Lights, Camera, Action CAWS 2004 “Spotlight on Recovery”

JIM H.
CONVENTION CHAIR

You may have heard that the 2004 CAWS Convention is coming home, back to the start of CA in California 22 years ago.

We, The Pacific South Region, have the honor of hosting the 20th Annual Cocaine Anonymous World Service Convention.

The site of the convention is the Universal City Hilton, right in the heart of the entertainment capital of the world.

We have been working extremely hard to provide everyone with a wonderful slate of activities, fun, fellowship and recovery and a California style convention.

If you have never been here, California is known for its beaches, golf courses, museums, sites, sounds and celebrities. We are 10 minutes away from downtown Hollywood and the famed Sunset Strip and other sites.

All this being said, I would like to encourage you to get registered for the most exciting time of your recovery life.

For those of you who want to see a bit of what California has to offer, here’s what we have in store for you; Unity day at the beach, Universal Studios, the Getty Museum, a golf tournament, a walk/run race, tours of Hollywood and a world class lineup of entertainment, including music and comedy.

We will have a fabulous variety of speakers from all over, a slate of wonderful workshops, 24 hour marathon meetings, which will include 2 Spanish speaking meetings a day, online, cigar, alternative lifestyle and men’s and women’s meetings just to name a few.

There is a strong schedule of events for Co-Anon. They have been wonderful and we are blessed to have their participation.

So, make your travel plans to join us May 27-31 in beautiful, sunny Southern California.

Bring your Big Book, copy of HFC, bathing suit, tanning lotion, your friends, family and newcomers.

Be sure to attend the Thursday night meeting, because you never know who might show up to share their story. In addition, the bands, you know those famous names we ought not say, start the jamming.

Registration forms are available at your local meetings and online at caws2004.org.

The entire committee for the 2004 World Service Convention would like to thank the entire fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous for the honor of hosting this year’s convention and hope that you all have a great time with us.

Thank you for my life and all the blessings that I have received as a result of the 12 steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the fellowship that I love so dearly.
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Notes from the WSO

I would like to start out by announcing that the vice-chair of the WSO, Mark K. has resigned.

While I was most reluctant to accept his resignation, I understand that it was time for him to take on other commitments and he was careful to do this at a time when we could stand the loss.

Mark has been a valuable member of our board for several years and he will be missed. His commitment has required him to drive hundreds of miles every month to make the meetings. Mark assures me that he will help us in any way necessary to carry out the transition.

Mark, thank you very much for your hard work and commitment while on the board. You will be greatly missed.

The WSO board and the 2004 CAWS Convention have been in close contact, especially now that the convention is but a few weeks away.

Our latest meetings have included the fine tuning of the entertainment and special activities. After our last meeting with Jim H. and some of his committee, we are very excited.

I wish to report that our contribution program is coming along well. If you have not already signed up for it, you might want to consider joining the many members who now contribute a certain sum of money, maybe just $5.00 or $10.00 per month, to CAWSO. Believe me it adds up.

I’m also happy to announce that one of our members has made a most generous donation, anonymously but within the World Service Guidelines of not exceeding $5,000.00/year, which will help the WSO to purchase new computer equipment.

Thank you for all of your support.

Bob C.
Chair of the WSO
**LCF works to create new pamphlets**

**By Sherri H.**

**Vancouver, Wash.**

Editor’s Note: This is the second part of a two-part story from the World Service Conference Literature, Chips and Format Committee.

The WS Literature, Chips and Formats Committee (LCF) is still hard at work. Its progress is the result of a committee dedicated to its statement of purpose: “facilitate the expression of our fellowship’s hope, faith and courage through the writing of material for distribution.”

At the last Conference, LCF established a timeline of conference calls, online meetings and project deadlines for 2003-04 in an effort to continue to bring new literature forward for the benefit of the fellowship.

**New Literature Concepts**

LCF brought 12 new motions to the 2003 Conference floor. In addition to approving the new literature and chip design, the Conference approved a number of significant literature concepts including a 12-Step Meditation/Daily Reader book, a Newcomer Booklet, You Can Start A CA Meeting pamphlet, and Do’s and Don’ts for 12 Step Calls for Addicts pamphlet. The Conference also approved the concept of a CA 12 Steps and Traditions book based on CA’s experience with no committee work to be done other than the collection of material until after January 1, 2007.

A motion to approve the concept of a CA 12-Step Workbook was also presented. After some discussion, a motion to postpone this motion was passed, which means that the original motion will be brought to the 2004 Conference under Old Business.

Almost every year, LCF receives a request from the fellowship to change the color for chips over one year. This year, a motion was brought to the Conference to allow our World Service Office to choose colors for these chips. The motion failed. Another motion to approve the draft piece Self-Acceptance was withdrawn and the piece returned to sub-committee for additional development in accordance with a number of suggestions from the Conference floor.

**Work in Progress**

As well as working on the new concepts, LCF continues with the following Literature Revisions: Choosing Your Sponsor, (Point 4); 12 Point Literature Approval Process, (Point 4); We Can Recover, (Point 4); Meeting Formats, (Point 4); Tips for Staying Sober, (Point 7); 70/30 Plan, (Point 4); And All Other Mind Altering Substances, (Point 4); Suggestions for Relapse Prevention in Recovery, (Point 4).

**New Literature**

Having Fun in Sobriety, (Point 4); Guide to the 12 Traditions, (Point 4); CA Principles, (Point 4); Anonymity, (Point 4); Self-Acceptance, (Point 4); 12 Step Workbook, (Point 2); Crank/Methamphetamines.

Also the storybook: Hope, Faith & Courage – Stories and Literature from the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous, (Second Edition) is in the approval process (Point 4).

Your input is welcomed and encouraged. You need not be a delegate to become an active member of the LCF Committee or to contribute to any of these projects. Please contact the LCF Chairperson for details about how you can participate in this process of carrying the message. Contact the LCF Chairperson at lcf@ca.org.

Correction: In last month’s LCF article the pamphlet under Literature Revisions that was called “Suggestions for Relapse Prevention in Recovery” should have been “Suggestions for Relapse Prevention & Recovery.”

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**Where to write**

CAWS
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P.O. Box 492013
Los Angeles, CA 90049-8013

CAWSO
Board of Directors
3740 Overland Ave., Suite C
Los Angeles CA. 90034-6337

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**Want to help the World Service Office during the World Service Conference?**

**We need members to help run copy machines**

**You do not need to be a delegate to help serve the fellowship as a whole**

**Dates of Event:** September 1-5

**Time:** Daily from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

**Contact the WSO @ 310-559-5833.**

**Or E-Mail CAWSO@CA.ORG**
Desire, the only requirement

By Brian T. Evanston, Ill.

Tradition 3:
“The only requirement for C.A. membership is a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind-altering substances”

Do you want to stop? Are you finally tired of the addict lifestyle? Do you have just a little desire to quit cocaine and all other mind-altering substances?

If you do, you qualify as a CA member. It is truly that simple!

As human beings we judge situations, if for no other reason than to assess our own safety. If we see two people on the street pointing guns at each other we would probably judge that as a situation to avoid. In the same way, if we hear people at a meeting spewing manure out of their mouths our first thought might be one that they are not going to receive the gift of recovery.

Over time, however, we learn that no matter how much someone might be caught in the disease at that moment, everyone deserves a chance to recover.

Time after time we’ve seen those manure spewing individuals stick around and grow and change into productive members of the fellowship and society as a whole.

Every individual can teach us lessons. At the very least we learn more P.T.A. — Patience, Tolerance and Acceptance of others.

We are also reminded that the ultimate judge of someone’s recovery is their Higher Power. Only that Power knows the true desire of the individual. We are just the carriers of the message of recovery.

An example of one’s desire lies in a current member’s recovery. When he first came around the tables he appeared hopeless and helpless.

He would show up for a meeting or two, here and there and then would not be seen for months. He would generally be under the influence of some mind-altering substance when he came around and he followed none of the suggestions presented to him.

After years of the same behavior and actions, we would always welcome him even when it seemed he was lacking the desire to stay sober.

About four years ago he reappeared and started to show up regularly. He listened at meetings, went to fellowship, got a sponsor and started working the Twelve Steps.

Today he is an active member of Cocaine Anonymous. He carries the message of Hope, Faith, and Courage to many H&I patients.

He participates in service work at many levels, freely giving back the gift that was given to him. He is there for his family, friends, fellowship and most of all for himself.

Had we tuned him out or not told him to “Keep Coming Back” each time he might not be alive today.

The doors must always be open for any and all who want just a chance at something different ...better than what they have experienced.

We, as individuals are not the judge of someone else’s desire. We must leave that to one’s Higher Power. We must always hold out the hand of recovery regardless of our perceptions and judgments. You never know when someone will finally reach out and grab on...for life!

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Doing the basics: my primary daily purpose for rewards

BY JOHN F.B.
FOREST HILLS, N.Y.

I am John and I’m an addict, who had a using history that lasted 20 years. I fall under the category of: “all other mind-altering substances” because I used everything from pot to LSD to all pills as well as methadone. Even though I was not so fond of coke, I must have snorted coke or smoked crack at least 200 times.

In essence, I always wanted to be outside of myself, never growing or changing. I never let myself feel feelings and I rarely did anything that was challenging. Since I was a stellar student athlete as a young person, I rationalized that things were OK.

Later on, I used the fact that I had an apartment, a car and an occasional hostage girlfriend to fuel my rationalization.

The truth was, regardless of how things looked on the outside, my life was gradually getting worse. I was always abusing multiple substances and alcohol all at once. I went from a promising student to a marginal one. Later I became a mediocre worker, only taking easy clerical positions, where I could get high on the job in peace. The truth was I felt empty, unhappy, emotionally immature, and somewhat inadequate.

Despite this, it took many firings, arrests and hospitalizations to give me the bottom I needed to enter the rooms of CA. Even then, I suffered relapses regularly the first six months.

I kept attending Recovery in the Gardens in Forest Hills, New York, however, even though I struggled and shared irrationally, people urged me to “Keep Coming Back.”

In March of 1993, I was in the hospital for the last time due to angel dust hallucinations. While in the hospital, I received a powerful wake up from patients who appeared hopeless, to doctors telling me I was going to die.

By God’s grace things changed after my last angel dust induced hospital visit.

I started attending meetings daily. The “basics” became my primary purpose daily. I made coffee, called a sponsor and others daily and took all the suggestions I needed to stay sober. My life got better, in a lot of areas, one day at a time, but I always kept recovery first. After my first 8 plus years of sobriety, I was thankful that I had.

After September 11, my daily life out of recovery became quite unmanageable. I suffered from survivor guilt. I lost clients as well as 80 percent of my revenue. I was stressed and financially over-extended. I had some nagging physical issues, as well.

For the last two years, being committed to the program and fellowship I have reaped serenity and meaningful spiritual rewards.

Trying times have gotten me to rely strongly on the God of my understanding. The Big Book and the Steps enhance this connection. People in the fellowship have been helpful and supportive. Daily life is slowly improving as well.

Today, I am grateful my life is in the care of a loving God. Being elected a delegate has kept me busy. Through fellowship I can keep out of my own head and live in the solution.

Convention 2004 hotel information

The CAWS 2004 convention will be at the Los Angeles Universal City Hilton Hotel located at 555 Universal Terrace Parkway, Universal City, Calif. To reserve a room(s) call 818-506-2500 or 800-HILTONS. Room rates at the hotel are $149 per night for rooms with a single king bed or two double beds and are subject to state and local taxes. Please ask for the CAWS 2004 (code=CAW) room rate when making your reservations. Register early to ensure availability. For more information visit us online at www.caws2004.org.
I need a new manager

BY ANONYMOUS
PHOENIX, ARIZ.

Step One:
We admitted we were powerless over cocaine and all other mind-altering substances — that our lives had become unmanageable.

For me admitting I was powerless was a simple thing to do. I could easily recognize that I could not handle cocaine and that once I started to use it I could not stop.

Cocaine was my master.

On the other hand, realizing my life was unmanageable was not so simple.

I did not understand that being uneducated and jobless was unmanageable. The only thing I had going for me was that I was going nowhere fast.

I also had no clue that stealing from stores to support my habit was unmanageable. See I was one of the lucky addicts who did not get arrested. This was another delusion I suffered from, being above the law, which only fostered the fact that my life was not unmanageable.

This lifestyle seemed the only normal one for me, come to, steal for money, buy drugs and pass out. Very manageable.

Then, when I got into the rooms of Cocaine Anonymous, I found out that my life was truly unmanageable and that if I wanted to stop living that way, I was going to have to get a new manager.

I was not sure what this meant, but my sponsor explained that it meant that I was going to have to find a power greater than myself to manage my life.

He also told me that if I were to find this new manager I would be restored to sanity. Wow, what a promise.

I began to practice the first step in my daily life and as I progressed through the steps I found that new manager. Not only did that Power restore me to sanity, it gave me the life I had always dreamed of having.

Cooperation through participation

BY KIM S.
DES PLAINES, ILL.

Concept One:
“The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for C.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

The foundation of this concept is rooted in Tradition Two; “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

The heart of this concept lies in the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous. It lies in the members that search out CA on a daily basis. In those who have a willingness to attend meetings, a desire to share their experience of the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions. Passing on the wisdom and established experiences of the past and present, always mindful and open to the possibility of change and continuous education and progress through participation.

This Concept resides in the responsibility of the GSR. The GSR is accountable to the group, District and Area, acting as a trusted servant, reaffirming the group’s part in CA. It reveals itself through the group inventory being always mindful of how the group conscience is passed on and how it affects CA as a whole. It holds true in the representation of our Districts by DSR’s, and of our Areas by Delegates.

These trusted servants maintain responsible, respectable, and reliable efforts in serving. Their place in the “upside-down pyramid” of service reflects the collective conscience of CA groups. Delegates and representatives of CA come together for the betterment of CA at the World Service Conference, voicing the concerns, needs and desires of the membership. Speaking on the behalf of the fellowship, each participating servant conducts CA business, acting with sincerity and honesty. The actions taken at the Conference perform services that the fellowship and or groups could not accomplish for themselves.

Bill W. calls it “…a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and God to insure that our democracy of world service will work…” A loving and caring God will reveal Himself through mutual trust and faith in one another.

Ultimately, with faith, God speaks through each and every member. With honesty, open mindedness and willingness, the true motives of each member is expressed with the desire to better CA as a whole for all. Together with God’s direction, we are trusted servants, we do not govern.
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<td>CA of Nebraska - Omaha</td>
<td>$177.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>New Mexico Area</td>
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<td>New Mexico H&amp;I</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Anonymous Individual - Omaha</td>
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<td>CA of Nebraska - Omaha</td>
<td>$177.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Ohio Area CA - Columbus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Fifth Chapter Group of CA - Columbus</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>CA of Oregon</td>
<td>$1,088.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Moon Fri Night - PA/NJ/Del Area</td>
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<td>Sense of Direction - Northeast Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>Anonymous Individual - Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CA Stepping Stones - Austin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circles &amp; Triangles - Austin</td>
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<td>Hope Faith &amp; Courage - McAllen</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
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<td>The Legacy CA Group</td>
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<td>San Antonio Area</td>
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<td></td>
<td>South Central Texas Area - Austin</td>
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<td>Step Sisters - Austin</td>
<td>$115.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Speed Bumps - Roy</td>
<td>$23.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>District #1 - Bellingham</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
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<td>District #3 - Kirkland</td>
<td>$144.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Things First</td>
<td>A Vision For You - Milwaukee</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
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<td>Midwest Region</td>
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<td>Razor's Edge - Big Bend</td>
<td>$136.75</td>
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<td>UNCOLA Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Rainbow Group - Toronto (southern Ontario District)</td>
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<td>Ledegeal - Montreal - Quebec</td>
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<td>Detox Groups - Edmonton- Alberta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manitoba Area Convention - Manitoba</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>KISCA</td>
<td>$133.00</td>
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<td>Birthday</td>
<td>Come Alive Group - Redondo Beach</td>
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<td>Anonymous Individual - Golden, Colo.</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<td>Total Member contributions</td>
<td>$595.00</td>
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Calendar of Events

We Have Entered the World of the Spirit
14th Annual Ohio Area Convention
April 23-25, 2004
Crown Plaza Hotel
Akron, Ohio
Chairperson: Debbie D.
(330) 374-3777
Registration: Kelly R.
(330) 431-2896

Unity Under the Stars
16th Annual CAmpvention
April 23-25, 2004
Lake Perris
Lake Perris, Calif.
Chairperson: Chris J.
(714) 847-0231
Vice Chairperson: Jerri N.
(310) 320-6979

Spring Among Us
Illinois Area
Unity Convention
April 30th – May 2, 2004
Wyndham Northwest
Itasca, Ill.
Chairperson: Anna C.
(630) 250-8347
Vice Chairperson: Brian T.
(847) 614-1805

Spotlight On Recovery
Cocaine Anonymous
World Service Convention
May 27-31 2004
Hilton Los Angeles/
Universal City and Towers
Universal City, Calif.
Chairperson: Jim Holder
(949) 709-5068
Vice Chairperson: Tom S.
(818) 344-2459

Living in the Spirit...
19th Annual AZ Convention
July 2-4, 2004
Tucson Hilton East
Tucson, Ariz.
Chairperson: Pilar R.
(520) 321-1849
Registration: John G.
(520) 889-0899

Join Us on the Broad Highway
page 55 BB
CALA 2004 20th
Annual Convention
August 26-29, 2004
Wyndham Palm,
Springs, Calif.
Chairperson: Harold W.
(310) 639-4086
Registration: Delitta J.
(310) 217-9033

United in Love and Service
Cocaine Anonymous World
Service Conference
Aug. 31st – Sept. 5, 2004
Four Points Sheraton
Los Angeles, Calif.
Vice Chair: Kim S.
(847) 437-9757
Conference Coordinator:
Jay S. (602) 677-3782

The Keys to the Kingdom
16th Annual Midwest
Regional Convention
November 5-7, 2004
Hilton Northfield
Troy, Mich.
Chairperson: Ezell G.
(810) 813-9070
Registration: Paula H.
(517) 694-1023

Serenity in the Southwest
New Mexico Area
November 12-14, 2004
Wyndham Garden Hotel
Albuquerque, N.M.
Chairperson: Shane M.
(505) 250-0528
Registration: Norma F.
(505) 328-3229

If your area or district has an event that you would like to list in the Calendar of Events contact the World Service Office by one of the following ways:

NewsGram, C/O CAWSO, 3740 Overland Ave., Suite C,
Los Angeles, CA 90034. E-Mail to: newsgram@ca.org or by