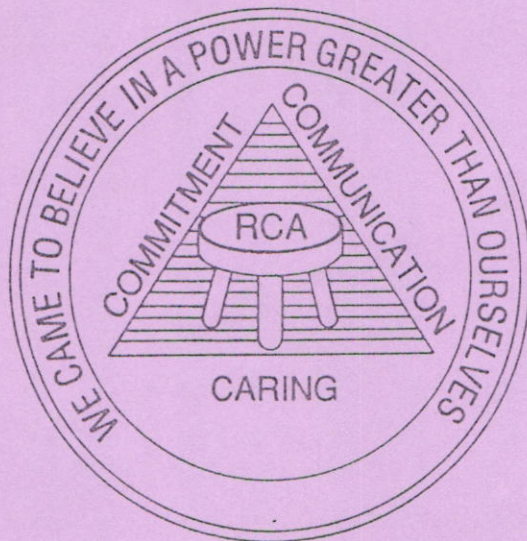


# Recovering Couples Anonymous



## World Service Organization

1999

### Annual Report to the Fellowship

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## Welcome to the 9th Annual RCA International Convention

When I think back over the past nine years that Patty and I have been in RCA there have been many memorable moments and events. One that stands out for me was attending the very first RCA convention in Minneapolis. It was an incredibly uplifting experience for me in so many ways. I can recall parts of it as if it were yesterday. Patrick Carnes' keynote address had a profound impact on me. I was moved when he spoke very clearly about why RCA was so badly needed and what it could do for relationships, families and society. I also remember how inspired I got when he talked of this fellowship being a pioneer in the recovery field. RCA was taking recovery to a new level. I can't speak for others but I left that convention committed and challenged to not only work to improve our coupleship but also to explore ways of enhancing recovery in the RCA program.

It is at conventions where the creativity of couples and groups is both stimulated and shared. Doing a couples meditation and a regular tenth step are just two of the ideas Patty and I have taken back to our group from conventions. But it is more than just the ideas you take away that is important. It is also what is gained as a result of spending quality time with other recovering couples. When recovering couples get together to share their experience, strength and hope, it does not take long for a feeling of community to settle in. What happens is something very special, something very spiritual.

We have gathered here in St. Petersburg to share, to grow and to learn from one another. What makes this possible is the time and hard work put forth on our behalf by a small group of committed and creative people. The Board of Trustees would like to thank the Couples World Convention Committee for all their time and effort in hosting this convention and creating an environment from which memorable moments will undoubtedly emerge.

The convention committee has demonstrated for us the true meaning of service. One of the opportunities for service that presents itself this weekend is joining the Board of Trustees. After several different occasions of saying no, we can't, we shouldn't, we're not ready, etc., Patty and I joined the Board last year. At the time we questioned if it was the right thing for us to do. But we felt that service was a vital part of our recovery so we took a leap of faith and have found it to be a valuable experience. During this convention nominations and elections will be held for next years Board of Trustees. If you have been a member of RCA for at least a year and are able to travel to meetings, I urge you to seek out a current or past Board Member and discuss the possibility of joining us as trusted servants of RCA.

Thank you for attending the 9th annual RCA International Convention.  
Enjoy your weekend.

Kim K., Chair of the RCA Board of Trustees