

Recovering Couples Anonymous Board of Trustees



Annual Report 2014

London, England

August 22, 2014

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.

Table of Contents

Chair report 2013-2014.....	3
Treasurer’s Report	4
WSO Contractors	6
Communication Services Provider	6
Merchandise Services Provider.....	6
Virtual Office Coordinator.....	7
Committees.....	8
Ethics Committee	8
Growing the Fellowship Committee	9
Hand in Hand Committee.....	10
Literature Committee	10
Outreach Committee	11
Structure Committee	12
Service Positions	13
RCA Meeting Coordinator	13
RCA Upcoming Conventions	14
2014 London, England Convention	14
2015 California Convention.....	14
2013 – 2014 Board of Trustees	14

Chair report 2013-2014

Hello to the members of our RCA Fellowship!

This has been a year of reviewing, renewing and revisiting things in the business of our fellowship. I would like to thank all of those who have served this year – and those who are stepping into service – at all levels in the fellowship. May this coming year be a time for growth and even more recovery for RCA.

With the acceptance of the Concepts of Service, the Board reviewed the “service guidelines” in the Policy and Procedure manual and removed them with the understanding that the concepts covered what the guidelines had addressed. The special ballot that was requested from the 2013 ABM was compiled, sent out and voted on. The results are posted in the RCA Virtual Office.

With the success of the sales of the 4th edition of the RCA Big Book in the Kindle format, we hope to get more RCA literature digitally available. Using the current and upcoming technology to make more things assessable to more recovering couples is a mission we hope to pass to future Trustees and volunteers.

A large part of the time this year was spent on the review and revision of the RCA budget. The previous budgets were based simply on the income and expenses from the previous year. In that way we “budgeted” a net loss of several thousand dollars for the past few of years. This year we have taken a hard look at real numbers and turned the deficit spending into a more manageable flow. The numbers in the current Treasurers report reflect a lot of time and effort – as well as the consolidation of expenses and elimination of a contractor.

The Growing the Fellowship and the Outreach Committees have been working to consolidate efforts and to reach out to groups, couples and professionals in an effort to reach those couples still suffering. The Daily Reader is still struggling with a focus and direction – although there are willing volunteers to work as a plan of action comes into place.

This year the items to be brought to the fellowship for a vote were not completed, reviewed and distributed in time to make the deadline, and they will come to the fellowship as a special by-mail ballot. The hope for the future is to provide more transparency to the motions, the issues and the creation of the ballot itself.

The Convention of 2014 in London will soon be in full swing. We want to honor the work and commitment of the couples who have made this happen, and celebrate that we are now “really” an international fellowship. The 2015 Convention is coming together in southern California, and this year the board approved the bid for the 2016 convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The WSO is also paying directly for the professional recording of workshops, as well as the technology for connecting from around the world with video. This supports couples attending the meeting from afar and produces professional recordings as tools available to all couples as soon as possible.

The last event of this year was the update to the website software. Although most of the update is behind the scenes, the new version gives us new capabilities for recordings and downloads, as well as the security that the outdated software did not afford.

Thank you to all the couples who served on the Board of Trustees this year. I appreciate your willingness to walk through some difficult times and still be a vital part of RCA’s Mission. It has been a tremendous growth opportunity both personally and to our coupleship to serve RCA as you Chairperson.

In Grateful Service to the Fellowship,
Liz irw Mike
Chairperson 2013-2014

Treasurer's Report

Introduction:

Allow me to introduce myself to those I haven't had the pleasure of meeting or speaking with. I am David irw Dixie and currently have served and sat on the Board of Trustees for the WSO-RCA in the role of Treasurer.

Service work is an important part of recovery for Dixie and I. As you can imagine, it can be tremendously rewarding and also a source of anxiety and frustration at times. When elected to the position, my first order of business was to familiarize myself with all of the great work that was done by the folks before me.

When you are asked to get a handle on the financials of a business that you really know nothing about, it can be intimidating yet through the assistance of our bookkeeper, our Virtual Office Coordinator, and other willing past and present trustees. I have been able to review and familiarize myself with the basics and some detail of our financial position.

The year in review and final comments:

I've discovered our financials aren't complicated. We have revenue and expenses like any business that I'm familiar with. The fact that our revenue fluctuates fairly dramatically (book sales, 7th tradition donations, etc.) throughout the year and is difficult to accurately predict, causes challenges with cash flow. Many of our expenses are fixed (Insurance, resource/book storage, VOC) but some are driven by sales (printing expenses). We have a reasonably healthy cash reserve but when looking at the bigger picture, it is not necessarily all available for "growing the fellowship" as we might hope and as we discussed at our Annual Business Meeting this past August in Cape Cod.

What I have discovered is that because of the short periods of time each elected treasurer serves the fellowship in this role, there lacks a historic understanding of the details. There hasn't been a consistent thread; a critical eye that keeps things connected from one treasurer's term to the next. Annual budgets are not necessarily built on the year ahead as much as simply bringing forward the numbers used the previous year. I don't fault those who went before me. It simply stems from lack of knowledge by newly seated Boards. For instance, the VOC position was started at the end of our last fiscal year and only billed a few months. Through lack of knowledge and by default, the budget for this year simply reflected the costs spent last year. No one new to the board knew otherwise. This honest oversight created a challenge this year with that line item in the budget that will now be 300% over (roughly \$3,000 in unplanned expense). I had discovered other areas where we have budgets that aren't used at all. We owe it to the fellowship to manage its financial resources. We have enough history and talent to make the necessary changes so that, in particular, the budgeting process can be much more proactive and accurate.

It had become clear to me that one of my tasks this year was develop a guideline/document for future Chairs, Treasurers, bookkeepers, etc. To use and familiarize themselves with the history, logic and thought put behind each individual code of account (aka Budget Line Item). I believe this will be the

missing thread to create knowledge and continuity between boards. As a fellowship, we continue to grow and must be diligent in setting up the formal business practice necessary to properly manage it.

The action plan that was deployed and completed:

1. Continue with our thorough review of revenues & expenses from years past as well as our current fiscal year figures. (*)
2. Evaluating every line item of the budget to understand how and why the numbers are what they have been but more importantly, if it fits the need of the organization as it exists today and if so, put a solid budget together for the balance of the year.
3. Developing a new budget, more reflective of our plans, for our next fiscal year (which begins July 1st, 2015). We did meet this objective and had our budget prepared for the upcoming fiscal year for board review and discussion.
4. Competitively bidding out several of our consultant services agreements and other reoccurring expenses that may have opportunities for cost reductions.
5. Have a clear projection for this fiscal year by February 15th, 2015 and corresponding recommendations (expense management, revenue generation needs, available cash for special projects, etc.) based on this projection.
6. Establishing the criteria that will drive our "prudent reserve", three months or approximately \$15,000 was put into a plan that will be held.
7. Evaluate our "savings" and report out what appears to be available after the prudent reserve has been met.
8. In future hand in hand newsletters, my suggestion to the board is the monthly treasurer report is included for transparency to the RCA fellowship.
9. The current board isn't having any the expenses paid for 2014 UK ABM, and did not travel to 2015 Santa Clarita, CA site.

Based on the year end results, our budget still runs at a \$1,000.00 per month deficit. Expenses, both fixed and variable have been cut as low as possible and still allow WSO-RCA perform and operate as an organization. What we have no control over is how much revenue comes into WSO. As mentioned earlier, cash flow is very up and down, with most revenue generated in Q4. If seventh tradition contributions, both from group and individual were more consistent, this would help achieve a better cash flow. Also, if each of our 140 + groups sent in \$10.00 per month, our deficit would go away overnight.

To increase individual contributions, an idea is use current web site and add a donation tab on RCA home page somewhere near the navigation toolbar, also add a donation option at the store check out. I invite all the groups to consider being more consistent with contributions and please consider sending in \$10.00 per month if your group has the resources available to do that. You'll find the actual fiscal year budget for WSO-RCA attached and made available to the RCA fellowship for transparency.

Dixie and I have had the privilege this year to spend many hours, and I do mean many hours with a fantastic group of trustees who have been great to grow with on this journey. Everyone on this board has worked very hard as board members serving the RCA fellowship. Dixie and I learned so much and serving has been, simply said, a blessing and a way for us to serve God and our fellows in RCA.

Your Treasurer in Service –
David irw Dixie

WSO Contractors

Communication Services Provider

The position of RCA-WSO Communications Service Provider was established in February 2009 and has functioned with the direction and support of the RCA Board and its committees and members of RCA. The position entails working with Meetings Coordinator, Merchandise Services Contractor, the Web Site Team, the Technology Committee, Virtual Office Coordinator and the POWWEB E-mail services. The position now directly interfaces with POWWEB when an issue with POWWEB services is encountered. This central position is responsible for responding to E-mail and phone inquiries; it submits articles to the Hand in Hand and attends the monthly Board meetings. The chairperson provides guidance and knowledge of WSO's various RCA changes and processes. The RCA-WSO Communications Service Provider provides monthly, quarterly and annual reports for all its activities which are outlined in its annual contract.

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. My attendance at the monthly Board meeting has been helpful in keeping current with changes to our web site and other activities and issues.

From July through June, **72 E-mails and 178 phone calls were handled in 143.5 hours**, averaging less than 12 hours per month. Last year, the totals were **81 E-mail and 192 phone calls requiring 160.5 hours**. Most inquiries sought information on the program, finding and starting a meeting and ordering literature, also a few counselors have made inquiries. Others requested assistance with the RCA web site, registering on our web site, updating meeting information, couple support, RCA web troubles, 7th tradition donations, baby sitting and a researcher. In addition, members reported web site difficulties. There were no insignificant inquires.

Yours truly,
Robert P Petitti
Joyful Communications

Merchandise Services Provider

The primary purpose of Merchandise Services is to carry RCA's message via literature sales and distribution. Selling is worldwide, in English-language materials. New and revised services are regularly considered, with recommendations to the Board and implementation upon approval.

Thirty-four (34) Meeting Starter Packets were sent out during Fiscal Year 2013-14, compared to 29 in FY 2012-13 and 32 in FY 2011-12. The "Growing the Fellowship" Committee follows up with some Packet recipients, the better to learn of the effectiveness of this tool for carrying the RCA message.

Meeting Starter Packets were sent to: Kelowna, British Columbia; Dublin, Ireland; Jerusalem, Israel; King City and Toronto, Ontario; Little Rock, AR; Sacramento (2), San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, and Ventura, CA; Denver and Brighton, CO; Orlando and St. Augustine, FL; Boise, ID; Boston, MA; St. Louis, MO; Newfields, NH; New York and Forest Hills, NY; Bowling Green and Upper Sandusky, OH; Portland, OR; Arden, SC; Dallas (2) and Houston, TX; Spokane and La Center, WA; Eau Claire and Milwaukee, WI.

Via fulfillment of 1,800+ orders, **five-year literature sales have been about \$130,000.00**, providing WSO nearly \$60,000.00 in net gains after associated expenses.

Step Up To Love sales have increased to 25+ copies per month, along with Fourth Edition selling of 70+ per month.

“Welcome Newcomer Couple!” kits were the newest “hot seller” via the website’s online store, with an estimated 300+ kits ordered and shipped.

A similar packet “For The Professional” is now available for groups reaching out to local counselors and therapists. Also for use are RCA Contact Cards (like business cards) for coffee-shop notice boards, RCA newcomer couples, and the “Meeting After the Meeting” in our individual recovery fellowships.

Ronnie G. was assisted in providing **700+ addiction and trauma therapists** with information about RCA at a Cape Cod professional symposium. She had performed this service to carry RCA’s message the year before too.

Third Editions: groups were invited to request three (3) free copies (and with free shipping) for their local distribution to addiction therapists, couples counselors, local bookstores, and group newcomer couples.

Merchandise Services also receives **Seventh Tradition contributions** -- at the Oakland, CA post office box and via Pay Pal. About 1/3rd of all 140 groups make a Seventh Tradition contribution. The vast majority of these contributing groups do so once a year.

Bob F.
Merchandise Services Provider

Virtual Office Coordinator

This year was a year to organize and digitize our RCA records, files and history. The paper files from the old brick and mortar office of RCA were scanned to create permanent records that can be easily saved and reviewed. The next phase of this work will be the organization to gather data from past meetings and fellowship decisions, votes and business to be on hand for upcoming Boards to review and use.

The website, as of this report, is in the process of a technical upgrade to keep the software current and safe. All meetings – local, virtual and phone - are now set up to be self supporting for updates and changes, as is the connection section. There is a hope that couples looking for sponsorship will be able to connect to those willing to be sponsors in a safe and easy manner. The connections section also allows groups to find people willing to be speakers here.

The special ballot for 2014 was distributed to the fellowship. The notice for the annual meeting, the information on the convention and the Board minutes and reports have all been made available on the website. It has been difficult to get our current RCA committees to use the technology and resources available, but the hope is that there will be a shift in that direction in the coming year.

The VOC has also been the liaison between the Board and the 2014 Convention Committee, to ensure that the Annual Business Meeting has the connectivity to allow participants around the world to be a part of the meeting in London. The WSO has also taken on the task of recording the workshops to move the expense of professional recordings from the convention committee, and to ensure that the recovery and experience, strength and hope shared there is not lost for future generations of recovering couples.

It has been a pleasure working with the Board of Trustees and I would like to thank those who have served this year. The year ahead promises to be an exciting one filled with recovery and fellowship.

Yours in Service,
Ruth B. (irw Debbie V.)
Virtual Office Coordinator

Committees

(In alphabetical Order)

Ethics Committee

The four current members of the Ethics Committee came together for the first time at the end of March 2014. Previous members had resigned from the committee for various personal reasons over the preceding months. A few pending ethics concerns had been received from members, so a few of us volunteered to join the committee to help out.

Since March the Ethics Committee has made inquiries into a few different concerns brought forward by members. In each case so far it has been the determination of our committee that there has been no violation of ethics involved. Most of the concerns we have looked into revolve around communication issues. Sometimes differences in personalities and worldviews make it difficult for people to understand each other. Often delayed responses to questions from other RCA members or committees can be perceived as avoiding the addressing of RCA business, when in fact it could just be the result of someone's overloaded schedule. We would encourage all members in RCA service to try to respond to all inquiries in as timely a manner as possible to help avoid such miscommunications in the future.

The Ethics Committee currently has one additional member concern we are looking into at this time.

Respectfully,
RCA Ethics Committee
Richard P. – Chair
Kate D. – Recording Secretary
Tami H.
Matt H.

Growing the Fellowship Committee

The GTF committee is once again active after a 9 month hiatus.

The committee created a list of objectives and goals for the GTF.

1. Increase awareness through the professional community.
2. Increase awareness with other 12 Step programs.
3. Support couples who want to start a new meeting.
4. Increase the number of new RCA groups in US, Canada, and other countries.
5. Create a list of ideas of how to retain new couples (e.g. Step Study focus; plan a fun activity each month; follow up with couples; retreats).

Ideas implemented to increase awareness to the professional community included:

- Sending a letter to addiction and marriage therapists/counselors (locally, nationally, and internationally), about RCA. Resources include on-line sources; the yellow pages; local health services; International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals (IITAP). IITAP has an available directory of members on their website which local groups can use. These professionals could request free RCA Outreach pamphlets, and free copies of the 3rd Edition Blue Book.
- Drop off contact cards at therapists' offices.

Ideas implemented to increase awareness with other 12 Step programs included:

- Putting RCA Flyers on bulletin boards at 12 Step meeting locations.
- Checking with speaker tapers at conventions and workshops about putting RCA CDs and literature at their table.
- Having one-on-one discussion outside of meetings with members of their individual recovery programs, about RCA.

To help support couples who are wanting to start a new RCA meeting, GTF is asking for volunteers to follow-up with Meeting Starter Packet recipients.

Ideas implemented to increase number of RCA groups included:

- The committee worked on a guideline about suggested ways that each member in RCA can help with GTF. The guideline was published in the *Hand in Hand Winter 2014* Edition.
- The electronic face of RCA is the RCA website. The committee discussed ways to increase GTF exposure on the website.
- The website has discussion boards which include one dedicated to GTF. It has been pointed out that more participation is needed to monitor these discussion boards, particularly if questions need to be answered.
- A motion to make available RCA business cards with the RCA Website and Contact information to all RCA members, was passed. These cards are available from the RCA On-line Store for a cost of \$3.00/50.
- The committee is currently working on revising the description of the GTF Committee on the RCA website. The key roles of the GTF Committee are:
 1. Respond to inquiries from professionals who want to learn more about RCA.
 2. Provide support to existing RCA groups who want to grow their fellowship.
 3. Support couples who want to start a new RCA meeting.
 4. Respond to media questions or interview requests.
 5. Reach out to the public about RCA (this is an addition).

Other GTF opportunities this year included:

- Putting RCA literature on a table at the Wellness Walk Resource Fair during the National Addiction Awareness Week in Canada.

- A Christian Marriage Retreat Cruise (Adults Only) in February 2014.

Upcoming possible GTF projects:

- Some committee members will see about having RCA information available at Sober Town in Atlanta, GA July 2015 in conjunction with the 2015 AA International Convention.
- A committee member made an inventory of where RCA meetings are currently present. Could the meetings be grouped into areas or regions? Could this present a way to distribute information from WSO to individual meetings more expediently?
- Formalize duties of GTF Committee versus Outreach Committee. Should we overlap duties? Should GTF be the starting point for new meetings?

Thank you to the committee members active this year:

Tracy W.; Tim W.; Annie C.; Russ C.; Tami H.; Matt H.; Linda K.; Jim K.; Mark R.

Hand in Hand Committee

The “Hand in Hand” has been around for many years, in many forms. It is currently published quarterly in electronic form. Past publications can be found on the website, where you will find a variety of historical information about RCA, and stories from couples just like you. This is a great place to find topics for meetings, or the latest convention and retreat information. Our Seventh Tradition donations are reported here also.

The Hand in Hand Committee is presently looking for volunteers. All the articles are written by RCA members. They are sent to the committee for review by our editors, and then formatted into the “Hand in Hand” each quarter. We are presently looking for someone to take over the formatting responsibilities. We would also welcome anyone who is interested in helping with the editing of the articles. Both these positions require some computer abilities. The editors review the submitted articles for grammar, spelling, minor editing for flow and comprehension, and adherence to the 12 Steps and Traditions. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at the email below.

We are always looking for RCA members who are willing to write articles or just give us feedback. No experience is necessary. Please consider printing out the “Hand in Hand” and sharing it with your group. Articles or feedback can be sent to articles@recovering-couples.org.

Vicki R. Chair, Hand in Hand Committee

Literature Committee

During the 2013-2014 RCA-WSO Board year, the four members of the Literature Committee have worked very hard meeting twice monthly to revise/edit a Contracts or Agreement Workbook.

This workbook provides:

- an introduction and history of these agreements.
- the Safety Guidelines
- Characteristics of Functional and Dysfunctional Couples
- Symptoms of Spiritual Divorce
- instructions on how to create an agreement
- worksheets

- various topics you might explore as you choose to create your agreement and some ideas of how to go about that process
- examples of contracts or agreements

We plan on sending a draft copy of this workbook to the Board very soon. It has taken us since September meeting regularly to edit the author's work and create new wording in some sections as well as creating some new agreements. We consistently invited the Vice Chair to meet with us without success. Our committee thinks that this workbook will be well received by the fellowship and that it will hopefully be financially helpful to the organization.

There are several directions/goals that the Committee can take next year such as, finalizing the Agreements workbook, revisiting the pamphlets that may need revisions, working closely with the Reflections/One Day At a Time Committee to see how we can assist them, and possibly editing a Sexuality Workbook if that author is ready to proceed. We hope to have a working relationship with the Board regarding any future goal.

Regards,
 Kate M. Chair of Literature
 Vicki R. Secretary
 Mary Monica L.
 Karl S.

Outreach Committee

This has been a productive year for Outreach Committee starting in April 2014 after we learned of the former Chair's resignation. We soon reconvened on April 27, 2014 with fourteen members. Assignments were made at that time so that the world-wide RCA groups were covered by Outreach members. Gerrie P. and Kathleen H. were voted in as co-chairs for the Outreach Committee. Here are the members of our committee: Gopal in AR, Linda & Jim in VA, Dan in MD, Sunny in VA, Kathy in MN, Vickie in MI, Joe in CA, Pamela in TX, Kelly in Canada, Kathleen in CA and Gerrie in Canada. We thank the committee members for the hard work they have given to contact RCA groups worldwide.

The Committee developed a sample letter to the Group Contact Couples addressing the RCA convention in London and the Special by-mail ballot. Each of the Committee members sent emails to each group in their region and followed up with several phone calls for the support of the groups. We continued to assess the needs of the groups we spoke to in person or by email.

Since then we have met monthly to create effective coverage worldwide and to work toward a list of active RCA groups. In between meetings, committee work has been completed through emails. Each Committee member has received minutes from the previous meeting.

Here are a few more highlights of our work together:

- Further creation of the mission statement of RCA Outreach Committee work.
- Discussion of how each RCA Group can find sponsors at the RCA website.
- Outreach working with Meeting Registrars, Elise and Wendy, to update the current list of Group Contact Couples on the meeting directory at the RCA web site.
- Gerrie P. working directly with the London and the European groups to let them know of the Annual Business meeting and to ask for other needs of the convention committee. In the U.S., we have continued to let groups know of the Annual Business Meeting and ways to participate via delegate, proxy or video.

- Outreach Committee agreed to follow through on the task of the Silent Auction at the convention in London to ensure more participation from groups world-wide and provide fund raising for WSO. The convention Committee in London was pleased with this support.
- Gerrie P. created a Silent Auction poster with suggestions of possible items to be sent to each group
- The Delegate Designation forms were sent out to each group.
- We made plans at the last meeting, July 13, 2014 for sending out the RCA Annual Business Meeting Ballot when it arrives; preparing to get the information out to the groups as we have done with the Special Ballot.

Mission Statement for Outreach Committee:

- Connects with the groups by email and phone
- Page 2—Outreach Committee Report for RCA 2014
- Has a pulse on the RCA groups. . . .
- Provides RCA groups with information so groups can make an informed group
- Conscience on RCA literature, business topics or any other RCA matters
- Invites RCA groups to have their say in RCA matters
- Informs the fellowship about the annual convention, the newsletter, etc.

Kathleen H. and Gerrie P.-- Co-chairs of Outreach

Structure Committee

This has been an especially busy year for the Structure Committee. Since September 2013, the committee has met monthly throughout the current Board year, except for November 2013. Much of the committee's work has been completed by the exchange of e-mails. Here are some of the highlights.

- As in previous Annual Business Meetings (ABM), members of the Structure Committee were the Credentialing Committee and one member was the Parliamentarian at the 2013 ABM.
- In early September 2013, we welcomed two new members to the committee after the 2013 Convention and elected a chairman and secretary.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal "to amend the Bylaws requirement that Board members be physically present at the Annual Business Meeting, allowing participation by electronic means." While the committee concluded there is no need for an amendment to the bylaws, the Structure Committee prepared the notice and special by mail ballot which contained the proposed addition to the Bylaws. On September 12, 2013, the committee reported its recommendation to the Board.
- As approved at the August 2013 Annual Business Meeting in Cape Cod by Motion 3B, the Structure Committee sought comments from the member groups on the RCA Twelve Concepts of Service that had been approved under motion 3A.
 - A message to the Fellowship was sent out on September 6, 2013, along with a notice, background information, and an optional form for submitting comments, which were due by December 8, 2013. This information was also posted on the website.
 - Those comments submitted were evaluated by the Structure and Literature committees. As a result of this evaluation and following the procedure defined in Motion 3B, the committees sent proposed revisions to the wording of the Concepts to the Board of Trustees for comment.
 - On February 18, 2014, the committee recommended that the Board include the proposed changes to the Concepts on a Special By-Mail Ballot rather than on the by-mail ballot for the 2014 ABM. The Board approved this recommendation.

- The committee submitted the information for the notice and the special by-mail ballot to the Board in early April 2014. The results of this process were submitted to the fellowship for consideration via the Special By-Mail ballot.
- A notice of the 150-day deadline of March 25, 2014, for the submission of proposals for the 2014 ABM was prepared by the committee and submitted for posting on January 21, 2014.
- The Delegate-Couple Designation Form for the 2014 ABM and instructional information were prepared and posted on the website on February 22, 2014.
- In March of 2014 the chairman requested someone else fill the role. Scott L volunteered to serve in that capacity until our next regular election meeting. The past chairman has remained a valuable member of the committee.
- To meet the bylaw's 90-day deadline for by-mail balloting for the 2014 ABM, the committee submitted a draft of an Initial Notice of Topics to the Board for its approval and posting on May 14, 2014.
- We recently completed our edits and provided our portion of the final notice of 2014 ABM topics to the Board of Trustees for their review on June 26, 2014. On July 10, 2014, the committee submitted a draft of the Ballot for the 2014 ABM to the Board.

Scott L., Chair, Structure Committee

Service Positions

RCA Meeting Coordinator

At last year's convention in Cape Cod, Wendy W. signed up for service in this position. She is now up to speed and learning the same new tricks we all have to learn. We can be grateful that this service now has two service people.

A lot has happened technologically this past year and we are currently experiencing growing pains with our site upgrade. If you are having problems with your meeting posting, be patient and persistent with us and we **will** get there.....just like personal growth in recovery.

Highlights:

- New registrations 175 (for the RCA Couples Connection Section)
- Meetings added 17
- Meetings disbanded 13

New registrations are way up from the 88 of last fiscal year. In the coming year I would like to see support from the Board and the fellowship to make new couples' and new meetings' experience of RCA and our website meaningful and useful. When we are new to a program we need lots of support and community to help us get on our newly discovered and recovered feet.

In grateful service,
 Wendy W. and Elise W.
 RCA Meeting Coordinators
meetings@recovering-couples.org

RCA Upcoming Conventions

2014 London, England Convention

The final preparations for the RCA 2014 convention are under way, with over 46 couples coming from the Americas and Europe. The theme is 'The Nature of Love' and seeks to explore the connection between nature and spirituality. Set in a Queen Anne style historic building in 26 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens, the setting is quintessentially English and the perfect backdrop for the convention. The agenda includes Topics, General Sharing and Using the Tools of RCA. The content is varied and covers many of the key trigger areas that challenge our coupleships as we learn to live in healthier relationships. Coupled with much opportunity for conversation and a socialising we are hopeful of memorable event.

2015 California Convention

Placerita Canyon in Santa Clarita was the site of California's First Gold Rush (1842). According to legend, Francisco Lopez fell asleep in the shade of a California Live Oak. There, he dreamed of finding gold. Later that afternoon, he discovered gold nuggets deposited in the nearby creek bed.

Lopez's "Oak of the Golden Dream" still stands in present-day Santa Clarita, site of RCA's 2015 Convention. Join us from July 31 to August 2, 2015 as we recover the golden dream of committed, caring, communicative coupleship.

Visit the convention Web site at <http://tinyurl.com/rca2015>

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted on behalf of:
The WSO Board of Trustees for the service year of 2013 – 2014.

2013 – 2014 Board of Trustees

Chair: Liz & Mike

Vice-Chair: Michael & Rachel

Treasurer: David & Dixie

Secretary: Al & Sandra

Jennifer & Buddy

Tim irw Tracy

* Corrected numbering after printing – page on 5 on 8/18/14