

## Conference XXVIII 2013 Long Beach CA

### Chair's Report

I welcome each of you to our 28<sup>th</sup> annual NicA WSO conference. Whether you are in attendance as a voting delegate or as a member or friend of a member of this fellowship, we look forward to your participation and input in our conference. Each year we meet in order to decide in what direction our NicA fellowship is to focus in the coming year. We will be asking the fellowship for guidance again this year.

#### **Literature**

In the past year two new conference approved pieces of literature have come to fruition. They are available on the literature table for purchase or can be ordered through our website store. Literature is created by members of our fellowship. Anyone can create a new piece of literature. If you have an idea, please let someone on the Board know. Or contact the literature coordinator whose email address is listed on our website by clicking on contact us.

- The first piece of literature is the Newcomers Booklet, which has been in the making for more than 13 years. A special thanks to Checko, Ed ???and all the others who continued to edit, proofread, reedit and keep this piece of literature alive until it became a reality this year. The Board voted to keep the cost at a minimum of \$4.00 so that newcomers could afford to purchase this wonderful pocket size booklet that contains pertinent information about gaining freedom from nicotine. Some meetings are currently giving the book to newcomers as a gift to help them begin their road to recovery.
- The second piece of literature is a CD entitled *Voices of NicA – Inspirational Thoughts & Affirmations* that was originally created by the Ohio Group in 2009. At the 2011 conference, a workshop was held and delegates approved this new CD with the stipulation that the background music be made original to avoid copyright infringement. This past year, members of the Ohio Group removed the music and recorded original music in its stead. A special thanks to Elizabeth, Jules, Jimmy and all the others of the Ohio group for all their work and their original vision to see the need to have a recovery CD about gaining freedom from nicotine.
- At this year's conference, we have three different workshops that will focus on new pieces of literature. During the first session, there will be a writing workshop for people who use other forms of nicotine replacement. During the second session, there are two literature workshops, one looking at a 12 step study workbook, and the other workshop addresses spirituality writing to create a new pamphlet. We hope that you will attend one or more of these workshops that interest you.

#### **Website**

In the past year the Board dedicated considerable time working on upgrading the website. I would love to report that everything has been fixed. Some things relating to our website and wide world meeting list are working much better. It is with great disappointment and sadness that I report that there continue to be various problems with our website. The Board will need to continue to spend time and find solutions to this problem. If there is anyone in the fellowship interested in either assisting with that task or being part of a committee that will seek solutions, please talk to me or another Board member about this upcoming service opportunity.

#### **Committee Reports**

I created a report form that future chairs may want to use that enables coordinators of our various committees to communicate quarterly to the Board. The report form was created utilizing reporting criteria as stated in our Policy and Procedures Manual. The Board is now more aware of what each committee is doing, how many people are being served, and how the Board can further assist each committee. We still need to implement a pathway to enable the Board to better assist each committee with their goals and ideas.

#### **TwoWay Talk**

John R., a past Chair of our fellowship has had the idea for years to create a way to communicate to our members via a newsletter. Current Board members Gwynn A and Scott B have stepped up to that challenge and have created a bimonthly email newsletter for members who are interested and have signed up. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, there is a signup sheet at the literature table. You will need to opt-in in order to receive this newsletter.

### **Financial Issues**

You will soon hear from our current Treasurer, Gary M. that our finances need to improve as soon as possible. One of our workshops this afternoon in the first session is entitled Fundraising – Strengthening our Financial Stability will address this issue and set goals for the future. I hope that you will bring your ideas to this workshop.

### **Membership in the Fellowship**

Within the past year, our WWML has been updated by deleting many closed meetings. We have also been adding new meetings. It seems that our membership is shrinking, including attendance at our annual conferences. Everywhere we look, we continue to see people who are using nicotine so the need to help the still suffering nicotine addict continues to be very present. It is important that we reach out to these people so that they can find freedom from this powerful addiction. If you are interested in increasing our visibility please attend the Outreach workshop so that together we can create a more visible presence in our communities and in the world.

### **Service Positions Currently Available**

- Outreach Committee Coordinator
- Outreach Committee members
- Webservant
- Website Committee members
- Teleservice committee members
- By-Laws Coordinator

In closing, being willing to serve our fellowship on the World Services Board has definitely been a learning experience and has provided an avenue for spiritual growth. It may take years before I fully realize all the gifts I have received by serving on the Board. The biggest lesson for me has been that I am not wonder woman, no matter how hard I tried. I've learned that by creating expectations for myself that I had no control over really set me into a downward spiral. I've been given an opportunity to look at various character defects and how I can become easily overwhelmed and unable to be productive. I've learned how much I need this fellowship, not only to keep me nicotine free but to help me learn how to live life on life's terms.