

Recovering Couples Anonymous Board of Trustees



Annual Report July 2010

Niagara Falls, Canada

Mission Statement:

The RCA WSO Board of Trustees primary purpose is to carry the message of Recovering Couples Anonymous to all couples who still suffer. To ensure that changes within come only as a response to the needs and wants of all and not the few; being guided by the will of our Higher Power and using the principles established in the traditions.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is a world where couples have the opportunity to find the spiritual tools and fellowship they need to create a safe, loving, committed relationship that flourishes.

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Chair Report: 2009- 2010

My husband Mark and I joined the Board in San Francisco in July of 2008. I assumed the chair position on November 16, 2009. And will preside at the last meeting of this particular board at a meeting on Sunday, July 25, 2010. At that time the new board will begin their service. Each year there is a change of some members, while others continue on for another year. This provides a continuity of purpose.

I have enjoyed being on the Board these past two years, where I served as Vice Chair, and then Chair. It has been a growth experience for me and for my Couplship. I have met some fabulous people, and made some very special friends. I am proud to have played one small part in keeping this organization running from day to day. I have seen our Contracted Service Providers doing a great job and I look forward to them continuing to do so.

This year has been shorter than some due to the Florida Convention being held in October of last year, but the Board has been busy just the same. We met as a new Board for the first time the Sunday afternoon of the Florida Convention, and began the process of getting to know each other. We met each month by phone conference to discuss and work through each topic as it came to our attention. There always seems to be so much to do and such a little bit of time to do it in. We met at a Face to Face meeting in February in Phoenix where we met with the groups from the area as they considered hosting the 2011 Convention. We spent time working on creating a mission statement for the RCA Board, A Board Vision and began some strategic planning.

Throughout the year we began the process of creating a Policy and Procedure manual; we discussed the policy on "Open versus Closed" meetings, and updated the website. We worked with the 4th Edition Literature committee to work out the Diversity Paragraph for the new book, making sure it more closely matches the RCA policy and Traditions. We increased the Prudent Reserve, and voted to have the Board review items that go on the website. We brainstormed how we might get more interest in Board participation and Committee participation.

The idea of a new Vision report like the Vision 2000 is still being discussed. The Board had much discussion over the new 4th Edition and how to get copies to each group for review when it is ready. When the motion passed at a past annual meeting to mail out copies at no cost to all RCA groups, the ultimate cost was unknown. The Board decided to offer an alternative of a PDF copy if a group chose that option. Outreach was instructed to collect email addresses and/or postal addresses for each group, based on the groups' choice for delivery of the draft. We also offered that a group could make a 7th tradition donation to cover the cost of mailing the book, if they wished to do so.

Arranging meeting dates and times, creating agendas, fielding questions from our Service providers, handling business papers & contracts at the direction of the Board, and keeping our phone meetings on track were the balance of my duties as Chair.

Working behind the scenes is my favorite method. Being the Chair for these past several months has been a stretch for me, but mostly a pleasant one. I have certainly grown from the experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all. And I hope each of you will consider stepping up in some small or large way to make sure RCA continues to grow and reach all those couples who still need to find what RCA has given to each of us!

Vicki R (in loving recovery with Mark R.)

Vice Chair Report

It has been my privilege to serve the fellowship as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees for the past year. One of my duties has been to coordinate the activities of all the committees. It has been exhausting to simply monitor, let alone *coordinate* all of the committee activity. In the future it might be better for the Vice-Chair to share this responsibility with others; perhaps a committee composed of the committee chairs. This may be something that could be addressed in the new Board Policy and Procedure Manual.

The current state of our WSO is a mixture of good and bad news. We have some very dedicated hard working individuals and we seem to be getting a lot done. Unfortunately, there seems to be much mistrust and controversy surrounding many of the decisions that are being made. In over 20 years more than 800 RCA groups have been founded, yet today there are only about 100 left in existence. I believe the lack of unity at the WSO level and confusion as to how to apply the traditions could be contributing factors in our lack of successful growth as a fellowship.

Tradition one says, “Our common welfare should come first — couple recovery depends upon RCA unity.” There is much disunity in our WSO at this time; many unresolved controversies. We need to recognize the paramount importance of coming to unity as a fellowship. We need to know that unity is more important than any agenda item; more important than any book that is published or not published; more important than any policy that is implemented or rescinded. It is easy to lose sight of this in the heat of the moment when a committee or board is going through the process of making a decision. We need to make our deliberations cooperative rather than adversarial and understand that a group conscience we all can live with is better than any one of us getting our own way, thinking we know what is best for the fellowship.

Tradition two says, “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as known in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” At the WSO level in RCA we seem to have rewritten this tradition to say our ultimate authority is a majority vote. Majority rule is divisive and creates winners and losers. A group conscience on the other hand allows us to set our differences and biases aside. We have a responsibility to share our point of view about an issue, then an equal responsibility to set our egos aside and help determine what is our Higher Power’s will for the fellowship. Interestingly enough what is best for the fellowship is not always what I think it is. There is an excellent discussion of this topic in the fourth edition draft of the RCA Blue Book in Chapter three under the heading “Developing RCA Groups”.

Tradition three says, “The only requirement for RCA membership is a desire to remain in a committed relationship.” One of the biggest controversies the board had to deal with this year involves the practice of

some groups having additional requirements for membership while continuing to call themselves an RCA group. This is an issue which needs to be resolved by a group conscience of the fellowship. Past boards have made too many controversial decisions contributing to disunity. The board needs to refer these types of matters to the delegates as RCA strives to find its identity through the group conscience process.

Tradition four says, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or RCA as a whole." Guidelines need to be developed to help groups know the boundaries of autonomy and when they are crossing the line and affecting RCA as a whole. This is part of the question surrounding the issue of some groups having additional requirements for membership.

Tradition six says, "RCA ought never endorse, finance, or lend the RCA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose." At our conferences it has become common to have a professional therapist or psychologist as a guest speaker, or to have workshop topics related to outside therapies. Presenting them to the fellowship at an official RCA event is an endorsement by WSO that this is something or someone that could be beneficial to members. These are often people who are running a business for profit; selling books, seminars, counseling services, etc. The issue is not whether or not these things are beneficial. They may well be, but we as a fellowship have no opinion on the matter. The issue is whether or not we are endorsing these outside enterprises.

Tradition seven says, "Every RCA group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." However, RCA is relying on the generosity of board members to keep WSO functioning. One current, though unwritten, requirement for board membership is the ability and willingness to contribute thousands of dollars in travel expenses over the course of one's term. This limits board membership to those that can afford it and often creates hardships for board members, while sometimes making it difficult to achieve a quorum at face to face meetings of the board of trustees. This may be part of the reason we have such difficulty in finding couples to serve on the board. I believe RCA needs to make it a priority to start funding board travel expenses as soon as possible.

Tradition twelve says, “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” We have a number of trusted servants at the WSO committee level who have been serving for many years. What we could really use is an infusion of new blood – RCA the next generation. New people with fresh perspectives are less likely to get caught up in the drama of whatever the current controversies are and are more likely to put principles before personalities. The AA Twelve and Twelve alludes to the principle of rotation of leadership in the essay on Tradition two on page 132 (you can find it online if you do not have a copy: http://www.aaprovidencepoint.com/tradition_2.htm).

There is much fear on the part of those currently active in WSO that should they step down no one will step up to take their place. My experience is that new people are reluctant to step up because they do not see the need as long as others continue to do the work. Here is a story from my own experience strength and hope.

When I was relatively new in recovery it was suggested I try a little service work, so I became the treasurer of my home group for a term of one year. At the end of the year no one else was interested in the position so I gladly agreed to continue for another year. At the end of the second year there still was no one interested in taking on the position, so I reluctantly agreed to stay on for a third year. At the end of the third year, you guessed it, still no takers. I announce at the business meeting that I would be leaving the checkbook on the coffee table in the middle of the room and going home. If the group felt it was alright to leave the checkbook on the coffee table that was okay with me. At the end of the meeting someone else picked up the checkbook and we had a new treasurer. If I had not resigned with no replacement in sight I might still be treasurer of that group 20 years later.

Many of our members come from a traditional twelve step background and would agree that the RCA policies I have discussed above should strictly adhere to the related traditions. Others may have benefitted much from therapy, treatment centers, work with individual psychologists, and have less experience with twelve step recovery. They wonder what all the fuss is about traditions; why be so legalistic? While I have an opinion, I cannot say that either side necessarily has all of the answers. RCA did not start from a

grass roots movement of suffering individuals; it began as an experiment by a psychologist. The group conscience of the fellowship needs to decide what direction we will take in the future; traditional twelve step fellowship or perhaps become something new. But all voices must be heard and the direction chosen by the informed group conscience of the entire fellowship, not just the loudest or most active members.

A practice which a number of other twelve step fellowships utilize is to have about half of the board of trustees made up of non-program members. These people offer a less bias perspective and are less likely to get caught up in the idea of the urgency of the latest controversy as they have less invested emotionally in the fellowship, and are more likely to remember to place principles above personalities. Having non-member trustees is a practice I believe RCA should consider for the future.

While there are some members who have indicated a reluctance to participate at the WSO level because of the politics and controversies, most of our members are generally unaware there are any problems. As frustrating as some of the issues have been I can genuinely say I have not met anyone involved in service at the WSO level that does not have the best interest of the fellowship at heart. We often disagree and sometimes forget to check our egos at the door, but everyone wants to see RCA survive and thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard P. irw Barbara

Treasurers Report

Group Donations

Fiscal Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008**	2009	2010
Group Donations	11,174	11,888	10,384	11,668	14,244	11,056	10,583	10,720
No. of Group Donations	45	46	44	36	60	55	47	41
Average per Group (Annually)	\$248	\$258	\$236	\$324	\$237	\$201	\$225	\$261

* Fiscal Year June 2007 ending - (Average of Treasurer and Office Manager numbers).

** Not all group donations were accurately designated. Need Group Numbers

Merchandise Income/Expense

Fiscal Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008	2009	2010
Merchandise Income	19,301	18,983	17,232	18,907	24,650	14,952	14,702	20,399
Merchandise Expense	10,871	4,511	3,514	11,179	16,799	4,021	3,331	4,515
Percentage	56%	23%	20%	59%	69%	27%	23%	22%
Net Merchandise Income	8,430	14,472	13,718	7,728	7,851	10,931	11,371	15,884

* Fiscal Year June 2007 ending - (Average of Treasurer and Office Manager numbers).

RCA Income Sources

Fiscal Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008	2009	2010
Group Donations	11,174	11,888	10,384	11,668	14,244	11,056	10,583	10,720
Individual Donations	3,081	2,849	3,216	7,437	7,886	5,812	6,509	3,433
Convention & Other Donations	1,735	4,523	5,124	8261**	9,598	7,466	7,051	9,468
Net Merchandise	8,431	14,472	13,718	7,728	7,851	10,932	10,741	15,884
Total Net Income	24,421	33,732	32,442	35,094	39,579	35,265	34,884	39,505

* Fiscal Year June 2007 ending - (Average of Treasurer and Office Manager numbers).

** Does not include \$3,097 for 4th Edition printing donation.

RCA Income & Expense

Fiscal Year	2,003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008	2009	2010
Net Literature & Donation Income	24,421	33,732	32,442	35,094	39,579	35,265	34,884	39,505
Total WSO Expenses	34,513	33,480	32,175	33,885	42072**	25,830	32,448	30,633
Net Income/Loss	(10,092)	252	267	1,209	(2,493)	9,435	2,436	8,872

* Fiscal Year June 2007 ending - (Average of Treasurer and Office Manager numbers).

** Includes \$2,244 Parliamentarian Bill and \$4,986 back pay for California sales tax and deposit.

Hand in Hand Committee

The Hand in Hand newsletter is fun and easy to read, full of recovery stories and relevant information on the workings of the RCA Board and related committees. We hope that you find it full of useful and up to date information and inspiring stories full of experience, strength, and hope each quarter.

Again, I want to thank Elise for her valuable work as our editor, and the group of content readers consisting of Barb W, Rebecca, Vicky T, Gerry P, Kate M, and Jade. Without their input, our Hand in Hand would not be possible.

The Hand in Hand is always looking for articles and ideas. No experience is necessary. Just send your ideas for new articles, or your own story to articles@recovering-couples.org.

Thanks for reading us...
Vicki R.

Communications Service Provider Report

This is the first full year of The RCA-WSO Communications Service Provider which was established in February 2009. The position entails working with Merchandise Services Contractor, the Web Site Services Contractor and the POWWEB E-mail services via RCA board members. The position is responsible for maintaining and paying and then being reimbursed for RCA's telephone services. The RCA-WSO Communications Service Provider provides monthly, quarterly and annual reports for all its activities which are outlined in its annual contract. The position is not clearly presently defined except via the annual contract.

The position also entails keeping a file of important WSO records and papers for government filings and archives; the only document currently being a Non-profit document, 8-17-09, filing with California's Secretary of State. This probably has to be renewed.

A small support committee, like an office committee, would provide an opportunity to utilize the expertise of the RCA's membership in better serving the larger RCA community and keeping the RCA-WSO Communications Service Provider's expertise current and accountable.

From July through June, 113 E-mails and 249 Phone calls were handled in 153½ hours, averaging about 13 hours per month. Last year, basically 5 months, February thru June, there were 76 E-mails and 85 phone calls. Most inquiries sought information on the program, finding and starting a meeting and ordering literature. Countries making inquiries about the program were British Columbia, Calgary, England, France, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands and Sweden. Others requested assistance with finding couple sponsors, RCA web site, and updating meeting information.

The phone lines were available 100% except for one brief period that I'm aware of. I am no longer requesting a bill for local phones service; we have never received a bill. The processing of the bill for the ATT 800 phone services is running smoothly

If you have any questions or suggestions, please advise.

Yours truly,
Robert P Petitti.
Joyful Communications
103 Bradford Commons Lane
Braintree, MA 02184
781-848-5922

Merchandise Services Coordinator Report

MERCHANDISE SERVICES PROVIDED

Mainly the Merchandise Services Coordinator receives orders (PayPal and postal-mail) and fulfills them. The 1996 Blue Book 600+ copies are stored within our condo, as are the 600+ copies of Step Up To Love. Masters for other literature are taken to a local copy shop for as-needed inventory. Medallions and wooden "Welcome" chips are supplied by out-of-state vendors. Postal subscriptions of Hand In Hand are fulfilled.

Seventh Tradition contributions are received via PayPal and postal mail and are dealt with (below). Bank deposits are made regularly at RCA's nearby bank branch. Various reports are issued monthly and quarterly. New services for the Fellowship and revisions of current services are considered by the Merchandise Services Support Committee (below), with recommendations to the Board and implementation upon Board approval. In addition to working with the two Support Committee members, the Coordinator works especially with the Fellowship bookkeeper, the WSO Communications Service Provider, and the Webmaster. The Coordinator reports to the Board through the Board Chair.

CARRYING THE MESSAGE THROUGH LITERATURE

Q: What were literature purchases this year?

A: About \$20,000. During the past 12 months there were 308 orders, and so the average order was \$67. This \$20,000 total is up +33% from the reported Product Sales last year, apparently because of Fellowship response to the new guidebook to RCA's Twelve Steps, "Step Up To Love."

SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING 2009-2010

RCA's literature order forms were revised and updated -- both the online PayPal form and the downloadable PDF form. Brief textual blurbs were added along with pictures. Two Spanish pamphlets were readied for announcement and sale at the Florida convention and were included in the revised literature order forms.

The report on "Fellowship Inventory of Groups" was submitted to the Board for consideration. It showed that nearly 500 groups had been started since 1988; that just 40+ groups started before 2001 were still in existence; that listed meetings had shrunk from 150 in 2007 to the estimated 120 currently; and that each year fewer groups are being started and more groups are being disbanded when the post-2000 years are compared to the pre-2000 years.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2010 - 2011

- Rental storage unit for 4th edition inventory (1000 copies??)
- Board-approved new Meeting Starter Packet onto the website.

- Order Form changes: PayPal Group Service Numbers; PayPal vs. hard copy shipping and handling charges; instructions for international ordering via PayPal, via credit card (but not check or money order)
- Step Up To Love picture re-instatement; fix of the Step Up To Love flier; revision of the Medallions portion of the order form
- Regular ongoing Webmaster contact and involvement.
- Regular ongoing Board communication and involvement.
- Approved Fourth Edition onto the website order forms.
- Fourth Edition retail selling price.

Structure Committee

This report covers the work of the Structure Committee from July 1, 2009, through July 7, 2010. The first part of this period covers the work of the 2009-2010 Structure Committee completing the final stages of the work leading up to the 2009 annual business meeting held on October 17, 2009, in Fort Lauderdale.

The members of the 2009-2010 Structure Committee were: Steve S., Karl S., Richard P., Jerry T., and Randy W., Brian R., and Dan O’C., with Dan serving as the committee chair. Richard P. serve in the capacity of WSO Board liaison.

Support for the 2009 annual business meeting in Fort Lauderdale during October:

The bulk of the work done by the committee to prepare for the business meeting was performed from July through October. This included: producing a simplified version of the standing rules and a proposed agenda for the business meeting; processing the many proposed topics, and generating an assortment of delegate information and other items.

Support for the annual business meeting in Niagara Falls, July, 2010:

The following members of the Structure Committee continued from the previous year: Steve S., Karl S., Richard P., Brian R., and Dan O’C., Jerry T., Randy W. with Brian serving as the committee chair.

Because the 2009 annual conference took place in October, there were only about nine months to prepare for the following conference.

The committee began work on the topics submitted for approval by the fellowship at the annual delegate conference. The committee worked with submitters to refine and format proposals in order to make them compliant with the traditions of RCA. As a result, the fellowship has four topics for evaluation at the 2010 annual conference.

After reviewing the process of the 2009 annual conference with regard to the simplified Robert's Rules of Order, it was decided to return to the standard form used in the 2007 and 2008 conferences. The result of this decision is that any amendments to proposals would require submission for a follow-up to those groups which had submitted by-mail votes to the conference.

Website Committee

Submitted by Mark R IRW Vicki R, Chairman

The primary function of the Website Committee is to provide an interface between the RCA membership and the Web Provider (Fantazwebs). The Website Committee (WsC) receives requests for website services from various membership groups or committees, and or service vendors. Those requests are reviewed, approved, and are then forwarded to the Web Services Provider (WSP) to be implemented. Once implemented by the WSP the WC verifies that the request has been completed as required. Some of the types of requests handled include notifications of special events, new meetings or meeting changes, and posting board minutes and other important WSO board related information. Additionally information related to meetings and assurance to its compliance to the published guidelines continues to be a priority of this committee. Due to the manual nature of this project completion is not expected until 4th quarter of this year.

Another function of the WsC is to administer the POWWEB email system. This system provides the "Store and Forward" of all of the @recovering-couples.org email which the RCA community uses to distribute its internal

email to the various committees and board members. The WsC has spent a considerable amount of time streamlining this system, and will continue with this project into the next year.

In addition to the functions listed above the WsC, in readiness for this year's convention established two yahoo groups for the purpose of allowing WSO board members and RCA delegates to have a forum (Blog) to discuss issues of importance to the RCA fellowship as a whole. These groups are: RCA_Delegate_Fourm and RCA_WSO_Fourm. To further support the annual board meeting, the WsC is testing a Skype account for use in next year's meeting for online voting in the event it is passed at this year's meeting.

This year has been both challenging and rewarding. As chairman I am looking forward to next year as a year of growth for both the Website Committee and the RCA fellowship as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark IRW Vicki
Website Committee Chairman

Ad Hoc 4th Edition Production Committee

In September 2009, the RCA Board started discussions that led to the re-activation of the Ad Hoc 4th Edition Production Committee. The RCA Board reviewed the process requested by 2007 Convention guidelines for the approval and printing of the 4th Edition of the Recovering Couples Anonymous Blue Book.

During September 2009, a small forming group began a discussion of how to actualize the 2007 Convention Guidelines on approving and printing the 4th Edition of the RCA Blue Book. An intricate approximate time-line was developed which included a budget to accompany the time-line with estimates from copy editor, Nancy Lee Sayre, formatter, Ann Langraf, merchandiser, Bob. F. and printing costs from Sheridan Books.

I acted as the temporary Chair of Ad Hoc 4th Edition to assemble the members of the committee. I asked two members of the RCA Board to be liaisons from the board to Ad Hoc and two members of the Literature Committee (where the Blue Book was still in process) to be liaisons from

the Literature committee to Ad Hoc. I asked Bob F., merchandiser, to participate and Jade S., former Chair of Ad Hoc to participate. All agreed. I was elected Chair to the Ad Hoc 4th Edition Committee.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee worked with the RCA OutReach Committee to collect the contact information for the GCCs of approximately 110 RCA groups worldwide. The results from the OutReach Committee were incorporated into a data base that was communicated to the RCA Web Master, Shannon Nichols .

Two articles were developed for the Hand in Hand to inform the fellowship on the process of bringing the 4th Edition Blue Book to the RCA groups for review. The OutReach Committee has reported an enthusiastic response to the plan for review of the new edition of the Blue Book.

When the Literature Committee completed their incorporation of the 2005 through 2007 convention recommendations from the fellowship regarding the 4th Edition Blue Book, the resulting draft was sent to the copy editor, Nancy Lee Sayres. When the copy editor finished the first part of her work, she submitted the revised draft to the Literature Committee for incorporating the copy edits. The time-line for the 4th Edition Draft to go out to the fellowship then shifted due to the amount of changes recommended by the copy editor and the time it was taking to rewrite sections of the book. The intention of the Literature committee was to send a copy that was clean and easily readable to the RCA Board and Ad Hoc Committee. The overall intention of both Ad Hoc and Literature Committee is to send a book out to the fellowship that will be the best effort at a new Blue Book.

As of this date, 7/10/10, the copy editor has completed 46.5 hours of work on the 4th Edition and has been paid \$1,395.00 for her work by the RCA Board. At the outset, the RCA Board approved an estimate of \$2,000 with a possible add on of \$180 for finalization for the fellowship and formatter. Currently the Copy Editor is making final copy edits to the 4th Edition Blue Book. She expects to return the Blue Book to the Literature committee for a final once over, approximately July 15, 2010.

We anticipate that the 4th Edition Blue Book Draft will be sent out to the RCA fellowship for review by October 2010. The fellowship will then have 90 days to review the draft before mailing in the ballot to the RCA World Service Organization.

Kathleen H.
Chair of Ad Hoc 4th Edition Production Committee

Outreach Committee

I am Kathy S. and I serve as Outreach chair and team leader for Mid US Outreach. Kathleen H. serves as team leader for the West Coast. Our mission is to be a connected and representative voice of the RCA program regarding the growth and maintenance of RCA groups throughout the world. We do this by sharing our experience strength and hope.

Outreach met November of 2009 via teleconference to reorganize for 2010. Our goal was to establish team leaders and divide the US Into 3 regions we also wanted to establish a team leader for Canada and another for International Groups. We also wanted to stay connected with the phone meetings contact.

We divided the US into its' designated regions according to time zones. Mid US decided to help by taking some States in the Western region. The team agreed that we needed to stay connected with groups in Hawaii and the Alaskan group. These we considered to be part of Western US.

We spent some time discussing the best way to connect with GCC's. It was recommended that we connect with groups quarterly, or when the Hand in Hand is published, unless there is a real need to connect more often. Team members can contact their groups anyway they feel the most comfortable. Outreach has discussed ways in which we can help struggling or new groups to grow. It has been recommended that couples sponsor new groups either face to face or by doing a presentation via teleconference. If possible groups should get their information to family and marriage counselors. Also if there is a recovery periodical/magazine in which groups

can place ads or write articles about RCA this can be another resource for growing the program.

Outreach continued its' focus in connection with the groups to establish the best way to send out draft copies of the 4th edition. The data was sent then to our team member David H. The majority of groups chose to have copies e-mailed. A copy is also going to be made available on line. This task was completed by mid to late April. Outreach also clearly communicated that groups will be allowed a 90 day review process of the book and be able to cast a vote to approve, disapprove or to abstain.

Outreach even looked at ways that groups could review the book, which will be almost 3 times the size of the current edition. Groups can segment and have different couples review the book. Entire groups can work the steps and read the reflections during their meetings. One of the California groups lead by Bob F. helped in this process by sharing their experience, strength and hope.

One of the most positive things that has come out of this process for outreach is that we have the attention of the fellowship. It is vital to ever remind the groups that we need and value their voice and opinions, that WSO cannot serve the fellowship, if the fellowship is not allowed a clear and coherent voice.

I am grateful to all my fellow team members for their perseverance and patience.

Respectfully submitted
Kathy S.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee has been busy writing and editing the 4th edition of the Blue Book. The Committee met almost all Tuesdays of the year and many Wednesdays. The book was submitted once to our editor and then reviewed by the Committee following her input. The book has been submitted to the editor a second time. We expect another return for final reconciliation of details and then it should be ready for circulation. I believe it will be ready in two to three months depending on how much time the editor has to spend on it and how many differences between her and the Committee remain.

We regret to inform the membership of the death of one of our members-Tony R. There was some discussion and a lot of support in dedicating the book to him. Since the book is to be completely anonymously written the final decision was not to do so.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the Committee's willingness to participate in this work under the principal of informed group conscience and not just on majority rule. As we wish the book to reflect the group conscience of the RCA Membership we did not feel we could write and edit the book without a group conscience of the Committee on the ideas and practices of RCA of ourselves. We anxiously await the reception of the RCA Membership as to how well we have done.

Carl S.
Chair, RCA Literature Committee

Sponsorship Connection Lists Keeper

Report by: *Vicky T. and Jerry T, irw - South Florida*

This year we facilitated 9 couples with Sponsor Couples worldwide. At the present time the Temporary Sponsorship Network has twenty-one (21) temporary sponsor couples nationwide, this is an increase from last year by 12 couples.

We placed notices of resources available in every edition of the *Hand in Hand* newsletter that goes out to the Fellowship quarterly. Announcements were made on the RCA Tuesday night teleconferencing phone meetings. Conventions sign ups sheets

At the present time we do not have a Sponsorship Committee. A committee is made of three (3) or more members. Please help RCA give the Gift of Sponsorship to recovering couples by making a commitment to help start this committee. Sponsorship is such a vital part of our growth and participating on this committee can help enhance your coupleship. There are three connection services presently available to the RCA fellowship. They are the Temporary Sponsorship Network, Speaker Exchange and Welcome Couples.

Temporary Sponsorship Network

"Hand in Hand through Sponsorship" This network provides and encourages the participation of members that signs up to be available by email, phone or personally at the RCA conventions. You can become a temporary sponsor couple by long distance (phone) sponsoring. Skype is a great tool and cost effective to communicate, even out of the country like England and Dominican Republic. Couples are going through their step work, calling on each other when there are challenges or need support. If you have gone through the steps and are willing to participate in any of the three services available please, we would like to hear from you.

Since anonymity is our spiritual foundation of our program. The "List Keeper" is your trusted servants; your personal information is kept confidential and anonymous. Only the List Keeper Couple has access to it and they contact you according to your instructions of the manner you want to be contacted.

Outreach helps carrying the message informing the Group Contact Couples of these three valuable services and how to tap into it and *pass it on* to their group members.

Speaker Exchange

This network provides and encourages the participation of members in the speaker couples exchange. The idea for this network developed when a group contact couple in St. Louis that called to ask us if we would tell our story by speaking at their next meeting.

"Wow," we said, "we do not know how to answer that; we are in South Florida!"

"No, the only thing we want you to do is to call our cell phone at 8:00 p.m. CST and we will put you on speaker phone so our group members can hear your ESH," they said. "Then the group members will ask you questions." "Ok, then."

For us, sharing our stories over the phone and doing service was different, but fun and a good experience. So, it can be done; it is being done. Try it, you'll like it. We can make a difference when another couple listens to the sound of hope.

Welcome Couple

This service position is available to any couple that wants to help answering questions to a new couple that is interested in joining our fellowship or a newcomer couple needing suggestions as to how it works.

We have willing couples to help each other and the number is increasing however; we feel this is a slow process. Please help us, *Carry the Good News*. There are many struggling couples that need our help. Please sign up today or sign up at this year's RCA Business Meeting and Convention in Niagara Falls, Canada.

Email at: Sponsorship@recovering-couples.org

We want to thank Bob F. and Bob P., WSO providers for assisting us through out. In April of 2010, we rotated out of our service commitment as the "Connection List Keepers" which another couple has volunteered to be of service. We are very grateful for having had the opportunity to be of service to the fellowship. Our coupleship blossomed and benefited because of it. We feel blessed to have connected with so many couples world wide.

Thank you for letting us be of service,
Jerry T. and Vicky T, irw
South Florida, U.S.A.

Daily Reader Committee

The Daily Reader committee has met a few times to discuss the format of the book. Unfortunately, our chair and secretary had to resign before we really got under way. Some of the remaining members are heavily involved in the upcoming Niagara convention, so we will not likely regroup until after the convention.

To submit ideas for the book email them to: dailyreader@recovering-couples.org

If you are interested in joining this committee please contact the vice-chair at: vicechair@recovering-couples.org