We admitted we were service junkies

CAWS 2003 COMMITTEE
Chicago

We admitted......yes we admitted that we we're powerless over service work and became part of the lifeline to carry the message. Who are we? We are all of the individuals that make up the committees of the CAWS 2003 World Convention – “Miracle Mile” - in Chicago, May 22-26, 2003.

So you say – OK – big deal – the convention has been going on for 18 years now. I’m sure World Service knows what to do! Well, World Service does know what to do – they let an area become the host of the convention – letting those that wish to serve take action.

That is how we got here today. The Illinois Area, having hosted the convention back in 1988, decided we would love to do that again remember – one is too many, a thousand is not enough! Well, to do that we needed to present a bid back at World Conference in 2000 – three years before the event. The Illinois Area was granted the opportunity to be the host of the 2003 World Convention and that is when the clock started ticking.

Well, what did we do then – panic? Of course not – we took action. Once the area’s bid was accepted we began to open up opportunities for people to submit resumes for positions on the committees. First the Steering Committee was to be formed. Those that wished to participate had their resumes presented, both to the trustees and the area. Upon voting at the area level, the candidates for the positions were elected, accepted and passed on to World Service for final approval. The Steering Committee includes the Chairperson, Trustee, Secretary, Vice-Chair, Program Chair, Treasurer and Hotel Liaison.

OK – so what do those people do? Well, almost each one of these positions has sub-committees that have been formed for specific jobs, as given guidance by the CAWS Convention Committee guidelines.

See SERVICE Page 3

Flickering Flames

KARTOON
Los Angeles, Watts

Hello World,

This is The Toon checking in with a question. Do you ever become so absorbed in your own self and daily living that you sometimes forget to look at where God and the Program has brought you from?

Maybe this share can bring you back to the state of gratitude.

Here in California I am a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and Dual Diagnosed Case Manager working in the field of mental health. As a direct result of this program I am employable.

I have had the opportunity of being an attraction in my own neighborhood and this is where the story begins.

Two weeks ago this young guy in my neighborhood was sitting on my porch when I stepped out on route to work. Though I was startled, I felt good because I knew

See FLAMES Page 4
First of all, we are sad to report that after 5 years of dedicated service, Kevin M. has submitted his resignation as Secretary to the WSO Board. We are all going to miss Kevin and remain grateful for his unselfish and hard work while on our Board as both a director and Secretary.

At present we are working with a reduced office staff. Unfortunately, we have lost one of our employees, Akasha J., who has left for personal reasons. Her contribution included major improvements to Customer Service. She will be missed.

WSO spends a lot of time working with the World Convention committee. We have enjoyed working with the 2003 Convention Committee and were able to participate in a conference call between the WSO Board and the Convention Steering Committee, a first. We are very excited and impressed with the effort and efficiency of the 2003 Convention Committee. THANKS A LOT ILLINOIS!!

We encourage all of Cocaine Anonymous, especially the Areas and Districts, to think of World Services when they are reviewing their donations and budgets. It cannot be stressed enough that in order for the World Services to carry out its mission as directed by the WSC, the voice of the fellowship and WSBT, it needs sufficient funds to do so. We thank all of you in the fellowship who send us contributions. If you are not sure where your area or district stands in this regard, perhaps you might take a moment and look at the 7th tradition page to see how your area or district is doing in donations to World Services.

Thank you for all of your support.

Bob C.
Chair of the WSO

P.S. We have also been working with the other convention committees 2004-Pacific South Region (Los Angeles);2005-Memphis; 2006-Calgary.

The NewsGram is always looking for submissions. If you have ideas, cartoons, poems, stories or any other recovery related material send it and the release form below to: NewsGram Editor, C/O CAWSO, 3740 Overland Ave. Suite. C, Los Angeles CA 90034. We cannot publish your submission without a release form.

Name:_______________________ Phone:___________________
Address:_______________________________________________
City:_________________ State:_________ Zip:__________
I hereby give CAWSO and the NewsGram express permission to reprint my original work entitled:
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Submissions may be edited for publication. Submissions cannot be returned.
also meet monthly – for discussion of the various committees’ progress, issues or concerns that may arise, short-term and long-term planning. They too produce minutes so they can share their experience, strength and hope. On a quarterly basis there is a Mega Meeting – one big old meeting for all those on all of the committees to share what is happening from everyone’s perspective! We get to see what everyone is working on and it is truly a high point of putting this convention together. As the convention gets closer we will have an opportunity to meet this way each month!

So… who are we? Maybe 50, 60, 70 people – working hard with hotels, printers, theatres, memorabilia companies, computers, signers, speakers, comedy clubs, musicians, World Service, restaurants, transportation, parking, banquet facilities, etc. Doing this for almost three years. Doing this to carry the message. Doing this to be of service and stay connected. Doing this to do our part so the next addict has someplace to go to recover.

Come share your experience, strength and hope at Miracle Mile H&I Corner Thank you H & I

BY DIANE W.
Milwaukee Wis.

I’ll never forget sitting through that first intake interrogation at an local treatment hospital. My girlfriend held my hand as the nurse asked me so many questions. For the first time in my life I knew these questions needed to be answered honestly and it wasn’t a joke anymore. I felt miserable, scared, helpless, and desperate. Please take this away! – That was all I was thinking. It was apparent that detoxification was necessary, and fortunately there was insurance coverage. So, I began my inpatient stay for cocaine addiction.

As an inpatient at a treatment facility there was a full curriculum of daily activities as part of their “rehabilitation” programming. This particular hospital held outside meetings for persons struggling with many different personal and emotional dilemmas. It was not unusual for a plan of care to include attendance of one of many of these different meetings to offer continuing support for the individual upon discharge at no cost.

One Monday we gathered in the lounge area and waited for the scheduled speakers who were coming in to talk to us. I remember thinking they looked pretty “normal” and wondered what they could possibly know about what I was going through.

The woman shared about herself in a way that was amazing to me. She told us about years of her life that were so absorbed with using that she became oblivious to others around her, including her daughter. This struck me, because I was also a mother of three daughters and one son, who had all been neglected as a cost of my using.

This woman told us how even after her daughter died as a result of an automobile accident, her using continued. She shared how miserable she felt inside, and how hopeless her life felt. Yes, I felt that way too. When she told us how Cocaine Anonymous showed her the path to a new way of living and expressed how she has felt free from the shame of her past because this program offered her a way to do that, I believed her.

Somehow it showed in her eyes and that not only did she feel that freedom, but that it was important to her to share that hope was there for us too.

We were welcome to take any of the literature they brought with them, and they gave each of us a meeting directory and told us we would be welcome at the 8:00 p.m. meeting that evening. I sat quietly as others asked them questions.

My eyes caught those of the woman and she smiled at me, she extended the invitation once again. I nodded my head and went to my first Cocaine Anonymous meeting in April of 1996. Thank you CA for not only getting the message of hope to me but also giving me the gift to share it with others!
who he was.

“Pep, what are you doing on my porch?” I asked. He told me he wanted to go to a program because he knew that he was either going to get killed or go to jail for a long time. Being in this position years ago I quickly related to his hopelessness.

“Let’s go,” I said and into my car we went. I took him to my job and quickly observed he was intoxicated – reeking of alcohol.

After many phone calls, a co-worker and I were able to get him into a detox facility, where he remained for three days.

He was then placed in a transitional living unit until we were able to get him a bed at one of the many treatment centers here in Los Angeles. After many attempts we finally got him a bed. As of Friday, he was in the treatment center when I left work. Friday was a long day for me and I was exhausted. I went to one of our late meetings to see another friend celebrate her first birthday. I was puzzled because she did not show up and I returned home to sleep. Saturday morning after the family got dressed we exited the house to go to our company picnic. It was then that I noticed some burning candles and flowers in front of my house.

I thought to myself that people burn candles when someone dies and I knew without a shadow of a doubt that no one died in front of my house. One of my neighbors came out of her house and I quickly asked what the candles were for. She told me that a young man got killed in the early morning hours and she didn’t know why I hadn’t heard anything because all the neighbors were standing in my yard watching the activity.

She didn’t know who the young man was. My other neighbor came out and she told me it was Pep, the young man that we had placed in the treatment center. I couldn’t believe it because I knew he was in treatment. The more I asked the more it was confirmed that it was indeed Pep.

While out watering my grass minutes ago, a practicing addict was passing my house and she looked at the candles and asked “Toon, why didn’t he stay in the treatment center?” I simply answered “I don’t know, I guess it’s the same reason you won’t come into the rooms of recovery.”

Now that I thought about it for a few minutes, I have an answer that is sufficient to me. The progressive illness had more power that he did and the baffling features of it told him that it would be different this time like it had done to countless of others and myself time after time.

The progressive illness told Pep that he could rob another practicing addict but it didn’t tell him that the other addict was carrying a knife that would hit him fourteen times and eventually take his life. People have told me that he was trying to make it to my house one more time while God allowed me to sleep through it all.

No matter what was going on in my life that had me thinking or worrying it was all removed with every flicker of the flames of the candles. I know without a shadow of a doubt that I am beyond human aid. I thank Cocaine Anonymous, my sponsor, meetings, conventions and the 12 steps for showing me how to tap into the Power that has kept me separated from cocaine and all mind altering substances for nine years one day at a time.

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The Addict

BY BEA S.
Abilene, Texas

Don’t need to be like me, I was bound by drugs
Didn’t want to be free.
I was always down, walking ‘round with a fake smile
Actually a frown, wanting to get down with the dope;
But I could not cope with the world – I had no hope.
Today I can see I can’t be caught with drugs ‘cause
I can’t be bought any longer.
I refuse today because I want to live and not only receive, but to give others;
because I want to teach there’s hope without dope, not to preach, but to save someone’s life with a speech that can set us free—like me. To be alive, not full of jive – talking ‘bout “getting” higher” — not realizing I’d been a liar for so long.
I had the desire to eat, but the taste of food, I had to acquire.
Today I’m free, can even be ME ’cause I see I can live happily.
My high comes from the program, something real, not Low down—I’ve been as low as I’ve chosen to go.
I’m headed up. Here’s my cup, run it over with Strength, Experience and Hope ’cause I’ve had enough trying to cope with dope.
TODAY, I work the program I am who I am An Addict and My name is Bea.

Trustee Corner

BY TERI K.
Atlantic South Regional Trustee

The November quarterly meeting of the World Service Board of Trustees (WSBT) was one of change and transition. We welcomed three new Trustees to the Board: Jackie S. - Atlantic North Region, Cynthia C. - Pacific North Region and Matthew R. - Southwest Region. All three new trustees embraced their new roles of service with both anxiety and enthusiasm as well as a hundred questions each about all there is to know about assuming this new position of service.

The WSBT also met with the entire World Service Office Board (WSOB) regarding our ever pressing issue of CA finances. As a result of the meeting with the WSOB, the WSBT voted to cancel the February quarterly meeting in Los Angeles in an attempt to cut costs to the Fellowship and to lead by example. The WSBT further committed to increase the number of e-mail communications during this period of time (December-May) and also held a quarterly conference call on February 2nd. It was a most difficult decision to make as a lot of work is accomplished at these meetings and face-to-face interaction is always most effective when working as a group. On the upside of this decision, a lot was accomplished at the November meeting in terms of closing on old business items. Please see the approved minutes from the November WSBT quarterly for details.

The WSBT is now in the process of making plans for the May quarterly WSBT meeting and CAWS 2003 in Chicago. As with every world convention, the WSBT will be presenting updates regarding Long Term Planning for Cocaine Anonymous and will give some of you the opportunity to meet us in person and ask questions.

You will also see us at the Conference Committee meetings that will be held during the convention, at many of the events, workshops and marathon meetings throughout the four-day event. Please come up to any one of us and say, “Hello” and feel free to ask any questions you might have about CA as a whole. After all, we are here to be of service to you!

We will be celebrating our 19th Annual World Service Convention in gorgeous downtown Chicago at the Hilton Hotel. There will be meetings and workshops throughout the day and night. Great speakers will share their message of change and hope. Come share your experience, strength and hope with us to make this an unforgettable event.

www.miraclemile2003.org
Step Ten, the 24-hour service policy

By Jim S.
Minden, Nev.

How often do we take our cars in for service? Every 3000 miles or so, we have the oil changed and the chassis lubed. At different intervals, we have more extensive services performed so that our vehicles will remain in good running order. And at all of these service times, we are given a written report of other areas in our vehicles that may need repair. It’s sort of a warning list of possible troubles that will come unless we take care of them soon. But what about ourselves, the vehicles which carry our recovery? Is it wise for us to wait every three months or so to have our spirits serviced? Should we wait months for a list of defects that need repair? Of course not. We are blessed with a wonderful service process known as Step 10.

With this Step we are able to get a 24-hour (or more often) checkup on what we need to stay running without breakdowns. If worked daily and thoroughly, Step 10 will give us a defect list, show us where we’ve harmed others, remind us to make prompt amends, and even list areas where we have improved. And it’s absolutely free. Step 10 requires only a little of our time at the end of the day, or sooner if needed.

Although Step 10 somewhat resembles Step 4, that’s the only connection. Step 4 calls for a fearless and searching moral inventory of ourselves up to the present. Step 10 calls for a personal inventory. It asks for a daily check on ourselves and our thoughts and actions. This is how we check the large, and small, details of our lives TODAY. Personally, I like to keep Step 10 simple, uncomplicated, and steady. That works for me.

At night before sleep, I keep a time open before prayer to go over my day. I recall the things I have done, both good and not so good. I look over the people I have interacted with and what happened. Sometimes I don’t feel so good about my actions and I owe someone an apology. And, if I am to maintain my spiritual condition, I cannot allow those duties to go unattended. I always say that it’s not the big things in life that tear me up as much as all the little things that just don’t seem too important at the time.

Left alone, they can add up to big problems that seem to destroy my life. This is the reason for the 10th Step. If we keep things cleaned up on our side of the street daily, then we can maintain a healthy attitude in our spiritual maintenance and our recovery.

Concept Ten, responsibility and authority

Anonymous service junkie

The Tenth Concept reads: “Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.”

In short this means that we have tried to make sure that at the group, conference and Trustee levels, authority is equal to responsibility.

We have then tried to relate these levels to each other in such a way that this principle is maintained throughout.

This principle of ultimate authority runs through our entire structure. It is required because all our service affairs and activities have to look up to somewhere for final responsibility.

Let us always make sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to reorganize. Let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants at all levels have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and discharge their clear responsibility.

For more information on the concepts read the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Tradition Ten

ANONYMOUS
San Diego, Calif.

“Cocaine Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the CA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

Tradition Ten, to me, is one of the most important traditions to the entire message of CA to be heard. When I first came to CA, if there had been some belief or value that was endorsed by CA, and it was different than my belief system, then how could I ever have heard the message that there was a way for me to live free from the bondage that my addiction had over me? We come to CA looking for a solution, believing that there isn’t one, but nevertheless blindly hoping that someone will be able to prove us wrong so that we can survive. The Fifth Tradition states, “Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the addict who still suffers.” If we cloud our message with outside issues, we are cutting the number of addicts we can reach by the number of addicts who believe differently about those issues, and that will kill us.

Before Cocaine Anonymous, there was Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Before AA, there was the Washingtonian Movement. This was a very successful organization about 100 years before AA. Their membership was large and recovery successful, until they started supporting outside issues, such as abolition and the temperance movement. With these endorsements came the end of the Movement. The singleness of purpose was gone; they had “completely lost their effectiveness in helping alcoholics, and the society collapsed.” (AA comes of Age, page 125)

I am so grateful for the 10th Traditions. Without it, I would probably be dead.
# 7th Tradition Donations

## 3rd Quarter 2002

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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Birthday</td>
<td>Come Alive Redondo Beach</td>
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Calendar of Events

Unity Under the Stars
15th Annual Campvention
May 2-4, 2003
Lake Perris, CA
Maria A. (310) 370-1550
Toni M. (626) 967-8674

Miracle Mile
19th Annual CA World Convention
May 22-26, 2003
Hilton Chicago & Towers
Convention Chair:
Michael R.
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
(847) 298-0773
Outreach Chair:
Debbie H. (847) 698-6649

Heartbeat of Recovery
6th Annual Alberta Area Convention
July 18 –20 2003
Coast Plaza Hotel
Calgary, Canada
Chairperson: Keith W. (403) 203-1052
E-mail : alberta_area_ca@hotmail.com
Cheryl F. (403) 283-5748

Reflections of Recovery
Washington State CA Convention
July 18-20 2003
Everett, WA
Chair: Ingrid R. (415) 238-9805
Registration: John K. (425) 345-4115
E-mail: john_kennon@email.msn.com

Design For Living
Arizona Area Convention
July 3-6, 2003
Tempe Mission Palms
Tempe, AZ
Outreach:
Becky
(602) 518-6562 or
Michael
(602) 997-7681

Last House On The Block
6th Show Me Recovery 2003
Aug. 15-17, 2003
Bridgeton, MO
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Convention Chairperson:
Denise A. (314) 838-1392
Registration Chairperson:
Lawanda R. (314) 521-3002

Recovery Rocks
CALA 19th Annual Convention
Aug. 21-24 2003
Palm Springs, CA
Doral Desert Princess Resort
Chair: Jeff L. (310) 415-0046
Registration: David F. (562) 434-3356

River Unity 2003
Northern California
Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2003
Sacramento, CA
Red Lion Sacramento Inn
Convention Chairperson:
Ernest M. (209) 475-9235
Registration Chair:
DeLena R. (916) 501-5503

Pacific South
Regional Convention
Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2003
Burbank CA
Burbank Hilton
Convention Chairperson:
Bryan S. (805) 444-2177
Charles N. (626) 356-2422

The Power Of One Day
CA Midwest Regional Convention
Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2003
Oconomowoc, WI
Olympia Resort & Conference Center
Convention Chairperson:
Mike K. (414) 545-0372
kron@wi.rr.com
Registration Chairperson:
Paul D. (262) 784-4873