

Report on the CoDA Service Conference (CSC)
July 10 – 13, 2012
Asheville, North Carolina

I had the honour of attending the CoDA Service Conference in Asheville, North Carolina as a delegate from CDRS. Three other delegates attended from Canada - Deborah R. (Calgary) and Luc B. (Sudbury) from CoDA Canada, and Patrick L (Montreal) as a delegate from DAA, representing the French language meetings in Quebec. In all, 40 delegates, and as many alternates and observers, represented many of the states in the USA, as well as from Germany, Israel, the United Kingdom and Mexico.

Tuesday, July 10

The conference opened with a delegate count and introductions. The Board of Trustees reported on the activities of the Board in the last year. The chairperson, Evie, reported that the Board had a very good year establishing good rapport and open communication. The Board has approved and begun implementation of three new international Voting Entity (VE) agreements dealing with translation, publications, and website contracts. Evie reported on one very difficult issue: the Board took action on two disputes forwarded from the Issues and Mediation Committee (IMC) because one side in each of the disputes refused mediation, and this resulted in three previous Board trustees being barred from world service for 1-2 years. The Board goals for the coming year include: to complete updating of the policies and procedures, to simplify the VE publishing agreements wherever possible, and to improve the CoDA website. The CDRS application for VE status is postponed until the Ad Hoc Task Force work is complete and the structure of CoDA has been reviewed.

The Ad Hoc Task Force report took place after lunch. This Task Force was created by the 2011 CSC in order to find ways to help bring unity to the fellowship and to bridge the relationship with the Board and committees. The Ad Hoc Task Force is proposing some possible changes to the service structure and is recommending the creation of a standing International Committee made up of representatives from countries outside of the U.S. After much discussion the CSC recommended that the Ad Hoc Task Force continue their work for another year, and three additional members were elected to replace committee members who have resigned in the past year. I will sit as an alternate on this committee, ready to participate if another vacancy should occur.

Wednesday, July 11

CoRE is the publishing arm of CoDA and has a separate Board of directors. CoRE reported that an electronic CoDA Blue Book is now available for Kindle at Amazon.com for \$7.99. The publication "In This Moment" will be added in

electronic version soon. The next step will be to program for all devices including I-phone and Kobo readers in Canada.

The Issues and Mediation Committee (IMC) brought forward a motion to change and update the section of the Fellowship Service Manual (FSM) dealing with the Voting Entity (VE) structure. Presently, each U.S. state may have two VE's and each country may have two VE's. These VE's make up the voting delegates at the CoDA Service Conference each year. A motion was passed unanimously to change the wording to say, "A Voting Entity may choose to divide into two or more VE's along geographical, political, language and cultural boundaries or areas." This is such good news for Canada. Canada previously applied for splitting into 2 VE's along languages of French and English. This change will now allow Canada to apply for more VE's along provincial or municipal lines if this should be something we wish to do in the future.

The CoDA Literature committee is working on a new publication called "Reparenting Our Inner Child".

Thursday, July 12

The day held a wonderful fun-filled morning with the international reports. The Canadian delegates were well prepared, draped in fun hats and Canada flags. We had prepared a map on the overhead showing the location of meetings across Canada. Luc and Deborah gave a report on the beginnings of CoDA Canada. I spoke about the work of CDRS for the last 12 years in printing and distributing literature across Canada, as well as the website and meeting lists we keep. Patrick talked about the history of DAA in Quebec, which celebrates their 25th anniversary this year. One person was heard to remark that the Canadians are always so much fun!

In the evening, I met with Evie and Lisa from the CoDA Board of Trustees to sign the CDRS Contract to renew our Printing and Distribution agreement. I presented CoDA with a cheque for \$500, which represents our royalties and 7th tradition donation. I am delighted to report that our contributions to CoDA service are appreciated by the fellowship and the Board is pleased with our willingness to continue to print and distribute CoDA literature in Canada.

Friday, July 13

Friday is a time to wrap up any unfinished business and to discuss directions for the fellowship in the coming year. A new Outreach Task Force was created that will design and implement a plan to create a pro-active Outreach program, to pilot a project, and report to CSC in 2013. Up until this time, Outreach has consisted mostly of members answering queries and phone calls from people interested in CoDA and has not had an outward focus to spread the word about the CoDA program.

Thanks to CDRS for sending me to the CoDA conference. It is a week filled with long days and evenings of business meetings and heartwarming fellowship. It's wonderful to see old friends and make new friends, and to see the commitment at the world level to the healing of our program. It is so important that we attend as representatives from CDRS and Canada to spread the word about the good work we are doing here in Canada and to build connections and relationships to the family of CoDA.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne B.
CDRS director