Protecting C.A.’s Future by Preserving C.A.’s Legacy

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

Santayana (in The Life of Reason, 1905)
Cocaine Anonymous Firsts

From 1982 to 2019
In the Beginning: November 16, 1982

Tom K., the owner of an "entertainment industry sober living facility called "Studio 12" identifies the need for a group for cocaine-addicted people to talk about their struggles and sobriety.

In November 1982, Johnny S. who has been sober through the Motion Picture Recovery House in the Valley gets a call from Tom K., the Director of the Motion Picture and Television Fund's alcoholism and drug program.

Tom K. plans to host an AA Meeting for addicts, specifically cocaine addicts, at the Motion Picture Fund in Hollywood, California” because if you go to AA meetings and talked about drugs, they asked you to leave.”
First C.A. Meeting: November 18, 1982

Tuesday, November 16, 1982 – Nineteen "sober men and women" attend the “Whatever” meeting of AA to talk about cocaine. After the meeting Johnny S. and several other attendees meet and decide to start a Thursday night meeting and call it Cocaine Anonymous.

Thursday, November 18, 1982, the first meeting of C.A. is takes place in Los Angeles [Hollywood], California. Veronica is the secretary and calls the meeting to order with a gavel and announces:

"Welcome to the first meeting of Cocaine Anonymous, a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other and help others recover from their addiction."
To advertise its new program to combat cocaine addiction, the Beverly Glen Hospital in West Los Angeles took out ads in the entertainment trade publications, such as Billboard, The Hollywood Reporter and Daily Variety, as well as the Westside edition of The Times.
2nd C.A. Meeting
Our 1st H&I Meeting

The Beverly Glen Hospital had closed meetings on Wednesday nights only for patients, using the name, Cocaine Anonymous.

After the first November 1982 C.A. meeting took place, Beverly Glen opened their meeting on Wednesdays to everyone. So, within a week of starting, there were two Cocaine Anonymous Meetings by the end of Nov. 1982.
Early 1982-1983 Meeting List

Tom K., an A.A. member, is a “strong help” to the budding C.A. group. He helps find rooms for meetings, set up work committees and shows them how to do a directory and get things organized.

Above: Tom K. C.A. Meeting List  *Note: The Tuesday meeting on both lists display the A.A. “Whatever Group.”
The new Hollywood connection: 'cocaine anonymous'

"Cocaine Anonymous" programs have begun in Los Angeles. One, involving a private group in Studio City, was organized by a man who attends Kenny's sessions. Another takes place at Beverly Glen Hospital (see accompanying article).

Kenny said he "was getting a lot of calls from people with cocaine problems. When I suggested they check out Alcoholics Anonymous, some said their problem was cocaine and they didn't think they could relate to A.A. So I got together with two or three people in the industry who had overcome their cocaine habit, and we started the meeting by word of mouth."

In five weeks, the attendance has doubled. Kenny is bracing to organize more such meetings after the holidays, to deal with the expected response to a major drug and alcohol awareness effort by movie studios. Kenny is preparing 25,000 "awareness cards" listing the warning signals of drug and alcohol addiction and his phone number. In early fired if they go through a treatment center successfully."

The self-help program is based on the same principles as A.A., he fired if they go through a treatment center successfully.

"The bottom line on this question of people who say they have only a cocaine problem is that when they go broke from buying..."
1983 Initial C.A. Organization

**February 1983** – The secretaries of the six C.A. meetings got together and formed what eventually became the first General Services Organization.

Ray G. is in charge of the Cocaine Anonymous phone number. It rings on an answering machine in a small Beverly Glen Hospital room and Ray G. returns all calls. The room and phone machine are provided by Beverly Glen Hospital.

Ray G. manages the hotline for the first year. “If any of you called in the first year of existence of Cocaine Anonymous and talked to the man on the telephone, that was Ray because he took all the calls for the first year of Cocaine Anonymous.”

**Pictured Right: Early Ray G. Meeting List**

*Note the Tuesday Meeting is the A.A. Whatever Meeting*
In the beginning, Cocaine Anonymous was “Cocaine Anonymous of Los Angeles.” Due to the number of C.A. fellowships emerging across the country in the first two years, it was decided that a guiding organization for the country was needed.

In 1984 “Cocaine Anonymous World Services” was created. They retained a lawyer to expedite forming a non-profit corporation. The elected 3 trustees (Ray Grossa, Gil Mosko, and Jonathan Segal) and created an office board of a number of people.
C.A. Chips - 1983

Business meetings occurred every Tuesday night at the home of Johnny S. (May/June 1983) to work on public information, phone lines, formats, steps, traditions, chips, and logo. Meetings go on for hours.

C.A. Chips were created with the hope that they would be a unifying factor in the young fellowship.

Unfortunately, the hard, white square chip with letters and numbers would easily wear off and relapsing addicts would use them to chop cocaine.
Johnny S. was asked to come up with three words to epitomize the spirit of Cocaine Anonymous. Originally it was “Hope, Faith and Willingness.” But “Willingness” was too long. At the time, Johnny was listening to a speech by John F. Kennedy about having courage to do difficult things in your life. Johnny decided that the word “Courage” was appropriate because it fit nicely in the circle, and he felt “it took courage to walk into the doors of C.A.”
First Generation – Sobriety Chips
Early Northern California

Since Northern California had the first metal chip, the chip company would not make chips for C.A. World Service. In 1987 Northern California deeded to C.A. World Services the right to make metal chips with the C.A. logo that was voted on in 1986 first World Service Conference.
First Generation – Sobriety Chips
Atlanta, Georgia

It was Doc Crandall who brought C.A. from California to Atlanta, Georgia. August 1, 1983 – First Atlanta Area meeting of Cocaine Anonymous. Atlanta, Georgia made their own sobriety chips from 1985 to 1986. When Georgia was ratified as an Area at the 1st World Conference Feb. 8, 9, 1986, it was agreed that they would buy their sobriety chips from World Services in L.A.
Early C.A. Media Hype

April 11, 1983, Time Magazine Cover features a story on fighting cocaine’s grip on millions of users. The article references Cocaine Anonymous...”In Los Angeles, new Cocaine Anonymous groups draw 700 people to weekly meetings.”
Media awareness and public information was vital to the early growth of C.A.

May 8, 1983, Los Angeles Herald Examiner publishes a large article on cocaine abuse in the canyons of Beverly Hills and the streets of South Central L.A. The article highlights the good works of Cocaine Anonymous.
Chicago C.A. Inception – 1st Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 1983
Chicago C.A. Inception – 1st Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 1983

Tony S., and Greg D., original C.A. Members of Chicago, gets the first meeting going at the Martha Washington Hospital.

There was a recovery center in the hospital and Tony was given a room for an answering machine and phone number for the beginnings of Chicago C.A.

A second meeting soon afterwards started on Tuesday night.
First Generation – Chicago 1983-1986
Prototype Octagonal Chips

The Octagonal Shape of Chicago’s Sobriety Chip was chosen because it replicates a “traffic stop sign” signifying the amount of time a C.A. Member had “stopped” using cocaine. The early “C.A.” logo (pictured right) was designed by Randy R. of Chicago.
Early Chicago C.A. Facts

Tony S. (Chicago C.A.), was responsible for writing the 1st draft of, “To The Newcomer” (1st C.A. Pamphlet) and “Who is a Cocaine Addict?”

The fellowship in Los Angeles loved the piece, “To The Newcomer,” and it was immediately incorporated it into C.A. Meetings and Starter Kits.

This piece of literature is still with us today. And it has never been changed.
Co-Anon is started by Johnny S.’s wife at the time. It is initially named Coc-Anon.

Johnny S. reports his wife would get upset with him about having the meetings at their home all the time and Johnny S. suggests that C.A. needs a group like Al-Anon and that she should start it.

Sometime during the second year of C.A., she did.
1st C.A. World Convention
Seaside Unity & Acceptance – Santa Barbara, CA - 1985

Convention Highlights: Over 600 people in attendance. People from as far away as the Bahamas and Hawaii to attend.
A number of Areas from across the C.A. Fellowship attended. During the convention, a 3 hour business meeting was held to let the C.A. fellowships know what the fledgling World Service organization was doing. It was decided the next year to have the first World Service Conference.
1st C.A. World Service Conference
Scheduled Feb. 7-9, 1986

- Gil M., Chairman, Conference Committee Letter to World Services Delegates dated January 2, 1986:
  - Not a convention, but a business conference to deal with the needs of the Fellowship.
  - Be prepared to be confronted with a working environment.
  - Sole purpose—the continuation and growth of C.A.
  - Delegates to listen to the voices of their Area and bring issues to be heard and voted on.
  - Establish Standing Committees and develop an agenda for the year; to be carried back to the Fellowship for amendments and approval to be voted on at the next Conference.

KIT INCLUDES:
- Introductory Letter
- Agenda
- Suggested Ground Rules
- Suggested Committees to be Formed
- Possible Topics to be Discussed
1st C.A. World Service Conference Feb. 8-9, 1986

Suggested Ground Rules:

• Conference Chair Person serves a two year-term.
• Conference Parliamentarian may be a non-addict.
• Robert’s Rules of Order are to be followed
• Conference open to the Fellowship.
• Non-delegates cannot participate on the Conference floor, but welcome on the Committees.
• Conference Secretary supplied ahead of time, end of conference a Secretary will be elected for the upcoming year.
• Minutes transcribed, published and mailed to Conference delegates within 30 days of the Conference.
1st C.A. World Service Conference Feb. 8-9, 1986

Topics were suggested, put on board and then voted on. The following topics were unanimously passed for this conference:

**TOPICS FOR CONFERENCE (Committees):**

- Literature; Chips; Meeting format
- Internal Affairs; Policy (intergroup); Communications.
- Public Information; International; Coconon
- Treasury
- Structures; by-laws
- H & I
- Convention
- National Directory
The original C.A. Areas represented were:

1. Los Angeles
2. San Gabriel Valley
3. San Diego
4. San Fernando Valley
5. Antelope Valley
6. Orange County
7. New Mexico
8. Texas
9. Washington
10. New York
11. Illinois
12. Georgia
13. Michigan
14. Arizona
15. Northern California

Northern California attended, sending six representatives all wearing T-shirts with the logo that they had created. Later in the March 1987 at the 3rd World Service Conference, delegates voted between the CALA logo and the logo that Northern California created (pictured right). The CALA logo won and is the same C.A. logo used today.

It was felt at the 1986 Conference that a Board of Trustees was needed to represent the Fellowship as a whole. Johnny and Ray (Gil had resigned by this time) interviewed candidates that were presented to them from a slate.

**The 1st WSBT, (1986):**

- H. Lee S., Houston Texas
- Bob L., Northern California
- Jennifer R., New York, NY
- Ray G., Riverside California
- Fenn P., Northern California
- Reggie L., Southern California
- Gregg D., Chicago, Illinois
- Johnny S., Los Angeles.
Suggested Structure for Cocaine Anonymous

Temporary Working Guide to the Service Structure

Ratified at the 2nd World Service Conference in San Diego, CA, July 1986
Other C.A. WSC Firsts

March 1987 3rd World Conference: There was a Voting Imbalance: Office Board (10 votes), WSBT (7 Votes) and delegates. It was decided that the Office Board only have 3 votes. The original board walks out of the Conference. Only 1 member stayed, Lionel, who became the Conference Chair. After the Conference, WSBT appoints a new Office Board to replace those who walked out.

November 1987 4th World Conference: Bylaws and Charter were approved and 70/30 Plan was created and passed.

Not reflected in the first three World Conference Minutes (1986-1987), the First Step of C.A. was changed to say, “Cocaine and all other Mind Altering Substances. (*Note: At the 1st World Conference (Feb. 1986) it was ratified: “WSO approved literature – whenever Cocaine is mentioned it should read “Cocaine and all other mind altering chemicals.”)

August 1988 5th World Conference: Descriptions of Areas, Districts and Regions were created, along with who can use the C.A. name.

August 1989 6th World Service Conference: The A.A. Big Book and A.A. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions were accepted as our tools of recovery. Passing this motion allowed the Big Book and the 12X12 to appear on the tables of C.A.
C.A. Newsletters
https://ca.org/service/world-service-conference/cocaine-anonymous-newsgram/

Vol. 1, No. 1 — 1987

The Connection and the NewsGram were simultaneous publications. The Connection was primarily recovery stories, whereas The NewsGram was about what was going on in the Fellowship, Conference Reports, Committee Reports, etc.
First C.A. Meeting outside the U.S.A.
August 21, 1986
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
By Robert F. (Montreal, PQ)
Dave S. (Montreal, PQ)

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Ann Landers applauds C.A.
Chicago Tribune, September 13, 1988

- A letter and reply by Ann Landers in which the author of the letter Cocaine Anonymous as essential to her husband’s continuing recovery.

- Signed it “A True Believer”

- Ann Landers replied by printing the address and phone number of the WSO.

- Response was phenomenal: over a 3-day period, Helene H. WSO Chairperson reports receiving over 600 letters of inquiry!

Dear Ann Landers:

“Teardrops in Shreveport” wrote that what had been a warm relationship with her husband has turned into a cold war and her marriage is falling apart. You suggested that he might have a fear of intimacy or that he may be having an affair with another woman.

Ann, I could have written that letter myself two years ago. I would bet anything that ‘Teardrops’ husband is having an affair, not with another woman, but with cocaine. His coldness and indifference are classic symptoms of an addict who is hiding his drug use.

Please make this woman aware of this. Take it from me, I’ve been there. Two years ago my husband went to a rehab clinic and he has been clean ever since. It’s been a long, difficult road and our marriage is by no means perfect, but we’re together now and the worst is behind us.

We couldn’t have done it without the excellent support provided by Cocaine Anonymous. Please plug the growing self-help organizations. Ann. They do a fabulous job.—A True Believer in Lake Ariel, Pa.

Dear Believer:

Cocaine Anonymous often succeeds when other attempts to get off the junk have failed. This organization has more than 1,000 groups and is based on the concept of Alcoholics Anonymous—people who share a common problem.

Anyone interested in learning about a chapter near you can write or call: Cocaine Anonymous, P.O. Box 1367, Culver City, Calif. 90239. The phone is (213) 559-5833.
July/August 1989 – Trustee Jack P. spearheads “Enforce It or Lose” campaign whereby C.A. battles to protect copyright privileges. In 1989, a Dr. Baron advertised a C.A. recovery program in Houston, Texas by the name of “C.A. Aftercare.” C.A. had to defend itself by sending communication to Dr. Baron that this was not an organization that had anything to do with C.A. It came to the point where this issue may have had to go to court. But after much communication between our lawyer and Dr. Baron he finally changed the name of his program.

(CAWS NewsGram, Vol II., No. 4, pg1., July-August 1989)
First Overseas C.A. Meeting in London, UK January 8, 1992 by Lisa C.
C.A. World Convention Firsts

8th World Service Convention
First Convention outside the USA.

28th World Service Convention
May 24-28, 2012 Birmingham, UK
Jackie S. - Chair
First Convention outside North America

This presentation was made possible by the C.A. World Services Archive Committee.
C.A. World Convention Firsts

First Non-English Speaking, Mainland Europe

35th World Convention 2019
Stockholm, Sweden

Today Sweden has more than 72 C.A. meetings.
Sometime in 1989, Alan S., LCF Chair, brought an idea to the Conference that we should have our own book comprised of stories from our members. Stories from around the C.A. fellowship were collected, selected, edited and approved. The book, HFC came out in 1993. It was a HUGE event for C.A. garnering a “pre-sale” of hundreds of cases of books.

The first online email meeting “Hope, Faith and Courage” was opened in 1997.
1999 Two more email meetings were formed, “Sisters in Sobriety” and “The Study” The online groups joined together to create an Online Service Committee using the internet domain of “ca-online.org.”

2000 The C.A. World Conference ratifies ca-online.org as a Cocaine Anonymous Online Service Area.

2001 “There is a Solution” meeting began

2002 “Steps On Line” meeting started

2010 Voice meetings were introduced

Today There are several VoIP meetings with hundreds of members participating from countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa.
This presentation was made possible by the C.A. World Services Archive Committee.

LIMITLESS
MAY 31ST
£3 REGISTRATION

4PM - CON O’D (EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY)
5PM - EARTH H (FFIC)
6PM - DEANE H (BATTLE OF RECOVERY)
7PM - TERESA F (FFIC)
8PM - EARTH H (2 STEP WORKSHOP)

In the spirit of tradition, CA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisations or institutions.

SCOTTISH VIRTUAL CONVENTION
1PM - 9PM | SAT 9TH MAY 2020

SCHEDULE
1PM Steven I, Scotland
2PM Kyran O, Rep of Ireland, Meditation
3PM Camilla V, Sweden
4PM Astrid H, USA, Emotional Sobriety
5PM Kimberley C, Canada
6PM Ryan D, Canada
7PM Marcus C, USA
8PM Earl W, USA

Cost: £3 (Fundraising donation)

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Barbados to Britain
Tonight
4pm Barbados
9pm Britain

Barbados to Britain Event Details:
Meeting ID: 946 5480 7918

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Worldly Indeed
A ZOOM MEETING OF CA | FRIDAYS AT NOON ARIZONA TIME
MAY 1
MICHAEL W - ENGLAND | JUN 1
PINK H - ENGLAND | JUN 19
MARTINE M - ENGLAND | JUL 3
JOHANN T - SWEDEN | JUL 31

Friday Evening
19:00-21:00
Please join us by Clicking
Choking here
Password: concom

C.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution.

North East District
Online Meetings
Modem to Modem

Speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity:

All meetings are via zoom except Sunday which is via Skype.
Every Object Has A Story: Created in March 2018 – The “C.A. Virtual Museum” promotes the value of a Cocaine Anonymous archives, highlighting interesting C.A. objects from around the world and their representative C.A. Areas. The C.A. Virtual Museum allows C.A. members to have greater access to their collective history.
The C.A.W.S. DOCUMENTS LIBRARY is a C.A. online, password protected Archive of World Conference, WBST, WSOB Minutes. To date, we have a searchable database of the entire history of World Conference minutes and an almost complete history of World Service Office Board minutes and World Service Board of Trustee quarterly minutes.
C.A. 2020 Facts

- Globally, C.A. has 84 Areas in 28 countries.
- Approximately 6,000 C.A. Meetings worldwide.
- An estimated C.A. global membership of 60,000.
- 36 World Service **Conferences** (2019).
- 35 World Service **Conventions** (2019).
Preserve & Protect Your C.A. Area History!

Contact the Archive Committee (archive@ca.org) for The C.A. World Service Conference Committee’s Archiving Guidelines

https://ca.org/content/uploads/2015/07/CA_Archiving_Guidelines_Areas_Districts.pdf

C.A. Virtual Museum

https://museum.ca.org/

Remember, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

Santayana (in The Life of Reason, 1905)
SOURCES


Original Cocaine Anonymous, Incorporation Papers (CA World Archives).