

XXI CONFERENCE REPORT – KATHY K. CHAIR EMERITUS

My name is Kathy and I am a recovering nicotine addict. Another wonderful conference has passed. I have just returned from the *Service, Unity, Fellowship* World Services Conference in Lisle, Illinois. The weekend of April 28th – 30th, 2006 was filled with business issues, fellowship, recovery and meetings. Thanks to all the work of the Chicago intergroup, we enjoyed the many comforts provided by the Marriott Hickory Ridge Hotel in Lisle, Illinois.

This was a history making conference with the development of new criteria in planning the conference. The rate per night included all meals, daily snacks, non-alcoholic beverages and use of hotel amenities. This was done in hopes of limiting the costs for the conference attendees.

We had a total of 61 registrants of which 54 attended the conference and 35 delegates in attendance. The delegate number includes the World Services officers. As always the weekend was composed of business meetings, hard work and voting on important issues to Nicotine Anonymous.

In adhering to the tradition, the weekend began with the Friday night gratitude meeting. Jennifer M. started the meeting by sharing her strength, hope and experience in her recovery from nicotine addiction.

Saturday began the official conference business, which included meetings, workshops and more meetings.

Included in the official business the delegate's first task was to vote in John N. as secretary of World Services. This was followed by the coordinators reports from all the trusted servants who do and have done so much work behind the scenes. Below is a recap of there report.

Treasurers Report: Steve M. presented this report for Annette A. who could not attend the conference. The overall report concluded that Nicotine Anonymous is in good financial shape. Within the last year our revenue increased by \$12,000.00, of which \$6,000.00 was the result of an increase in literature sales.

Outreach Report: Judi D. included in her report the confirmation of an additional outreach project approval for a group in Alabama. She also report that the New York Intergroup started an outreach effort to distribute literature to local agencies. Judi and Martha K. presented a workshop on the proposed 'Outreach Booklet' for Nicotine Anonymous. The attendees of the workshop gave some helpful suggestions for improving the workbook. I hope it will bought back to the delegates at next year's conference.

Meeting List Coordinator's Report: Joe S. took over the function of maintaining the World Wide Meeting List. Joe reported that since the January Group Mailing we have received updates and meeting confirmations from 223 meetings. Joe offered his different perspective on maintaining the WWML which includes cleaning up all the extraneous material in the meeting list database. His hope is to reduce the information in the data fields and therefore making maintenance and printing the meeting list easier.

Seven Minutes Report: Susan K, the Seven Minutes Editor was not able to attend the conference but she reported she felt the publication of Seven Minutes had experienced a lot of growth within the last year. Susan is always looking for submissions from people with a lot of years in Nicotine Anonymous. The 'Letters to the Editor' has been pulled because of some ongoing controversy. She has asked and printed in Seven Minutes that sharing include your own strength, hope and experience without profanity. As always the editors of Seven Minutes reserve the right to edit any articles submitted.

Webservant Report: Robin L. mentioned since last years Conference the webhost and webmaster has changed. The new webhost and webmaster is now Wyckedstudios, Dave Blohm. Robin asked if there were any suggestion for new webmasters in case of medical issues Dave could not complete his duties with Nicotine Anonymous.

Over the last year, there have been many changes to the website and these are the highlights:

Publications

Farsi and Hungarian have been added to the Publications
Additional publications have been translated into Spanish and German.
A disclaimer has been created and added to the website.

Home page

Added scroll bar to What's New on home page.
Added disclaimer.

Archive

Added Bylaws and Conference guidelines

Outreach

Posted modified outreach procedures and forms including an Excel version that can be filled on and emailed.

Meetings

Modified the meetings page to include 'Additional Info' and 'Group ID' to help both the user locate meetings-and help Joe, the meeting list coordinator.
Requested a zip code field to help in the meeting search.

Back End Management

There have been many changes to the back end of the website. The changes have given greater control to the back end users who maintain the website and have provided the officers with a document manager to post and store documents related to World Service's business.

Meditations Coordinator Report: Kate W. Delegates approved meditation submissions and decided on the name of A Year of Miracles for the first book of meditations. I am sure Kate has more to say on this in her report.

Email Coordinator's Report: Alan K. submitted his report. The emails run about 250 for a quarter. He also requested the need additional email servants for Thursday and Sunday. The only requirement for service is having at least have 3 months abstinences, attend meetings, and be familiar with email and light computer use.

Traditions Committee Report John N. reported the Traditions Committee has responded to many issues which include nicotine replacement therapy, chips, Google issues, unofficialnicanon, anonymity (last names), radio and media presentations, unofficial literature and such. He reported the Traditions Committee responded in a timely matter and in a spirit of carrying the message of hope to those who suffer from nicotine addiction. Included in his report, he mentioned the changing technology and commercial interests are and will be becoming a challenge for Nicotine Anonymous keep its focus on the 12 traditions. He thanked the fellowship for its service and requested a new traditions chair for the upcoming year.

Teleservice Report: Keith M. reported the N. California hotline receives eight calls a week as well as sending out literature to caller as requested. He reports the need for more teleservants to answer calls in other areas of the United States.

Mass Mailing Report: Gary M. reported he has focused his mailings to smoking cessations programs, hospitals and V.A. hospitals in Delaware and South Carolina. He hopes in the future to do a mass mailing to states that have one or two meetings such as Hawaii, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Literature Coordinators Report: Checko M. presented his report and reviewed the pieces of literature that will be put before the delegates. These included the 12 Traditions, the revised Questionnaire for The Book, The Nicotine Users View of the 12 Steps, and the creation of Nicotine Anonymous' version of the 7th step prayer. He also asked if the board would consider making available in print and sale the various foreign language pamphlets that are on the internet.

Email Pen Pals Report: The position of coordinator needs to be filled.

Paper Penpal Report: Pat L. continues as coordinator of Paper Penpal and we continue to receive requests from those in need of a penpal.

Archives: Jan F. and Jean L-S have volunteered to assist Kent B. in doing this service in the future.

2006 Conference Report: Jennifer M. and the Chicagoland Intergroup hosted the 2006 World Services Conference. They did a terrific job! We do not have a final report but it appears they were successful in staying on budget.

2007 Conference Report: Catherine C. reported that the Inn Marin in Novato, California has been procured for the 2007 Conference. The Inn Marin is easily reached from both the San Francisco and Oakland airports. The Inn is family owned and located by Highway 101 for easy access. The location of the hotel is accessible but the rooms are located in the rear of the hotel and are not near the noise from the highway. The Marin has a large meeting room with windows and a view of the outdoors. Located at the hotel is a swimming pool and a restaurant with other restaurants located within the surrounding area. The hotel has guaranteed the conference price for three days before and after the conference. This would help Nicotine Anonymous in reaching its per night stay and therefore avoiding additional expenses. There are several after conference activities that are being explored. One suggestion is a boat ride to Sausalito which would include going under the Golden Gate Bridge. Visitors would be able to wander the streets of Sausalito and explore the various shops. Another possible activity would be to visit Mt Tam or Muir Woods. The issue that would need to be addressed if these two were to be considered would be transportation.

An initial conference flier is out and Catherine is accepting the registration fee for anyone who wants to go.

Fulfillment Report: Joe S. reported Nicotine Anonymous has purchased the domain extensions .us, .tv, .info, .biz, .net, .com. If anyone types Nicotine –Anonymous with any of these extension it will be forwarded to the Nicotine Anonymous website.

Nicotine Anonymous has a grant for a PSA with Google, which has been an outstanding success. If Google is used as a search engine and the user inputs for example ‘quit smoking’ it goes to a page showing the Nicotine Anonymous PSA and the user can choose to click onto the Nicotine Anonymous website. There have been 1,700,000 viewers of the PSA and 40,000 who have clicked onto the Nicotine Anonymous website. He also reported The Book is available on Amazon for sale and can be offered for sale on Ebay. Scott J. volunteered to explore promoting the book on Amazon in order to increase sales. Joe reported overall the last year was an outstanding year.

Saturday afternoon was filled with six workshops. After the workshops the leaders presented to the delegates the suggestions made during the workshops. The presenters of the workshops were:

Literature workshop I & II –

Questionnaire & The NicA View of the 12 Steps – John O, Checko M.

The 12 traditions – John O, Checko M

Outreach Booklet – Judi D., Martha K.

Bylaws – Jean L-S, Jan F.

Book of Daily Meditations - Kate W., Catherine C.

Spirituality and the 7th step prayer – John N., Ladd J.

Saturday night we welcomed our speaker Gerhardt from Germany and Catherine C. from California. Both Catherine and Gerhardt were wonderful speakers who spoke from the heart and shared their strength, hope and experience in such a beautiful way.

Sunday morning started with officer nominations, discussion of the materials presented at the workshops and voting. The delegates approved the expanded version of the 12 Traditions. Also approved were the revised “Nicotine User’s View of the Twelve Step” well as the revised Questionnaire for The Book. It was determined The Outreach Booklet and the suggested version of the 7th step prayer needed additional work and hopefully will be at the next conference.

The delegates were presented with the Bylaws Amendment which would allow officers to remove an officer if necessary. This was not passed by the delegates. The hope is to continue to work on improving this version and presenting it at the Conference in 2007.

After the final nominations of officers were made, the delegates voted into office, Dan P., chairperson elect, Willy S., treasurer elect, and Ardith A., secretary elect. We also welcomed Ed T. on the board as an officer at large for the term of one year. Ed T. had been voted in as an officer at large at the 2005 conference. We welcome all our new officers to the board and I wish them a successful three year term of office. The board said good bye to Jean L-S, chair emeritus, Lenna M., Secretary emeritus, Bill P., treasurer emeritus and Jan F. officer at large.

The Sunday spirituality speaker was Liz K from Illinois who ended the conference on a positive note. As always, a speaker who shared her strength, hope and experience in such a beautiful way.

One very important issue as chair that I had not considered was the New York Metropolitan Intergroup possibility being host to the 2008 Conference. This is the intergroup I have attended and chaired. So I hope to see you in New York in 2008.

This is my final article for Seven Minutes as Chair. I can only say that it has been an experience I probably would not had in my life if it were not for Nicotine Anonymous. I do have a great deal of gratitude for this program and all that I have learned in this program. I believe this is a fellowship unlike any other fellowship. It may be small in numbers but its accomplishments are enormous. It has been an honor to serve as your chairperson. I only hope that I gave to Nicotine Anonymous this year somewhere close to what I have gotten out of this program. It is a service experience I will never forget.

There have been so many people who have done this service before me and I hope many more will do it after me. I must thank all who have supported my service with kind words, positive input and a sincere belief in my ability to be chair. I wasn't always sure. Thanks Jean S-L for all your help and input and your attention to detail. Thanks for your support and your dedication to this fellowship. Thanks Jan F., Bill P., Lenna M., Ed T. for stepping up and serving on the World Services board once again. I can't say enough for those who give their service so freely. Thanks to all who are serving on the board now and those who served but could not complete their terms in office. I have to thank Joe S., our Fulfillment officer for all his knowledge, his endless service and his valuable input throughout the years.

I wish the new chair, Kate W. much success and I offer my support to all the new officers coming onto the board this year. This is a wonderful fellowship and I thank you for letting me be such an important part of it. I hope to see you all in California in 2007.

In service,

Kathy K.
Chair Emeritus