



Hand in Hand



Publication of Recovering Couples Anonymous World Service Organization PO Box 11029, Oakland, CA 94611
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SPECIAL EDITION SPRING 2006

ABOUT YOUR GROUP'S VOTE

How Can YOU Help RCA Survive?

Dear RCA members,

You know the scene in "Gone with the Wind" where things are so bad at Tara that Scarlett has to eat the single putrid carrot left over from when they had a thriving plantation; it's so old it makes her sick? Then the camera pans back and she holds the carrot up and says, "As God is my witness, I will never be hungry again"??

Well that sort of describes the current state of affairs at RCA.. The situation is bad. We are broke. Not broke like we-can't-go-out-to-dinner-three-times-a-week-anymore, broke like what-happened-to-that-rotten-carrot-I'm-willingto-give-it-another-shot broke. In the dark days before RCA, when my husband and I were shopping for divorce attorneys, they were \$150/hr. Thanks to R.C.A. we did not need their services. Think about what a divorce attorney would have charged you for just one hour. Can you afford to send us 10 percent of that? We did, and still had enough left over to use a portion of that money we saved to buy the special boxed set DVD of "Gone With The Wind" and watch it together on our couch while my husband searches in the cushions for spare change.

Are you willing to make a financial commitment to the group that helped us all so much while we were fighting for the lives of our marriages? We need money. Check your couch cushions for spare change. Clean out your basement and have a garage sale. Whatever money you can send will help us. RCA is fighting for its life. Ideally, we'd like you to send checks directly to the RCA office in Oakland, and we've also made it possible to contribute on the website. Please help us continue our work.

Your trusted servant,
Shira, RCA 7th Tradition Committee

2006 RCACC Delegate Packet Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do voting couples have one vote or two?

The couple is voting the group's conscience, and each group has one vote.

2. How can we know for sure that any given couple claiming to represent a meeting is in fact the representative of a given meeting? (i.e., How are voting couples to be credentialed?)

Please look at the top of page 4 of the Delegate Packet; there is a registration form (it is in the text box) for the delegate couple's names and address. The form identifies them as the delegate couple. Note there is a space at the end of the registration box for a witnessing couple to sign also.

3. How do we know that any given group is a legitimate RCA group?

An RCA group that is registered with the World Service Office 30 or more days prior to the conference is considered eligible to a vote. This will enable the Trustees to fulfill their duties to the group as required by Missouri Corporate Statutes for not-for-profit organizations. WSO intends to follow the laws of the State of Missouri, where RCA is incorporated. The State of Missouri publishes these laws on its website, for those who are interested in more detail.

4. What constitutes a quorum of meetings voting?

Missouri Law 355.281. 1. Unless this chapter or the articles or bylaws provide for a higher or lower quorum, ten percent of the votes entitled to be cast on a matter must be represented at a meeting of members to constitute a quorum on that matter.

5. What is bylaw 6.2 and what does it mean if it passes?

The last sentence in Amendment 6.2 now reads: “An affirmative vote of 75% of all RCA members present and voting shall be necessary to adopt any amendment to these bylaws.” If bylaw amendment 6.2 passes, this last sentence will read: “An affirmative vote of 75% of all RCA member groups voting shall be necessary to adopt any amendment to these bylaws.” If this and bylaw amendment 7.0 are approved, the conference will proceed to vote with representation from each group participating either through a delegate couple in attendance, or via proxy vote, on the Literature Proposals and other conference business by counting the absentee ballots that have been sent in along with the delegate votes collected at the meeting. This simply means that if this amendment and amendment 7.0 pass, RCA will switch from a system that only allowed those present at the RCACC to vote on matters of business affecting the fellowship, to one that has a means of representation of all RCA member groups in voting at the RCACC.

6. What is “voting by proxy” or “absentee voting” and how do we know if our group needs to do that?

A proxy vote (absentee ballot) is a alternate way of voting if you are not present for the actual meeting the voting will take place during. Your group will need to vote by proxy (see question #7 for the different methods for doing so) if your group will not have a delegate couple to represent you at the 2006 RCACC in Boston.

7. How are absentee ballots (proxies) to be conveyed?

By one of four ways:

✎ Groups may send their proxy with a delegate couple from a neighboring meeting, or

✉ Mail their proxy no later than 7/28/06 to: RCA 2006 c/o The Petitti’s, 103 Bradford Commons Lane, Braintree, MA 02184.

✉ Email to: wso-rca@recoveringcouples.org

Fax: Please call before faxing (510) 663-2312

After 7/28/2006, all votes will need to be submitted in person to the ballot box at the Conference on Friday.

8. Can one couple or person represent more than one group?

No, a couple can be delegate couple for only one group. However, if Bylaw 6.2 passes, a group may submit its voting form or proxy in any of the ways listed on the voting form.

9. How would mailed proxies work?

As long as they are mailed in by the deadline, the proxies are counted the same as any other vote.

10. Is there a printed delegate form, and where do we obtain one?

The delegate form is found on page 4 of the Group Delegate Packet. All delegates must have their delegate registration form signed by another group couple. This form may be mailed, emailed, faxed in or hand delivered.

Proxies May be faxed in to the WSO office! Call first. Proxies May be emailed in to WSO!

11. We are a delegate couple, and don’t feel like we’ll know what we’re doing or how this works when we get there. How will we know what to do?

As long as you have discussed with your group the items found in the delegate packet, and are aware of the conscience of your group, you will be fine. Delegates are elected and entrusted to vote for the group and represent the group to the best of their ability.

You’re also invited to a World Service Meet and Greet Thursday 8-9 PM, where delegates will have a chance to meet current board members, obtain information on World Service Committees, and have an opportunity to preview some of the goals of the RCA WSB for the coming year. The current board hopes that having a time for social interaction and a preview of some of the issues to be discussed at the conference will help delegates feel more at ease and prepared for the Annual Conference of the Board and Delegates on Friday.

Please note: Individual RCA members have notified WSB they intend to propose Bylaw Amendments; more information about what will be voted on at the Conference will be posted on the website at www.recovering-couples.org

Disclaimer Articles in the Hand in Hand are the Experience, Strength and Hope of the individuals and groups who submitted them. Take what you like & leave the rest. We welcome notices of upcoming events and your stories or reflections on your coupleship recovery. Once an item has been submitted to RCA, it can be used in RCA publications, i.e., books, pamphlets, and Hand In Hand. Submissions may be edited due to spatial considerations, or publishing may be delayed. Please sign your submission exactly the way you want it printed!!

2006 Publications Submissions Deadlines

Summer 2006 June 14, 2006

Fall 2006 September 14, 2006

**Please send your submissions to
RCA WSO Hand in Hand**

P.O. Box 11029 ♥ Oakland, CA 94611♥

Phone: 510-663-2312

E-mail: wso-rca@recovering-couples.org

Website: www.recovering-couples.org

NOTICE The Group Contact Couple listing on the website is for the use of individuals to locate meetings. Any individual using it for any other purpose should be dissuaded from doing so in a letter clarifying the policy.