hotel Reservations: +44 (0) 1273 329 744  
Niels (Reg. Chair): +44 (0) 20 8289 8684  
or email: nielsjuel@aol.com  
Veronica (U.S. Outreach):  
email: OXYLOU@aol.com  
David (Conv. Chair): +44 (0) 7940 566 054  
or email: davidcosta70@hotmail.com

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

3740 Overland Avenue - Suite C  
Los Angeles, CA 90034-6337  
(310) 559-2554 FAX



# “Knew” and Confused

Judy R, Indianapolis, IN

Spirituality is a feeling that you receive from practicing a spiritual life. It is a connection of mind, body and soul. There are many practices of spirituality: some believe it as faith in the God of their understanding some use a Higher Power that is an altogether different perspective than God. In my recovery and in the rooms of Cocaine Anonymous I separate spirituality and faith. I pray to a God of my understanding and I meditate to gain spirituality. This is my own personal belief in how Step 11 is working in my life.

When I was a newcomer I could not understand the concept of spirituality nor faith. I had no God of my understanding. My disease was at the forefront and told me that the fellowship was wrapped around God and religion. My clean and sober struggle was now forming. I was advised to go to 90 meeting in 90 days. What I found was a continuing struggle with the 12 step program. I was constantly bombarded with vocabulary of people's personal views on faith and individual relationships with their own PERSONAL God. Although I needed to hear how their God kept them clean and sober, I didn't need to know who their God was.

The Big Book of AA states that the God of your understanding is a personal relationship. To me that means “between the member and their God.” The more sharing I heard using references to the Bible, Church and personal Gods the more discouraged I became. I had no God and I certainly was not open-minded to yours.

I found that the simplicity of Step 2 was finding a solution with a Higher Power. That Higher Power does not have to be God. It was told to me by other members that this could be a spiritual connection that does not include God. Still perplexed, I battled to understand what Spirituality meant with no relation to God.

In reading Appendix II (one of the most important readings in the Big Book), I have come to understand the profound changes that come from spirituality. On p.570 it states: “Most of us think this awareness of a Power greater than ourselves is the essence of spiritual experience. Our more religious members call it “God-consciousness”. The appendix goes on further to state: “We find that no one need have difficulty with the spirituality of the program. Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness are the essentials of recovery. But these are indispensable.” I found that there are tools for spirituality, some come through

meditation and some through faith.

Faith is a glorious gift and an ever growing personal connection with the God of your understanding. Sometimes, we, members of CA, tend to create confusion for the newcomer by bringing our own personal opinions of faith into the rooms. Let's keep it simple for the newcomer and for the other members who struggle with their own understanding of God. We should let the newcomer know that spirituality can be different than faith and that there are tools for gaining a spiritual feeling. They need to find their own tools for this. We should not bias members with our own individual understanding of God.

We need to focus on the reality that there are many faiths in the rooms. Spirituality comes in many forms. For some it is as simple as the of lighting a candle, music, or a ritual as complex as Native American vision quest. It can involve the spontaneity of a Christian's flash prayers in the street or the rigorous structure of a Muslim's five-times-a-day prayer. It is Africans and Sufis expressing their yearning for spirituality through dance, Jews studying the Torah, Buddhists doing mindfulness meditation and Hindus looking for divine signs in common objects. These are all personal tools of tradition, faith and spirituality and we should be forever sensitive to people's personal beliefs.

The Funk and Wagnall's main definition of God is “the creator and ruler of the universe; Supreme Being”. To me this can be interpreted in a multitude of personal definitions. Each one can create no controversy if kept as your own personal belief in the God of your understanding.

Their main definition of faith is “confidence or trust in a person or thing”. Again there is no specific reference to which person or thing so as not to create any controversy. Their definition of spiritual is “pertaining to the spirit or soul, as distinguished from the physical nature”. Once more this is evident to me that spirituality is different than faith or God.

If another addict wants to hear more about my thoughts on this, it should be taken outside the rooms on a more personal level. In summary, religious beliefs have no place in the rooms of our fellowship. When I go to a meeting or event I want to hear how God (not your religion) keeps you clean. I want to know what tools you use in your spirituality to grow and live a more serene existence. I have my own understanding of God today and that it very personal to me.

## H&I CORNER

# STILL HIGH ON H&I

By: Hal K., Houston, TX

It's always an honor to address the fellowship I crave, in a time of need. As many of you H&I junkies know, that is those of us who receive our daily reprieve as a result of this all important work, we have developed and now are producing our H&I video. Unfortunately, there are costs associated with this video and we have a well known deficit within the fellowship which may prohibit this production. Well, Cocaine Anonymous is now on a star search! Who are the stars? The stars are you, the H&I committees in local, district and area fellowships and members of CA. We need \$10,000. That's right, ten thousand crackerroos!!!

In my adjacent article on property and prestige, I hoped to redefine your priorities and now humbly ask you to bring forth your contributions and be a part of the process in delivery this most important work! Remembering that “faith without work is dead” and “first things, first” let me remind you that “We're here and we're free” is but a slogan not a promise. The cost of freedom truly has a cost. We're free to the suffering addict, the burden is bestowed upon us who have escaped the cocaine nightmare by the efforts of addicts willing to carry a message of hope AND the 7th Tradition collected in the basket. Grace is an under served gift, which is paid for through the gratitude of giving and sacrifice. We need the financial strongholds of the H&I committees of this fellowship to release the gifts back to the fellowship by donating to the World Service Office in the name of or earmarked for “H&I Video.” These designated funds will go 100% to the production of this most important work which will effectively help the addicts who suffer.

Thanking you in advance, praising you with joy and for selflessly thinking of those in hospitals and institutions, I honor you the H&I committees and fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous.



# "Property and Prestige"

**Hal K, Houston, TX**

In the spirit of the traditions and the direction of the concepts, it appears many of us, as trusted servants, may want to examine where we are in the adherence to the intent of our founders of being directly responsible to those we serve. In my travels over the past two years as Trustee, I have uncovered a discouraging, but not surprising discovery of property and prestige issues amongst many of our trusted servants. It seems it has become increasingly difficult to serve our fellowship from a truly altruistic plain. Through our implied definitions of what our responsibilities are to this fellowship and the implied direction of the tradition and/or concepts, many trusted servants have manipulated these definitions and directions into some sort of warped manifesto of discrete leadership intent.

Dr. Bob said it best when he described our fellowship as in need of as little organization as possible except on matters that may affect the CA fellowship as a whole. Also, that our primary purpose should never be superseded by our ambitious need to expand our fellowship beyond the immediate needs of the membership. In light of the financial deficits now facing our fellowship, should we be using our simple committees as a financial means to fulfill or finance personal recognition or promote needs outside the scope of these committees? Is it appropriate that committees and/or subcommittees such as H&I and PI that maintain budgets larger than the Area budgets which only serve the people who create these often misused or misdirected committees? I think not! I have discovered financial structures within structures of areas and districts which are disproportionate to our service design. Many (not all) of our area and district structures are focused on either financing local ventures under the guise of the need to better serve CA as a whole (i.e. travel expense for officers and alternates, special projects, workshops, etc). As an individual contributing to the fellowship, whether through the seventh tradition or a specified fund raising event such as conventions, dances, and alike, it is the expectation that these contributions be utilized in the most prudent way at the local committee level or be filtered upward from the group level directly to the World Service

Office.

What ever happened to the "good old days" when to serve this fellowship was to not cause hardship to it? In my early days as a delegate (1986) to the World Service Conference, when our areas were new, without large budgets, we could not afford to send a delegate, let alone two or three alternates, advisors or observer; we would alternate who would go; share manuals and materials, rooms, pay our own airfare, etc. We did this willingly, always concluding that what we did had to be necessary and for the greater good of the CA fellowship. For this reason, areas, districts and committees should not hold on to money, because this will eventually justify a self-serving need to spend it. This will result in not only an under funded World Service Office but will eventually destroy our fellowship as a whole.

The ninth tradition suggests we not be organized and yet in many cases we often neglect to seek out advice from those that have gone before us, those that are often responsible for the creation of our location service structures. Old timers are often called "bleeding deacons" and are often criticized and avoided instead of being sought and consulted as they have invaluable experience. On the opposite end of the spectrum, are our so called "elder statesmen" who are often perceived to have power and/or influence. Through the development of "downline" representation (i.e. sponsees) at the district or area level, these elders maintain their influence, which is so permanently established at the district or area level that new-

comers often surrender. This stifles change and growth for these local fellowships and often times the first tradition barely gets utilized except for to support their position or argument to maintain control.

If I can follow the spirit of the traditions and concepts, I will have a greater chance when serving this fellowship, of decreasing self and increasing unity, likewise if all trusted servants follow the true spirit of the traditions and concepts, they reduce the opportunity for property and prestige to divert them from their primary purpose. God bless you and keep you in the fellowship of the spirit, trusted one.

## Portland Experience

**continued from page: 1**

Forest and through small, quaint towns. Please register early for this event as there are only 150 seats available.

Of course the Golf Tournament at Pumpkin Ridge will be fabulous. The cost includes transportation to and from, breakfast and lunch. This course is one of the premier golf courses on the West Coast. This is where Tiger Woods won his the US Amateur Championship. Expect a great morning of golf and fellowship.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Portland. We're sure you'll have a great time and have some great recovery and fellowship.

## Moment of Clarity 2002

**Cocaine Anonymous World Service Convention  
Portland, Oregon  
May 23rd - 27th, 2002**

**The purpose of the World Service Convention is to promote enthusiasm and unity within the fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous, and to work toward the continued growth of Cocaine Anonymous throughout the world through financially supporting World Services' effort to carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers.**

**Join us in the heart of the City of Roses, where the warmth of our fellowship will create:**

**Moment of Clarity 2002  
Info: Lynn G.: (503) 281-1336  
<http://www.ca.org>**



# "The Worst Kept Secret"

Craig S, Phoenix, AZ

When I was just a few months sober, I went to see my sponsor to talk to him about a "serious" problem I had. It seemed serious at the time; but today all I can remember was that it involved a relationship. In any case, as I began to tell him about the problem he became impatient and stopped me in mid-sentence. "Hold on, we have to go to see "Freddie" at the hospital; he relapsed and I promised him I'd come down to visit. Your problem can wait till after we talk to Freddie."

I sat silent and sulking as we drove down to the V.A. Hospital. I was considering getting a new sponsor because he was so often "rude" to me. We arrived at the hospital and were soon talking with Freddie. Freddie was a pitiful sight. He had innumerable needle marks all up and down both arms. There were two large open sores on his left forearm where the doctors had to lance abscesses caused by using infections. He had been through 13 treatment centers, and to the penitentiary several times as well.

As the hour we spent there went by, it became apparent that Freddie was still totally convinced he knew all the answers. The answers not only to his own problems, but to all my problems, my sponsor's problems, and all the problems of the world as well. It was beginning to be clear that Freddie wasn't done yet; he wasn't going to make it. As I listened to him, I began to remember that when I was "trying" to get sober, I also thought I knew all the answers.

Listening to Freddie; I began to be filled with a rare kind of gratitude. This kind of gratitude is much more than a feeling and very difficult to describe. I may be able to enclose it with words, but it will not really be understood by anyone who has not shared the experience.

Entranced by this feeling, my sponsor and I stepped from the hospital into the sunlight. He turned to me and asked; "Now, tell me all about your problem." I looked at him in astonishment. For a long moment, I couldn't even remember what the problem was that I had come to see him about! Finally I said "I was wrong, I don't have any problems." He readily agreed with me. He said I would really have only one problem as an addict who has recovered through the Twelve Steps. This problem he called "CHRONIC PERSPECTIVE LOSS - C.P.L." "It's kinda like P.M.S., except men in the program get it too. You will constantly lose perspective on

just how good you have it. This is why we work with others, it keeps our problems in perspective.

This is what H&I is all about. This is the secret everybody knows; the worst kept secret in Cocaine Anonymous."

As a postscript, I actually ran into Freddie a couple of years ago. I had told this

story and he came up to me after the meeting. I barely recognized him, he looked great. He told me that after we had gone to see him, he began a relapse which ended in a 5 year stint in the Arizona State Prison. He was sober then over two years, and was now carrying the message to people through H&I himself; and so it came full circle."

## "Making A Difference"

Juan B, Terre Haute, IN

When I was in jail, I wanted some help in staying off drugs, but there were no programs available. Certainly no CA. When I got out and found CA, I made a promise to myself that I would never forget the people still in the jailhouse. Since then, I've carried a Hospitals & Institutions meeting back into that jail every Wednesday night. I find that I cannot keep what I have unless I remember Step 12 and how much I needed what I now am able to offer.

Not everyone who comes to my panel gets sober -- or even really wants to get sober. But every so often someone does come, and sees CA as the answer to their problems. When this happens I feel that a complete blessing has occurred. And one by one and two by two, people begin to recover -- even in jail.

I've been doing this panel for 6 months now, and there are four inmates who come regularly to these meetings. A couple have four months as I write this note. Not only is this a blessing for them, but it strengthens MY commitment to stay sober. A good deal all around.

So let's not forget the people who cannot make it into our rooms. Get an H&I panel and discover how you too can make a difference in the life of another. And maybe it might make a difference in yours as well.

## Carry the Message – Special Need for \$\$

The Video has been cleared of all Fellowship conflicts and Tradition violations. Currently, the production process is starting to develop. If your Area or District has an over-abundance of H&I funds, PLEASE send to: WSO - Earmarked H&I VIDEO.

CAWSO

3740 Overland Ave. Suite C  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

(310) 559-5833  
cawso@ca.org

Anyone interested in this project should contact Miss Patty at the Office. Thank you for your help – This is a great way to give back  
*Harrison J. – H&I Chair World Service Conference Committee*

### 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.

## 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](mailto:cawso@ca.org)



# 'TIS THE SEASON

**Jahi B, Kansas City, MO**

The time of year has come to celebrate many occasions. People will be bustling about with arms loaded with packages. Decorations will start to appear in storefront windows and a festive attitude will fill the air. It's the time of year that many addicts become acutely aware of their sobriety, cautious of the dreaded relapse syndromes and feelings of loneliness.

Many Groups, Districts and Areas will combat these symptoms with gala events that dawn such names as Halloween dance, The Thanksgiving Marathon and the Christmas Sobriety party. Even during the warmer months of the year they use terminology like the Area picnic or the 4th of July round up. As well intentioned as these functions may be they leave out an important factor about our fellowship: these events, so named, do not take in account the ethnic, religious, country of origin and cultural diversity of our members.

Our world is getting smaller because of technology like e-mail and the Internet, travel has become affordable allowing many to visit and move to and from place to place with greater ease. As the world gets smaller, our fellowship grows with a diversity that reflects the change of our envi-

ronment.

Holiday events entitled Thanksgiving marathon could be offensive to our Native American members; Christmas sobriety party excludes those of different faiths; Area "pick nick" (if you understand the origin of this term) could be distasteful to African-Americans and 4th of July round-up eliminates those from other countries. These United States have been entrenched in European thought and custom since its conception, but our fellowship, based upon the AA principle, has sought a spiritual platform of tolerance and acceptance of all. We are all inclusive not exclusive.

My purpose here is not to try to make some sort of political statement — Cocaine Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues — my point is merely to awaken those who have closed their eyes and inform those who have been uninformed or unaware. Therefore, have your parties, your marathons, and your special outings but be sensitive to the diversity of our members even if diversity does not exist in your group. Let each and everything we do reflect the spirit of tolerance and acceptance.

Party on dudes for after all: 'Tis the season.

## Unity Corner

### Follow Through

**Matthew R, Tijeras, NM**

I believe my first elected service experience was that of a group secretary. It seemed very important to be there every week. It was a small meeting, held at a local hospital. When I became secretary, the meeting seemed to lack unity and was struggling. I felt it was my responsibility to change this.

I saw to it that the coffee was always ready, chips were in the box, books and literature available to the newcomers and regular members took turns chairing. The meeting began to grow. We began regular group conscience meetings and our service positions were all filled. When I rotated out as secretary the meeting felt unified and was well attended. Unity works.

Over the years that followed, I have held numerous service positions and have tried to be consistent in my approach to these commitments, both in my own behavior and in following the service manual.

It has been very important in my own recovery to follow through on each service commitment – to see things through and to finish what I start. I believe following through is essential to unity within the fellowship.

I am grateful for the opportunities of service that the fellowship has provided. I am thankful whenever my service increases the unity of our fellowship. I am humbled by the unity the fellowship has brought to my life.

## World Service Conference

**continued from page: 1**

Sunday: New Business: An ongoing dispute between the WSO Chairman and the Board of Trustees, regarding the Trustee appointment of an interim WSO Trustee is discussed. (See the

1st Quarter 2001 Newsgram for details.) The WSO Chair felt strongly that the Trustees had exceeded their authority. With near unanimity, the Conference decided the Trustees had acted within their authority.

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# 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Donations

July through September 2001

<b>Alabama</b>			
A Day and a Life	\$175.00	<b>Connecticut</b>	"Tues. Hope, Faith, Courage"
First Freedom Group	\$896.00	Connecticut District	\$100.00
<b>Arizona</b>		Hugs not Drugs	\$200.00
Saturday Nite Live Home Group	\$103.40	<b>Florida</b>	Anonymous
New Freedom Group	\$338.00	Anonymous	\$60.00
Anonymous	\$20.00	<b>Georgia</b>	
Arizona Area DSR's	\$27.00	Metro Atlanta Area	\$3,500.00
No More Delusions	\$22.00	Today's Hope	\$71.47
Sun Valley Intergroup	\$626.06	End of the Line	\$327.37
Under the Willow	\$11.10	Westside CA H&I	\$54.52
Anonymous in Arizona	\$1,000.00	<b>Illinois</b>	
CA of Arizona / District	\$247.87	Friday Candle Lite	\$25.00
Cocanuts	\$21.00	Illinois Area CA	\$900.00
End of the Line	\$10.00	Straight & Grateful Group	\$20.00
Friends	\$10.00	South & West District	\$160.00
Home But Not Alone	\$10.00	Northwest Suburban District	\$1,448.86
One Day at a Time	\$10.00	New Horizons	\$20.00
Razor's Edge	\$10.00	<b>Kansas</b>	
<b>Arkansas</b>		CA Topeka District	\$130.00
Arkansas Area CA	\$100.00	Wichita CA District	\$108.66
<b>California</b>		<b>Louisiana</b>	
San Gabriel-Pomona Valley	\$216.75	Canola District	\$750.00
The Seekers Sun. Big Book	\$10.00	<b>Maryland</b>	
CALA Long Beach/Compton	\$1,256.32	DC/MD/VA Area	\$25.00
Anonymous	\$10.00	<b>Michigan</b>	
Anonymous	\$24.00	Fri. Night Firing Line Meeting	\$20.00
Westside Hollywood District	\$312.00	Courage to Change Meeting	\$10.31
Anonymous	\$20.00	<b>Missouri</b>	
Grateful in Granada	\$100.32	Anonymous	\$41.00
Thrus. Clean & Serene	\$3.00	K.C. District of CA	\$57.37
No Where Else To Go	\$40.00	<b>Nebraska</b>	
Anonymous	\$100.00	CA of Nebraska	\$141.60
Anonymous	\$100.00	<b>New Mexico</b>	
Anonymous	\$3.50	New Mexico Area	\$250.00
Crackhead on a Mission	\$111.00	<b>New York</b>	
Anonymous	\$5.00	Woodshed CANY	\$52.00
Anonymous	\$200.00	Anonymous	\$25.00
Anonymous	\$25.00	Sober Toast	\$30.00
Anonymous	\$500.00	<b>North Carolina</b>	
Backyard Boogie	\$880.00	Anonymous	\$100.00
Brothers & Sisters in Sobriety (Thur)	\$25.00	<b>Ohio</b>	
"Experience, Strength Hope; Burton Chase Park Thurs"	\$90.00	Anonymous	\$10.00
CALA / SBBC	\$705.46	District of Columbus	\$500.00
CALA / South Central District	\$804.00	Freedom House CA	\$25.00
Fellowship of the Spirit	\$10.00	Hot Spot CA	\$25.00
Love & Tolerance Group	\$43.50	Anonymous	\$25.82
On the Front Line Marathon	\$300.00	<b>Oklahoma</b>	
One Step at a Time Meeting	\$25.00	OSCA.C.	\$1,267.98
Right Way Group# 3	\$3.00	Freedom for All	\$52.64
Speak Easy Mtg.	\$30.00	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Sunlight of the Spirit (Tues)	\$50.00	Donation from PA	\$50.00
Tired of Being Dogged Out	\$356.86	CA PA/NJ/DE	\$75.00
World Delegate @ Conference	\$9.00	Moon Friday Night	\$40.00
Get High on Hope Meeting	\$30.00	Sense of Direction	\$25.00
CA Inland Empire	\$265.00	Together We Can	\$100.00
Sacramento District	\$37.50	<b>Tennessee</b>	
Anonymous	\$900.00	TACCA	\$50.00
7-11 of Encinitas	\$7.11	Natural High Group	\$50.00
Cornerstone	\$33.00	Pioneer Group	\$120.00
CA Sonoma County Intergroup	\$63.00	<b>Texas</b>	
Birthday Donation	\$120.00	Texas Area Svc Committee	\$1,300.00
Clubhouse Stepstudy	\$42.11	Hope Faith & Courage	\$100.00
Anonymous	\$100.00	<b>Wisconsin</b>	
Central California CA	\$206.00	The Razer's Edge	\$72.69
Anonymous	\$453.00	CA of Wisconsin	\$3,000.00
"Hope, Faith & Courage"	\$20.00	Coke Busters	\$60.00
Java Junkies	\$28.00	"Hope, Faith -N- Courage"	\$33.00
Anonymous	\$50.00	Uncola's	\$75.00
Turning Point	\$50.00	The End of the Line	\$50.00
Anonymous	\$150.00		
CA Inter-Area	\$489.20		
Saturday Noon Meeting	\$30.00		
Backbenders	\$50.00		
<b>Colorado</b>			
Anonymous	\$50.00		
Colorado Southern District	\$123.29		
Anonymous	\$250.00		
Denver District	\$482.66		
Denver Dist. Entertainment Comm.	\$39.29		
Dragons Den	\$30.00		
Relapse Prevention 101	\$15.00		
		<b>International</b>	
		<b>Canada</b>	
		Alberta	
		Progress Group	\$10.00
		Good News Group	\$30.00
		<b>Ontario</b>	
		Winners Circle	\$100.00
		<b>On-Line Meetings</b>	
		SIS	\$50.25

