



Hand in Hand

Spring Issue 2011

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Guest Article for Recovering Couples Anonymous Newsletter From the speaker for the opening night at the 2011 Convention.

Inside This Issue

1.

Suze and I joined RCA in January of 1993. Our plan was to be married in 1995 and we wanted to use the program to lay a good foundation to our marriage. We both were single parents with kids. I had four kids and was single for 12 years and she had three and had been alone with them for 13 years. We both had experienced difficult marriages and were wary. I especially had difficulty with the idea of committing to another relationship. We had been to separate therapists who ended up quarrelling with each other. So dispirited by that we found a nice couple to do therapy with and joined the Excelsior RCA group.

I was part of the initial process of forming RCA but since I was single at the time, I was not an active participant. Rather I served more in a support and advisory role. But I had coupleship envy so I knew I wanted to do this. For Suze it was new but she took to it and quickly formed good friendships within our RCA group. Everything went well until we were asked to speak at a national conference. Suze really had trouble with that. She explained that she compared public speaking to be equivalent to “gargling” dirt. So the group helped her to think about ways to prepare. She ended up being a diligent participant in toastmasters. She prepared for six months and gave a short (7.5 minutes) but meaningful statement of her experience. A few years later she did it again, but told me it was too hard for her and that would be the last time. Like in so many other things she was true to her word.

Board Members

Chair: Ruth irw Debbie

Vice-Chair: Jerry irw
Stephanie

Secretary: Matt irw Tami

Treasurer: Dave irw Kelly

Tyler irw Michele

In 2009 Suze was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer. During that battle we received another invitation to speak for RCA. I suggested to Suze that we speak on what happens when a “partner gets sick.” Between her cancer and my round of valley fever we have learned a lot. To my surprise she said yes with no hesitation. That told me that her cancer had impassioned her to speak out. So we agreed to do the talk. Sadly she died on December 17 exactly 363 days from when we knew she had cancer. Her death plunged me into a whole new world of unknowns including that I loved her even more deeply because of how much our walk through her death together taught me about her, us, and my own willingness not to leave her side for six months.

After your partner dies one of the hardest parts is unwinding the various facets of her life. In sorting through her desk, I found a pile of RCA materials. Suze had kept and assembled her notes and folders from every RCA event she attended. I knew what she was doing. She called it staging. She was gathering her thoughts for the talk. Again I knew that doing this mattered to her.

She will not be there with us. Yet I know she will be. One of my last public acts to honor her is to tell our truth and experience. And yes our hope. The irony of being single again at an RCA event is not lost on me. But here is a thought: out of every couple who reads this, one of you and maybe both of you will experience what we did. And Suze never hesitated to bring this topic up because of its importance – even though it involved what she hated the most.

I look forward to seeing you.

Pat C. , Recovering with Suze



CONVENTION REGISTRATION: July 29th to July 31st 2011

Registration for the conference and/or meals does NOT include hotel rooms. Please contact the hotel directly to reserve a room. Hotel information below. All registration information is strictly confidential.

PLEASE PRINT:

Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ How long in RCA? _____ Add email/phone to attendee list? _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES: Cost are per person (Registration fee is non-refundable.)

Cactus Wren Special before May 1st 2011 registration: Only \$50.00 each person

Cactus Wren Special

Registration: \$75 per person \$ _____

\$50 per person \$ _____
Post mark by May first

Saturday only: \$40 per person \$ _____

Full Package Saturday: Lunch & Banquet \$80 \$ _____

Friday WSO RCA lunch only \$23 Saturday Banquet Only \$60 \$ _____

Breakfast is included in the RCA room rate of \$89.00

Special meal considerations: Please send email to plan for your needs OA, gluten free, salt free, sugar free,
Do you plan on purchasing the meal package or banquet meal at a later time? yes no

Service:

Interested in providing service or a breakout leader

Suggested topics for interesting "*Get the Heat Back*" breakout sessions: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

RCAC Phoenix 2011 c/o Joseph & Robin 8865 East Baseline Rd #1703, Mesa AZ 85209 / 480-751-8563

Please mail your check or money order in US funds made payable to RCAC Phoenix 2011

Program packets will be available at the registration table at time of check-in.

For more information email: RCACPhoenix2011@yahoo.com / 480-423-1992 Barb irw John
Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel Tempe 1600 South 52nd Street Tempe, Arizona 85281

Reservations: 480-967-6600 or 888-627-8960

The special convention rate is \$89.00 a night and available five days before and after convention.

Special rate not guaranteed after June 30th 2011. Must mention RCAC Phoenix 2011.

Make any special needs room arrangements directly with the hotel.

Important message:

We want everyone to feel comfortable and safe. Please be considerate of others in your choice of clothing.

GET THE HEAT BACK!!!

You won't want to miss the 2011 RCA Convention, July 29-31, in Phoenix, Arizona. The convention proper will open Friday night with guest speaker Patrick Carnes, a well-known author and the founder of RCA. He will share his experience, strength and hope on couple recovery. And don't forget to send a delegate couple to the business meeting during the day on Friday!

The committee is working hard to organize workshops on couples in life crises, sponsorship, communication, intimacy and romance, resolving conflicts, and the steps. Speaker couples will tell their stories. If you have never been to a convention, you owe it to yourself, your partner, and your relationship to attend. You won't be disappointed.

There are many things to do in Arizona. Phoenix has the Heard Museum with American Indian relics, a Musical Instrument Museum, theaters, gift shops in Old Town Scottsdale, and the Diamondbacks professional baseball team. To escape the heat you can drive two hours north to the beautiful, red rock community of Sedona, and the mountains in Flagstaff. Four or five hours north of Phoenix is the magnificent Grand Canyon.

We are still looking for workshop presenters and topics. If you are willing to share your ESH and present a workshop, or if you just have questions about the Convention, please email the committee at rcacphoenix2011@yahoo.com.

You will find the convention registration form on the RCA website at recovering-couples.org. Early-bird registration lasts until May 1st; save \$25 per person if you register by then.

Seeking panel members for the Phoenix Convention:

“Facing Life Crises Together”

Then perhaps life, as it has a way of doing, suddenly hands us a great big lump that we can't begin to swallow, let alone digest.

- AA 12&12, p. 113

When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.

- Viktor Frankl

There is no agony like bearing an untold story inside of you.

- Maya Angelou

This, too, shall pass.

- Shakespeare

We are looking for speaker couples for the Phoenix convention's panel on how couples in recovery have together faced, or are now facing, a major life crisis. The focus will be on difficulties and obstacles besides those we have faced as a result of our addictions, co-addictions, and destructive relationships.

What kinds of crises might be presented? In RCA recovery meetings we have heard stories of aging parents who require sudden or long-term care, or who die; job and income loss; children needing recovery; home mortgages underwater and homes foreclosed on; catastrophic health problems; nest eggs gone; lifelong dreams evaporated.

“Our purpose is not to give advice or try to fix one another, but rather to create a safe environment where we can experience and share our pain.” Are you planning to attend the Convention? Are you willing to share your experience, strength, and hope on this important issue? Come and be part of this important panel. Share the story of a life crisis the two of you have faced together: your struggle, your experience, and your pain. Please contact the RCA Phoenix Convention at rcacphoenix2011@yahoo.com for this first-ever convention panel.

Sponsorship is such a vital part of any 12 Step Fellowship program.

Are you looking to give back what was so freely given to you?

If you have answered yes, we would like to add you to the Service Couple Connection network list of Temporary Sponsors.

Are you looking for a couple that can **help you** through the challenges and the steps?

If you have answered yes, then RCA has a list of Service Couples in the Connection Network of Temporary Sponsors. **Newcomers, you are not alone**, please reach out!

SPONSORSHIP NETWORK

"Hand in Hand through Sponsorship"

This network provides and encourages the participation of members as Temporary Sponsor Couples. You can become a **Temporary Sponsor Couple** through long distance (phone or Skype) sponsoring. This network has temporary sponsor couples worldwide. Since anonymity is our spiritual foundation, the trusted servants, "The List Keepers" will make sure your personal information is kept confidential and anonymous.

The Holidays are here; Please help with the Gift of Sponsorship. We would like to hear from you! **Email:**

sponsors@recovering-couples.org

SPEAKER EXCHANGE

"Hand in Hand through "Speaker Couples"

This network provides and encourages the participation of couples willing to share their stories with any RCA Group. Share your story and ESH via telephone and in the comfort of you home. This service is a good experience to all. It is refreshing when a RCA Group hears a new couple, new story, new tools and hope.

Please help us Carry the Good News! Struggling couples needs your ESH. We would like to hear from you!

Email: speakers@recovering-couples.org

I have discovered a great need for couples struggling in their recovery.

When I began my service as the RCA Service List Keeper, I stepped up to give back what has been given to our coupleship so freely. When my partner and I first learned of RCA, and began our work in recovery, we sought the help of a Sponsor Couple. We waited several months, and told by many that Couple Sponsors were hard to come by. We eventually found our Sponsor Couple at the RCA Florida Convention. We are so grateful for the gifts of experience, strength and hope we receive from them. We are now honored with Sponsees, and for "fun and for free" are grateful to give back what was so lovingly offered to us. In our coupleship, we have learned early on from our individual programs, that unless we "give it away, we can't keep it". We feel the same for our coupleship. Giving service has been a joy that helps us to keep what we need for our recovery. The Grace that keeps us connected to HP, each other and our wonderful Fellowship.

I am so happy to report that over the past few months, I have received numerous requests for Sponsor Couples, and Service Sponsors to help with new or struggling RCA meetings. Also, a few couples have requested to be added to our RCA Guest Speaker list. A special heartfelt thanks to the couples that were able to reach out to give service to "the still struggling couples".

Currently, we have a number of couples needing help from the Fellowship. I am asking on their behalf ,for RCA Couples willing to help take couples though the steps, and share their experience, strength and hope. If this seems daunting, would you consider being a temporary sponsor? If you can't help sponsor, perhaps you could announce at your home groups that help is needed. Perhaps you would consider handing out our flier that details the different ways to work our 12th step. Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated by many, and helps to insure that our Fellowship lives on by growing and flourishing.

With much appreciation and gratitude,
Debbie irw Ruth
RCA Service List Keeper

sponsors@recovering-couples.org

RCA BED & BREAKFAST CLUB

The 7th tradition Bed and Breakfast Club gives **RCA couples** an opportunity to connect with other **RCA couples**. Instead of spending money on a hotel, traveling RCA couples stay with members of the RCA fellowship, and send a 7th tradition donation to the WSO (\$20 to \$30 per night has been used in the past). This is another way to support RCA through our own contributions!

"...queen size bed, private bath, large deck, tennis courts, and a pool!"

(404)-849-2189 - Tami and Matt in Roswell (suburb of Atlanta), GA

"...hot tub with a view of the Cascade Mountains, dog-friendly"

(541) 343-4920 - Gladys IRW Jade, Eugene, Oregon

"...Winnipeg...from ice fishing in the winter to hot summers"

(204) 668-1515 - Gerrie committed to Randy, Randy committed to Gerrie"

"...condominium with private bedroom and bath suite on San Francisco Bay"

(510) 235-6111 - Elise and David near San Francisco"

"...own room in their home... surrounded by great books, experience, strength, and hope"

(925) 274-1186 - Bob and Betsy from San Francisco"

"...their Rockville home " (near Washington, DC)"

(301) 424-4594 - Kate and Dan Rockville, Maryland

If you want to add your name to the RCA Bed & Breakfast Club

send a finished description to the editor at: articles@recovering-couples.org

Connection Section:

This is an area where members can reach out to other couples. Do you have any announcements or connections that you would like to make with other RCA groups or members? Please send short notes to: articles@recovering-couples.org.

WHAT DOES A "CLOSED" MEETING MEAN?

There has been a lot of dialogue within RCA recently regarding the topic of meetings open only to couples suffering from sex addiction. According to the RCA Blue Book, a closed meeting is open for couples only. However, some meetings have been open only to people with a specific 12-step affiliation.

Here is one couple's ESH regarding the issue of "open vs. closed" meetings:

1. We want this to be seen as our ESH

2. Place principles above personalities - there has been a lot of dialogue w/in RCA regarding this topic recently

Here is our experience, strength and hope regarding meetings open only to couples suffering from sex addiction. According to the Blue Book of RCA in RCA a closed meeting is closed to couples only however some meetings have been closed to people with only a specific 12 step affiliation.

We came into recovery almost 6 years ago. When we first came into recovery I wanted to control everything including my husband's recovery and what type of group he went to. I wanted him to go to the individual program that had the strictest sobriety definition. I wanted to make sure that women weren't allowed in his program. I wanted to make sure that most of the people in the couples group we went to suffered from the same addiction our coupleship did.

Partner 1: While I still sympathize with those feelings in newcomers I realize for me this was part of my disease. I wasn't letting go and letting God. Thankfully the only couple's recovery group in our area that I found was RCA. Of course I still called and checked out certain parameters that I wanted the group to be like. Thankfully God had another plan. This group was open to any couple who suffered and we had a diversity of members. The advantage to this was that we didn't go into the meeting with the focus on who the addict was. We left our addictions at the door and came as a couple seeking recovery and healing together. The meeting was a safe place to nurture our coupleship. I can understand the feelings some may have regarding safety and anonymity on being a member of the S-fellowships but the RCA meetings need to be safe and anonymous regardless of what issue(s) bring us to RCA. We were thankful to enter a meeting that was safe and had experience, strength and hope of those more experienced than us. They kindly told us we were welcome but that the meeting was open to all couples who suffer because RCA is for focusing and working on the relationship.

I am thankful there were people that were patient with me. I don't have all the answers on what type of recovery others need. However the 3rd tradition of RCA states that we are open to all couples who suffer. If we have meetings that are closed to only certain type of addictions, certain types of couples, then I believe we are focusing on the problem rather than the RCA solution. The RCA solution to me is the steps, tools and traditions of RCA. I don't have to be in a meeting with strictly S-couples to learn about setting moratoriums, not having deep discussions before or after 9 or taking care of our coupleship as an infant needing constant care. Our individual programs and working with our sponsor couple is where we deal with the effects of sex addiction.

Partner 2: From the viewpoint of the addict, I have to ask what am I afraid of? Can I get to the root of my family of origin issues without also bringing in aspects of my acting out behavior? Can I leave that outside of this (RCA) room and know that those issues are comfortably handled in my individual program. Or is my issue that I don't want to offend anyone from another fellowship if I accidentally slip up and let some incident of my addiction out into the meeting. Or thirdly do I not trust in the 12th tradition anonymity will be held up by others at an open meeting.

I see these as totally under my control. I have at times let my guard down while checking in at a RCA meeting, but I know that we addicts have the gift of making things not sound as bad as they actually are. I also know now that my addiction is not the only thing that needs to be worked on in my behavior. I have many more ways of being that are not conducive to being a partner in my relationship. After being in groups and listening to the language I know I can find a point of relatedness with everyone else in the room. It is a place where I can be helped by practicing honesty, and listening to others including my spouse. I personally have not feared for my anonymity in meetings. Sometimes I am concerned about recorded events, but even there my reflex is to speak to the common denominator of the group. I can still pass on the principles that give me strength and hope without the details. I value the time after the meeting for getting at the details in a personal way if that is needed for a newcomer couple.

I can empathize with the fears involved in trying to close a meeting to a particular fellowship but I still think the newcomer who still suffers deserves our help and support. Fear will always be my enemy.

What I learned being RCA Outreach Chair

In my connection with Group Contact Couples as Outreach Chair, I have concluded that one way to help grow the fellowship would be for RCA members to establish phone meetings regionally. Couples may not be able to attend face-to-face meetings for the following reasons: child care issues; travel issues; a couple's schedule may not fit local meeting times and places; or a local meeting disbands, but the remaining couples still want and need the program.

There are other benefits to phone meetings. An RCA home group may have many new members and a phone meeting can provide additional experience, strength and hope. Also, they may connect with other couples willing to provide sponsorship. Couples without a local meeting would have the opportunity to connect with other couples in their geographical area and then meet for fellowship. The relationships established could lead to the formation of a face-to-face meeting. Phone meetings may designate a delegate couple and that group can have a vote according to RCA bylaws. Finally, phone groups can plan and hold retreats and workshops.

To gain experience and perspective, I encourage all couples to attend a phone meeting, and see the benefits of this RCA tool and how it might enhance your recovery. Then draw your own conclusions. I know that it has been beneficial for our partnership.

Further information, including format, can be found at RCA@recovering-couples.org.

Kathy S.

Seventh Tradition Contributions

RCA Groups and Individuals October, November and December

Birmingham, MI	\$200.00
Culver City, CA	\$37.00
El Segundo, CA	\$103.00
Eugene, OR Rain Or Shine	\$15.00
First Hamilton, Ontario, Canada	\$75.00
Fort Worth, TX	\$300.00
Grand Haven, MI / Lakeshore RCA	\$36.89
Green Gulch, California weekend retreat	\$83.00
Individual	\$3,047.00
Jamestown-Sonora, CA	\$211.20
Los Altos, CA	\$300.00
Naples - Bonita Springs, FL	\$50.00
Norwell, MA	\$50.00
Oakland, CA Early Birds	\$350.00
Richmond, VA Being In The Solution	\$50.00
Santa Clara, CA	\$300.00
St. Paul, MN	\$7.70
St. Peters, MO Monday Night	\$75.00
St. Peters, MO Monday Night	\$350.00
Tucson / unidentified group	\$200.00
Venice / K.I.S.S., Florida	\$93.81
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$5,934.60</u>

Your donations help keep the RCA Website up and running, fund operation of the literature store, and support the annual meeting.

For the most up to date information, visit our website often.

Send us your feedback on this newsletter to articles@recovering-couples.org.

**Seventh Tradition Contributions
RCA Groups and Individuals
January, February and March 2011**

Birmingham, MI	\$15.00
Boise (Oasis), ID	\$100.00
Chicago, IL Friday Night	\$57.48
El Segundo	\$101.00
Eugene, OR	\$20.00
Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom	\$160.00
In Harmony, Hollywood, FL	\$250.00
Individual / 11	\$377.93
Jamestown-Sonora, CA	\$275.78
K.I.S.S. Venice, FL	\$100.00
Largo, FL Saturday Night RCA	\$15.00
League City, TX	\$15.00
Los Altos, CA	\$144.02
Merced, CA	\$140.00
Norcross, GA	\$72.67
Norwell, MA	\$100.00
Oakland, CA Early Birds	\$400.00
Philadelphia, PA	\$65.00
Salem, Oregon Wednesday Mid-Valley	\$200.00
San Diego	\$100.00
Santa Cruz, CA	\$200.00
Sherman Oaks, CA	\$200.00
Tacoma, WA	\$27.00
Tully, NY	\$30.00
Westport, CT	\$15.00
<u>Winnipeg Sunday Night</u>	<u>\$47.00</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$3,227.88</u>

Please remember to use your **group number**, which can be found on the website, when you place orders for literature.

This same number will help us keep track of 7th tradition contributions.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

**The 2012 Convention
will be in
Memphis, TN**

The WSO Board is now entertaining bids for 2014

The **Hand in Hand** is your newsletter! To have an article included, please send it to articles@recovering-couples.org

The next article deadline is
June 15, 2011

September 15, 2011

December 15, 2011

March 15, 2012

Recovering Couples Anonymous

P.O. Box 11029 Oakland, CA 94611

Phone: (877) 663-2317

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

Web Site: <http://www.recovering-couples.org>

The following motions are proposed for the 2011 Business Meeting in Phoenix, AZ on July 29, 2011. The final wording may be changed, pending approval and review by our structure committee.

Motion #1: Retention of 3rd edition

The WSO Board of Trustees and the Merchandise Provider will continue to stock of the “Collectable” 3rd Edition of the RCA Blue Book at least until the convention of 2013. The cost of reprinting is currently (\$3000 for 1000 copies).

Yes or No

The WSO Board of Trustees will make the “Collectable” 3rd Edition of the RCA Blue Book available as an electronic version that can be downloaded from the RCA website at least until the convention of 2013. (There may be an initial cost for creating the file)

Yes or No

At the convention of 2013, the Trustees, the appropriate committees and the Merchandise Provider will make recommendation as to the continuation the above option(s) to the fellowship. This provision is NOT affected by the approval or printing of the 4th edition.

The Trustees opinion is:

In view of past misunderstandings and decisions, the current Board of Trustees wants to ensure the Fellowship that there will be access to the 3rd edition of our Blue Book for couples or groups who would like to use it. The Trustees hope that the above provision will stand for the Fellowship so that the future Board will have a guideline to use in its decision and a timeline to use for follow-up.

Motion #2: Definition of an RCA Group

Move to add the following article 3.2.1 for clarification of the definition of an R.C.A group. **3.2 R.C.A. Group.** Any group of couples that is based on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of R.C.A. may call itself an R.C.A. group.

*3.2.1 The group must be open to all couples who suffer. Any attendance restrictions based on recovery from a specific addiction or any requirement other than a desire to remain in a committed relationship will be seen as being out of compliance with tradition three and the group **would not qualify to call itself an R.C.A. group.***

The Trustees opinion:

Our third tradition states “**The only requirement for RCA membership is a desire to remain in a committed relationship.**” To honor this, we believe that any group registered and publicly listed as an RCA Group, must be willing to admit any couple that seeks recovery, without any qualifications, other than being willing to remain in a committed relationship, being necessary. May we let no couple suffering and seeking recovery EVER be turned away from an RCA meeting.

The board does acknowledge that there are currently meetings of couples that have a particular meeting attendance requirement. To those we offer literature, ESH and a "sponsor couple", if desired. However, it does affect RCA as a whole, and sends a mixed message, especially to newcomers, if RCA publicly list meetings that have attendance requirements that conflict with the 12 Traditions of RCA. We hope that with working the steps, attending RCA events, and growing in recovery, these "focus groups" will become fully participating RCA groups.

Each group is autonomous, per our 4th tradition, EXCEPT in matters affecting RCA as a whole. To maintain our tradition of no outside issues, and our primary purpose, "**to carry its message to recovering couples who still suffer**" we believe it is in our fellowship's best interest to place a high value on the principles that have served us and our parent 12 Step organizations so well"

Motion #3: Board of WSO Trustees Officers

We propose that the Bylaws be amended to include granting to those willing Board of Trustees Officers eligibility to have an option and choice to be re-elected to a second year term of their current service positions as; Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Those officers that want to be re-elected and or do not have successors would remain for an additional year term on their posts, as long as they meet all criteria and without objections or opposition of other acting board and new board members.

The current Bylaw 4.3; are not specific as it states "Officers shall hold their offices for a term of One Year or until their successors shall be elected"

Rationale #1: A few 12 Step Organizations presently have their board elected officers serving a three years or four years terms. Even at district and regional levels are at a two years term.

Changing the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, every year can contribute to the lack of accomplishments of tasks and set goals that executive board officers started and hence confusions on how to move forward of unfinished business. Allowing re-election of an extended year term of officers would contribute successfully to the progress and implementation of policies and procedures that would come after a year, allowing for completion of tasks and goals with smoother transition to the new officers and members on the board. This can be a significant contribution to the growth and stability of the organization and fellowship.

Motion #4: Literature Translation Policies and Procedures

Propose that the Bylaws include all and any RCA translated literature materials, as it is property of RCA is required to have the following: Permission to Translate from WSO, All RCA Literature Translations to have RCA copyrights which gives RCA ownership to sell and distribute all and any literature, require regular reporting to WSO of translation process and submission to WSO of all completed translated literature.

Rationale #1: Translation Policy and Procedures to be established. This will bring protected copyrights and financial growth to the organization as a business for its literature distribution. The selling of foreign literature will be a steady source of income for the organization and to carry the message to those couples still suffering of many countries and nationalities.

AA Organization has very defined guidelines and policies for Translations and distribution of their Literature and publications with copyrights. "Translations of A.A. material come about in two different ways: The A.A.W.S. Board has pamphlets and/or the Big Book and/or *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* translated for countries where A.A. is in its earliest beginnings OR A.A.W.S. Board grants licenses to A.A. offices or entities in foreign countries so that they may translate, print and distribute A.A. literature in a language or languages appropriate for that country. A.A. literature has been translated into more than 80 languages, and the Big Book has been translated into more than 50 languages.

Motion #5: Convention Resources and Materials

Propose that WSO develop an archive method and location for available convention tools, and resource materials. The Revised Convention Suggested Guidelines, Matrix and Forms will be access by potential and convention steering committees.

Motion #6: Regarding the banners from the past conventions

There have never been any guidelines regarding the size and material for the banners. There has not been a plan for how to store these items. There has not been any plan on who would pay to have these items sent across country each year.

This has resulted in our now having about 20 banners of varying sizes and weights that must be stored each year. The bundle of banners is very large and at present weighs about 100 pounds. Each year we have expected the convention committee to cover the expense and effort to acquire, hang, store and send on these banners to the next convention committee. We often run into problems with being able to hang the banners in the various venues. The banners were recently restored by the 2009 convention committee chairs, at their own expense. The banners hung in their home for several weeks as they prepared them for the convention.

It is understood that the convention committee is autonomous from the RCA Board and the WSO. Thus, ultimately each committee can make their own decisions about the historical banners. But there has been pressure for the convention committees to handle the banners in a particular way, based on the WSO Board at the time. So far, each banner becomes the property of the next convention committee, and so on, accumulating a very large bundle of banners. Presently, the banners are still in Florida from that convention, due to the Niagara convention not wanting them. Phoenix has stated they have no place to store them and request they not receive them until just before the convention.

It is understood that there has been no plan for handling the accumulating banners:

I would like to move that the banners be archived through a photographic manner, and then the original returned to the original designers or otherwise dispersed. Then the convention committee could decide how to present the photographic archive

I move that each year we have the past year's banner and the present banner on display.

I move that all past banners not claimed by the original designers or original convention committee members could be part of a silent auction with the proceeds going toward the costs returning them to the original owners