DANCE AROUND THE WORLD:

ADDICTS TAKE STEPS TO RAISE FUNDS

By Margie G.
Editor

As the lights dim and the beat sounds, recovering addicts begin dancing all along the eastern seaboard. The music will drive its beat up into Canada, down south into Florida. Addicts in the midwest and Texas will pick up the beat and pass it on to those on the west coast.

Thousands of recovering addicts will all be uniting in purpose and activity on February 11 to help support the World Services Office in the First Annual Dance Around the World. The proceeds from this event will go to help fund upcoming World Service conventions.

While the idea for the dance came up at the World Service Conference (WSC) in November 1987, the Convention Committee did not finalize the idea into a motion until the conference last August. Approval was overwhelming.

"I have never experienced an idea that was so universally accepted. There was unanimous ratification from the floor," said Tina G., delegate and convention committee member from West Los Angeles who originated the concept.

The spontaneity of the idea lends credence to the belief that a Higher Power truly works through the members of our fellowship.

"When I chose the convention committee at my first conference in November 1987, there seemed to be an extremely pressing need to generate funds," Tina said. "Hands Across America was on the news and I saw it while I was sitting in my hotel room in Marina del Rey. The idea was very spontaneous.

"I thought it was a stupid idea at first because it had never been done, but another member of the fellowship encouraged me."

The WSO event is being held in response to two everpresent issues the office deals with: the practical issue of generating funds and the spiritual issue of creating unity.

"Funds mean one thing," Tina said, "better ability to spread the message. The World Service Convention is our primary fundraising event of the year." The dance is being held to promote and call attention to the WS convention and to generate seed money so the convention won't be as taxing on the WSO budget. It's also exciting to know that at about 9 to 10 p.m. Pacific Time, a great majority of the fellowship will be dancing sober at the same time."

Some areas that are confirmed participants are New York, Connecticut, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Texas, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Oregon and Chicago, who is combining the dance with a talent show. It will be the first time Florida and Oklahoma have ever thrown a dance, and they are doing it specifically for the spirit of unity, Tina said.

WSO asks all areas participating to send local flyers to the office so they may be kept in the archives. The logo for the international flyer was done by Greg M. of Los Angeles and will be up for approval at the WSC next August.

As our fellowship dances together on February 11, we can truly be grateful for this sober, spiritual experience. Just as our fellowship was born out of spontaneous events, so was the Dance Around the World.
LEGAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS INCORPORATION

By Jack P. Trustee

The Legal Committee of the CAWS Board of Trustees recommends that each state set up its own corporation in order to protect the name "Cocaine Anonymous." It is recommended that the corporate name simply include the name Cocaine Anonymous and the name of the state incorporated (e.g., Cocaine Anonymous Connecticut, Inc.). Furthermore, the state should apply to the Internal Revenue Service for tax exempt status. This will alleviate problems dealing with how to handle income and disbursements for tax purposes. As a side benefit, a tax exempt corporation (in most states) is exempt from sales and certain other taxes. And most media is receptive to placing free public service announcements for such not-for-profit corporations.

Further information is available to attorneys representing C.A. The legal committee has put together a kit with a sample Certificate of Incorporation, sample By-Laws, and Form 1023 (Application for Recognition of Exemption). Attorneys may get such information by requesting it in writing on their letterhead. All requests may be sent to:

Legal Committee
c/o Jack P.
203 Southport Woods Drive
Southport, CT 06890

Legal Move To Protect C.A. As Non-Profit Organization

Information Numbers

Canada
Montreal, Quebec (514)481-8511

Alabama
(205)323-HOPE

Arizona
Phoenix (602)279-3838
Tucson (602)326-2211

Northern California
San Francisco (415)474-7133
East Bay (415)654-8885
South Bay (408)274-6015
Mid-Peninsula (415)592-9499
Marin County (415)453-8439
Sonoma County (707)578-4160
Monterey (408)372-4190
Santa Cruz (408)462-1926

Southern California
Los Angeles (213)639-1141
San Fernando Valley (818)986-1777
San Gabriel Valley (818)447-2887
Inland Empire (714)359-3895
Orange County (714)650-1011
San Diego (818)268-9109
Santa Barbara (805)969-5178
Colorado (303)650-8989
Connecticut (203)358-8833

Georgia (404)255-7787
Hawaii (308)942-0606
Illinois (312)278-7444
Kansas (316)264-3066
Massachusetts (317)581-5600
Nebraska (402)556-2126
New Hampshire (603)889-6681
New Mexico (505)884-7207
Santa Fe (505)836-8400
Albuquerque (505)836-8449
New York (212)496-4266
Manhattan (212)739-8105
Peekskill (314)941-7590
Westchester (314)660-8665
Oklahoma (405)256-1666
Oregon (503)256-3036
Pennsylvania (717)688-6822
Texas (713)397-6700
Houston (512)397-6700
Utah (801)488-2151
Washington (206)722-6117
Wisconsin (414)223-1510
WORLD SERVICE CONVENTION COMING TO
THE ‘BIG APPLE’ IN 1989

The 1989 World Service Convention will be held in New York City the weekend of July 1 at the luxurious Grand Hyatt Hotel. The convention committee, comprised of C.A. members from New York and Connecticut, has been meeting regularly since December 1987.

Chairperson Rhonda M. recently announced that the committee negotiated a highly favorable contract with the hotel, freezing the nightly room rates to $97 for single or double occupancy.

"The next lower price came in at $125 a night, and that was at a far less desirable hotel," said Hotel Chairperson Burt R.

Vice-Chairperson Lori W. announced that several of the lead speakers have been lined up. "We have an excellent balance," she said. "Thomas "Hollywood" H. will kick off the convention, Bobby E. from Santa Fe, New Mexico is the banquet lead. Tex J. of Connecticut will conduct a spirituality workshop, and Johnny S. of Pacific Palisades, Calif. will close the weekend as lead speaker at the Monday morning brunch.

Michael B., special event chair, reported that the fellowship is being highly supportive and the first three events have netted the committee approximately $13,000. Committee members Mitch K., Stan W. and Butch announced that a contract was signed with the Circle Line Cruise Company.

"We've rented a boat which holds over 500 people, and we've planned a cruise around Manhattan Harbor for Friday June 30," Michael announced. "We'll have a great deejay on board, and it will be a wonderful way for local fellowship members to greet visitors arriving the night before the convention officially opens."

The entertainment committee headed by Peter L. has been busy lining up several "celebrity" entertainers who are sober in the C.A. fellowship. "Nothing is firm yet," said Peter, "but we think we'll have some great surprises in store for the fellowship."

The program committee, headed by Shari of N.Y., has been brainstorming to provide a schedule which is both stimulating and sobriety oriented. Speakers and meeting chairpersons will be selected from those who register early enough to be included in the printed program. Amy B. of Connecticut who chairs the registration committee, expects the registration flyer to be completed and distributed by January.

Further information will be printed in subsequent editions of the NewsGram.

C.A. Members to Pen Book of Recovery: ‘Hope, Faith, Courage’

Good news from the reading, writing and recovery gang! The World Service Conference Chips, Literature and Format Committee is now publishing the new writings the conference approved. The committee has also begun working on the C.A. Book.

Meeting in the old World Services Office for the last time on Dec. 4, the committee installed Stephen F. of Woodland Hills, CA, the former vice-chair, as the new committee chairperson.

"Steve was immersed in every project we had and every decision we made over the past year," said Allan S. of Santa Fe, NM, the retiring chairperson. "We are fortunate to have Steve, not only for his experience, but also for his high level of talent and commitment."

Since the conference, the printing and publishing aspect was added as a sub-committee which is chaired by Carla A. of Los Angeles.

"Carla is another experienced hand and a bright light," Allan said. "She will have to start from scratch, and we are lucky to have her tenacity-in-service for this task, otherwise we could not project a publishing date for early in the new year."

The committee then decided to form a parallel committee to work on the C.A. Book and named Allan S. as its chairperson. The committee has two major guidelines: first, to respect the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous as the book on recovery and want to retain it (and the 12 and 12) as a basic text for our fellowship, and second, the committee wants C.A. to have its own Cocaine Anonymous Book entirely produced and owned by our fellowship as another basic text to distribute and to earn money to help finance our activities. This book should include many of our stories, geographically and culturally integrated, and other material which the fellowship deems appropriate.

Therefore, Allan has asked the NewsGram to announce the formation of this new parallel committee and urges all members to think about the C.A. Book. Please communicate any ideas for the book to Allan or other members of the Chips, Literature and Format Committee. At this point the committee wants to entertain all ideas and exclude none. The committee is not soliciting stories now but rather local agents to help gather and edit stories from your area. If interested please contact the C.A. Book Committee, 405 Circle Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87501.
I am a Delegate: Now What?

The Fifth C.A. World Services Conference opened Thursday, August 11, in Los Angeles, on a somber note. Some new delegates were milling about, while others were already seated with their coffee, wondering now what?

Reggie L., trustee from California, provided a portion of the convention in which he answered this question by his views on a delegate’s position and responsibilities, based on his experiences at the four previous business conferences.

"The delegate is the cornerstone of both growth and unity in Cocaine Anonymous," he said in his orientation session to the conference. "He/she is a necessary link that holds together both the communication and information delivered to the meetings and groups out there."

"In a different context, the delegate possesses the most demanding job in the entire fellowship. This is not a privileged commitment by any means, it is demanding - that is, if he or she does the job properly."

According to Reggie, doing the job properly entails a great deal of time, work and commitment on different levels. The key responsibility of a delegate in our rapidly growing fellowship is to provide an informational two-way street - which in turn provides the fertile soil in which growth and unity thrive.

The first responsibility of the delegate is to attend the Conference, but he/she must attend it prepared by bringing local problems, questions and concerns to the WSC. A delegate is chosen because the area feels this person can best represent its concerns on a world level, Reggie said.

Next, the delegate needs to make sure that the local meetings are listed in the World Directory, along with office address and information numbers.

"Let WSO know who you are, where you’re located. This is communication and information. The delegate is an all-important conduit that binds WSO to the areas," he said.

This conduit also channels information in the other direction back to the delegates’ home areas, by the delegates’ systematic reports on what takes place at the WSC. This will entail attending local meetings after the conference or calling special meetings if necessary.

Reggie urged all the delegates, new and old alike, to take notes in order to facilitate their ability to report systematically.

"A lot of issues will be run by you today," he told the delegates, "and you need to catch these issues and decisions with something more than a butterfly net. Take notes."

But the real backbone of the conference is in the committees. This is where the work is done, structure is formed and the motions are written that will come before the conference for approval. Reggie pointed out that the committee work is more than a four-day commitment; it is year-long and may involve out-of-town trips.

Other responsibilities include reading and passing on literature sent from WSO to GSRs, especially the WSO newsletter.

"The NewsGram is only as good as the information you provide to us so that we can get it out to you. Provide us with a two-way street with regard to information."

"That what makes a good delegate," Reggie concluded. "Big work. This is the commitment that a responsible delegate makes."

WSBT Appoints New WSO Trustee

Helene H., World Services Office (WSO) chairperson, was appointed WSO trustee at the last World Services Board of Trustees (WSBT) Quarterly Meeting in November.

The position was created through new structure enacted by the World Service Conference last August. Two candidates were presented to the conference, Bob C. and Helene H. Helene’s position as WSO trustee is a dual position in which she acts as bridge between WSO and the WSBT, holding a seat on both boards to ensure better communication and representation.

"I give WSO representation at the board of trustees’ quarterly meeting with a vote," Helene said.

The WSBT chose the WSO trustee from nominees made by WSO. After an interviewing process, the WSBT voted Helene into the new position, which requires the nominee to have been a voting member of the conference and to be presently a member of the WSO board of directors. Helene’s term as WSO chairperson and WSO trustee will end simultaneously in March 1990. The term thereafter will be two years.

In response to her appointment, Helene said, "I was honored, overwhelmed that I had been chosen. It has added to my service which has been part of my sobriety since the beginning. "Being WSO trustee extends my ability to be of service to the fellowship around the world."