

To: All RCA members  
From: Jim K. , Chair RCA 10/30/16

I am writing this on October 30 which is Diwali or Deepavali, the Vedic festival of lights celebrated every year. It is an official holiday in Fiji, Guyana, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. One of the major festivals of the Vedic lunar calendar, it spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Its celebration includes millions of lights shining on housetops, outside doors and windows, around temples and other buildings in the communities and countries where it is observed. This is an important celebration day for millions of Hindus around the world.

I share this because I love celebrations and I love the concept of celebrating light; of celebrating hope, goodness and knowledge. We need that in our lives as couples and as an organization.

Our sponsor couple shared a saying they have in their kitchen. "We may not have it all together....but together we have it all!" I have always been attracted by the humility and honesty I have seen in recovering couples in this organization. This statement says a lot about humility and hope. It equally applies to the couples in each local RCA group. When couples come together to share their pain and "untogetherness" along with their experience, strength and hope of togetherness, I find hope for our continued growth as a couple....and as an organization.

One aspect that is clearly difficult and trying as an organization is the fact that our main web site is still being rebuilt from the crash of early September. But out of this crash we expect an improved site. You will be notified when it is fully up and it should be soon. But for now books can still be ordered, and most meeting information is still posted.

At our last WSO Board meeting we learned that Norway is now working on a translation. The Danish translation and the German translations are in progress and there is great progress on the Spanish translation. Did you know that Spanish is the second-most widely spoken language in the world (after Mandarin Chinese), with **400 million** native speakers, and official status in a staggering 21 countries, spanning South, Central and North America, as well as Africa and Europe! We are hopeful that completing this project will help RCA grow into many other countries.

Another saying from our sponsor couple (Isn't it great to have a sponsor...and to be a sponsor?): "The first 50 years of marriage are the hardest!" Now if you are a pessimist that could be a discouraging statement. But I am an optimist and Linda and I are coming up this Spring on 44 years of marriage, so with the help of RCA, we will definitely make it to our 50<sup>th</sup>. Could this statement about marriage also apply to RCA? As I get more acquainted with the history of AA and other "A" groups it can be quite a slog for awhile. But as the earlier statement says, "We may not have it all together, but together we have it all." Let's all keep our focus on one step at a time and we will continue to grow as individuals, as couples and as an organization.