



ComLine

Adult Children of Alcoholics
Experience, Strength & Hope

Volume 26, Number 9

August 2010

ACA Tradition Eight

Adult Children of Alcoholics should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

In the past, as we worked out our experience with the ACA Traditions, there were questions about ACA members working for Intergroups and other ACA service boards. Some Intergroups had offices to maintain, telephones to answer, office floors to clean, and literature to ship. In the beginning, ACA tried to use volunteers to handle these endless tasks, but volunteers can only be asked to do so much. Usually these duties would fall to a few volunteers who faithfully did this work for many years without pay. The fellowship benefited from their service work, which was done without thought of recognition or wages. They did their volunteer work for free and for the love of ACA.

A few special workers were hired to run ACA offices and answer telephones. Common sense revealed that they were not professionals benefiting from ACA's name and should be paid comparable wages for their work. Their office work helped ACA carry its message by helping adult children locate meetings or by putting an ACA member in touch with someone needing to talk. These special workers are often ACA members with fellowship knowledge that allows them to bring an insightful touch to ACA work.

...We know that sponsorship, Twelfth Step work, and special workers do not fall under the category of professionalism. Sponsorship and Twelfth Step work are free, but the special worker should be paid for his or her good work. All aspects of recovery in general are free. Donations to the meeting basket are voluntary.

Tradition Eight addresses a wide range of issues. The heart of the matter is that the demand for ACA meetings and ACA support is far greater than the number of groups and volunteers we have available to meet the demand. But our members meet that call each day, each week, and each month. We do all we can to make ACA available to the greatest number of people. We give our time and our own money because we believe in helping one another.

Excerpts from pages 529 and 530 of the ACA Fellowship Text

About ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholics is an anonymous Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program of women and men who grew up in an environment of addictiveness (alcohol or other substances) or in otherwise dysfunctional homes. Our willingness and resiliency bring us together.

We share our experience, strength, and hope to validate our experience as well as give some hope to the new member. We take positive action in our lives today. By practicing the Twelve Steps, focusing on "The Solution", and accepting a loving Higher Power of our own understanding, we find freedom from the past and a way to improve our lives.

For more information, please visit:
www.adultchildren.org

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ComLine is published thirteen times per year by ACA's World Service Organization (WSO). ComLine is intended as a communication line from WSO to the fellowship of ACA around the world, and as a forum for the fellowship to share their experience, strength, and hope in recovery. The opinions expressed are those of the individual writing the article and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ACA fellowship or WSO.

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ACA WSO, Inc., PO Box 3216, Torrance, CA 90510.

The Twelve Traditions of Adult Children of Alcoholics

“While the Twelve Steps address recovery for the individual, the Twelve Traditions promote group unity and stability. The Traditions guarantee that we will always have a meeting to attend and that the meeting will focus on recovery from the effects of family dysfunction.

The Traditions allow our groups and service structure to remain focused on the primary purpose of carrying the ACA message to the adult child who still suffers.”

From the ACA Fellowship Text, pg. 346

What is ACA WSO?

Adult Children of Alcoholics World Service Organization, Inc. is an organization of volunteer members elected to serve in the capacity of corporate trustees according to the laws of the State of California, U.S.A.

WSO provides a sense of common purpose, stability, and continuity for meetings, Intergroups, and Regions. By serving as a central point of group communication, the WSO encourages unity and similarity among ACA meetings. ACA WSO coordinates meeting information worldwide. It is one place where ACA groups and the general public can find information, literature, and locations of meetings.

The mission, the singleness of purpose, of WSO is to carry the message of recovery to all who suffer from being raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional environment.

Contacting Your ACA WSO

Have questions regarding:

Local Meetings...

New Meetings...

ACA Events...

ACA Literature...

Fellowship Text and Workbook orders...

Hospitals and Institutions support...

ACA Outreach...

or Public Information?

Just go to www.adultchildren.org, and select “Contact WSO” from the options menu. Comments and requests submitted by this web form will then be routed to the appropriate ACA WSO committee or board member for response.

You can also write to us at:

ACA WSO, PO Box 3216, Torrance, CA, 90510, USA
(Please do not send Express Mail)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Each 2010 edition of the ComLine will feature one of the ACA Traditions:

January

Tradition One- Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on ACA unity.

February

Tradition Two- For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority— a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

March

Tradition Three- The only requirement for membership in ACA is a desire to recover from the effects of growing up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family.

April

Tradition Four- Each group is autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or ACA as a whole. We cooperate with all other Twelve Step programs.

May

Tradition Five- Each group has but one primary purpose— to carry its message to the adult child who still suffers.

June

Tradition Six- An ACA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the ACA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

July

Tradition Seven- Every ACA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

August

Tradition Eight- Adult Children of Alcoholics should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

September

Tradition Nine- ACA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

October

Tradition Ten- Adult Children of Alcoholics has no opinion on outside issues; hence the ACA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

November

Tradition Eleven- Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, and films.

December

Tradition Twelve- Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Special Workers of the Adult Children of Alcoholics Fellowship

Hello- My name is DiAnne A. I am an Adult Child, and ACA is my primary program of recovery. I believe my discovery of ACA- through being open and willing to be led - has literally saved my life, and doing the work of the Twelve Steps of ACA has changed the quality of my life beyond my wildest imaginings. Even as I move from my fourth to fifth year of recovery work in ACA, I find that I still have a sense of amazement and awe. Somehow, doing the ongoing work of this program in turn works upon me and thus shows itself in my daily life and affairs.

Through working the Steps, I was led through my 11th and 12th Steps into an opportunity to contribute to our Fellowship at a new level - via the ACA World Service Organization. In February 2009, I was hired by the WSO Board of Trustees to work in the newly re-opened ACA "office" in Signal Hill, California. Now, as Operations Coordinator for the World Services office and literature distribution center, I have the opportunity to literally touch the life-saving literature of our program as it moves through the WSO warehouse and out into the world.

My background in shipping, receiving and distribution/quality control may be what qualified me for this position. However, I truly believe it is my love for this program and the recovery work of ACA that placed me in this position to help disseminate our Fellowship Text and literature throughout the world.

We have a variety of Voluntary Workers and hourly Employees at the WSO Office and distribution center. Volunteers in the warehouse, for example, contribute by helping to prepare our fellowship materials for packing and shipping, which in turn contributes to the flow of day-to-day operations and helps to keep us ahead of "spikes" in monthly literature orders.

On the other side of the coin, the fellowship's hourly Employees frequently handle sensitive material and issues- and they are the ones charged with discretion and anonymity in regard to confidential billing information, credit card submissions, processing of personal checks and banking/accounting information for the fellowship. As a general rule, Volunteers are not placed in the position of working with

such confidential information. In this way, both the individual and fellowship minimize risk of liability due to inadvertent or intentional violations of trust or discretion. Further, having a paid staff gives the fellowship a level of accountability not possible with Volunteers alone. This provides consistency of coverage for shipping and receiving operations and helps to ensure minimal turnaround times for order processing and fulfillment.

The hourly Employees- or "Special Workers" - at the WSO Office and Distribution Center include Taylor D., Trudy B., and Timar S. in the Warehouse, Vivian L. and Kimberlee W. in the Office, and Gloria D. who processes orders for paper Literature and Medallions and also enters meeting information, meeting updates, and deposits.

We are each honored to be "Special Workers" in this Fellowship of Fellow Travelers, and we are committed individually and collectively to providing the utmost excellence of service possible to the ACA Fellowship.

Sincerely, DiAnne A.



Seeing Growth Through Service

Gloria D.

“Hi”- For those of you who don't know me, my name is Gloria. At the present time I am responsible for packing and shipping ACA Literature orders for the WSO office. I also process new and updated ACA Meeting information and enter those changes in our worldwide meeting database.

I actually started working for ACA WSO a few years ago by packing and shipping the Fellowship Text and other Literature orders. I did this from a small rented storage unit where we first had our books and workbooks stored. The ACA Fellowship

Text was published in 2006, and the ACA Twelve Steps Workbook followed in 2007. At that time, orders for books, workbooks, and other fellowship literature were not nearly as plentiful as they are now.

By working for ACA WSO, I have had the pleasure of seeing the progress and growth of the fellowship first-hand. Orders for books and literature have grown tremendously- so much so, that we now have an actual office where staff and volunteers can work from.



ACA World Services Office

1400 E. 33rd Street
Signal Hill, CA 90755
Tel (562) 595-7831
Fax (562) 595-7822

Office hours:

Tues - Fri 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sat 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Closed Sundays and Mondays

The ComLine Needs You

Would you like to share about one of the ACA Traditions? Are you willing to share your experience, strength, or hope in ACA recovery? Want to tell the fellowship about what's going on with ACA in your region? Just send us an article!

ComLine Guidelines

Articles may be submitted for publication by mailing them to ComLine, PO Box 3216, Torrance, CA 90510, or by submitting them electronically through the web form found at www.adultchildren.org. Articles which are not used will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Articles will be selected for publication at the discretion of the editorial staff. Articles which might violate the Twelve Steps or the Twelve Traditions of ACA will not be printed. Profanity, related euphemisms, personal attacks on others, and libelous statements will not be used. Authors will be listed with a first name and last initial only, even if it's a pseudonym.

ComLine Subscriptions

ComLine is mailed to subscribers and to 7th Tradition supporters of ACA WSO. For those subscribing to receive the ComLine via postal mail, we request a donation to offset our cost of printing and postage. Rates shown are in U.S. Dollars:

Inside the US:	\$16.00/ year
Canada:	\$19.25/ year (USD)
International:	\$24.00/ year (USD)

To subscribe, please send your mailing information and donation to:

ACA WSO, PO Box 3216, Torrance, CA 90510.

Subscriptions can also be processed online at:

www.acawso.com/wsobook/literature.php

ComLine Archive

ComLine editions published since 2004 are available to read or download, and new issues are posted each month. Just go to www.adultchildren.org and select "ComLine" from the options menu.

Tradition Eight in My Life

Leo D.

During my first months in ACA I kept looking for someone who would be the “leader” in the group: that one wise person with the answers to all of my questions. Unconsciously, I was defining the meetings with the format of my years of therapy work. As the time went by, I realized that there were not such “professional ACAs” but people, just like me, asking questions that would only have answers in our individual work, and shared in the fellowship we were all part of.

As long as there was a “professional” in my internal work, I would infuse this person with god-like characteristics that made me unequal, and completely flawed. In my distorted thinking I would say: “If she or he is so altogether, and can have a good life, then I, with years of doing this, and still struggling, am completely irreparable!” Just like one day my parents had been my god, I made my therapist my god. In ACA, at times it is suggested to make the group our Higher Power as we start delving deeper into this concept and coming to terms with our rela-

tionship with our spiritual life. But, nobody is a “god”: we are all people who are trying their best at living, using the Twelve Steps and the ACA way of life. And by doing this, we help each other.

It is in this light that I understand why Tradition Eight was written. I don’t need a professional, a sort of authority figure who will always be “above” me; in our fellowship, listening to my fellow travelers share their experience, strength and hope, helps me find my own answers, that wise part of me that has been buried and denied in years of dysfunction. I can claim it. I can also thank my therapists for their help - I may even need to see them again some day - but I know that my relationship with them will be different than the way it was. They will be human beings with experience helping people untangle distortions in their minds, but never god-like figures again. After all, ACA has helped me grow, stand on my own two feet, have a deeper look at my spiritual life, and set me free to have questions, seek answers in many places, and also be still and listen.

More Tradition Eight Insight

(from the ACA Fellowship Text, pg. 527)

“In my role in the Intergroup structure, I am responsible for organizational information. At the same time I receive many calls from newcomers wanting to know about my ACA experience. In the beginning I tried to give out meeting information and share my recovery as well. I found myself taking care of the callers instead of getting them to meetings. They kept calling me instead of doing the recovery work themselves. I continue to struggle with this, even when I know I need to supply the callers only with meeting information.

People coming to ACA from therapy often assume I am a therapist, counselor, or some program authority figure. They cannot comprehend a program without governance. It is easier to get them into the program and let them experience the way the program works for themselves, rather than attempting to explain the inexplicable. “

“I know a special worker who does a great job for ACA and expects nothing in return. We should probably pay him for his work, but we have no funds at this time. This is not a group secretary, treasurer, or other trusted servant job that I am speaking of. It is a manual job that requires daily attention so that the ACA message can be carried.

This person is also a solid group member, who helps others without thought of money or recognition. This person understands ACA, and we are fortunate to have him in the position he is in. He also knows the difference between doing his ACA job and carrying the message for ACA just like the next member.”

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The monthly teleconference of the ACA WSO Board of Trustees is held on the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 pm Central time (11:00 am Pacific time). Visitors are given a few minutes to introduce themselves and are then invited to listen for the next hour and a half as the Board conducts business for the ACA Fellowship.

To participate, call **712-432-0075**, and when prompted, enter the access code **427266#**. Please note that this is a new phone number and code. It is also now possible to connect to the teleconference through Skype. Details about this option can be found on the ACA WSO forum.

Seventh Tradition Contributions– June 2010

“The fund flow model of ACA is based on a 60/40 disbursement. After a group meets its monthly expenses and sets aside money for a prudent reserve, 60 percent of what is left over is usually sent to the local Intergroup and 40 percent is sent to WSO.

A prudent reserve usually is the amount that equals one to two month’s worth of meeting expenses. Meeting expenses would include rent, utilities, and other group expenses.”

** Please note that Seventh Tradition contributions mailed to ACA WSO take approximately 3 months to appear in this ComLine report.*

CA682-San Mateo, CA	120.00
CAN099-Toronto, Canada	116.56
CA719-Ventura, CA	100.00
IL172- Deerfield, IL	100.00
JAP006-Tokyo, Japan	90.00
CA968-Palm Springs, CA	90.00
CAN290-Port Colborne, Canada	40.00
TEL009-Telephone Bridge	36.00
NY082 - Bronx, NY	25.00
Anonymous	162.08
Total 7th Tradition	879.64

ACA WSO Committee Highlights

ACA WSO Web/Forum Report, June 2010:

Forum activity (at www.adultchildren.org) was down a bit from last month, but still continues to be quite active:

New Registrations: 211

New Topics: 193

New Posts: 1451

New Private Messages/Conversations: 147

Active Members: 317

Post views: 11132

Web Site activity also remains high, averaging 846 “Unique Visitors” per day during June.

The need remains for more Forum Moderators. If you have ACA experience, strength, and hope, and would consider being a forum moderator, please contact the forum administrator at www.adultchildren.org/contact/.

From the Treasurer:

June was a busy month establishing numerous changes. I continue to work with our new accounting agency and our Signal Hill office staff to shift various accounting duties formerly performed by the ACA WSO Treasurer. I’m glad to report that the effort is going well thus far. Payroll timekeeping and reported hours have been a mix; some staff have tracked work hours through GetMyTime.com, while others are still using the earlier paper time sheet method. Our accountant continues to work with the office staff, and we expect to have all office employees processing their time through GetMyTime by the next pay period. While it’s been a bit hectic getting all this set up, the changes will ultimately simplify the overall accounting and payroll functions.

Meanwhile, as Treasurer, I continue to monitor fellowship funds and remain part of the approval process for major and non-recurrent expenses. The June Profit and Loss Report again shows a negative cash flow for the month, primarily attributed to payment for our latest re-printing of the ACA Fellowship Text. However, the WSO continues to show a very positive year-to-date cash flow.

I still need to have the WSO board assign an Assistant Treasurer to work with me this year, covering approval processes when I’m unavailable, and in preparation to be elected the Treasurer at next year’s ABC. Current board members have identified a couple of ACA members who they feel to be qualified for this position. I have asked each prospect to attend the next monthly Teleconference. An individual must qualify for WSO board membership before consideration to serve as Assistant Treasurer.

Scott R., ACA WSO Treasurer

ACA WSO Treasurer's Monthly Report

Bank Balances:

May 31, 2010

Checking Account	20,815.38
Pay Pal Account	5,364.93
Savings Account	60,043.96
Total	86,224.27

June 30, 2010

Checking Account	17,031.71
Pay Pal Account	6,395.56
Savings Account	60,053.83
Total	83,481.10

\$40,000 of the ACA WSO Savings Account remains designated for office lease prudent reserve.

Profit and Loss Summary: June 2010

Income

7th Tradition	879.64
Fellowship Text Sales	12,118.00
Bank Interest	9.87
California Sales Tax	327.59
ComLine Subscriptions	64.00
Fellowship Text Index	53.75
Literature Sales	1,226.05
Medallion Sales	279.00
Workbook Sales	7,019.50
Total Income	21,977.40

Expense

Accounting Services	1,300.00
Bank Fees	51.00
Fellowship Text Expenses	12,236.51
Insurance	-1.07
Office Expenses	4,854.11
Supplies	646.03
Postage	2,236.38
Rent	1,633.00
Utilities	338.70
Pay Pal Fees	702.91
Payroll Expenses	4,884.25
Total Expense	24,027.71

Net Income (June) -2,050.31

Year to Date Summary: January - June 2010

Income

7th Tradition	9,074.61
Fellowship Text Sales	71,229.47
Bank Interest	58.84
California Sales Tax	1,668.33
ComLine Subscriptions	496.00
Fellowship Text Index	341.00
Handbook Contribution	27.73
Literature Sales	9,336.25
Medallion Sales	788.20
Miscellaneous Income	200.83
Workbook Sales	31,826.05
Total Income	125,047.31

Expense

ABC Committee	2,111.52
Meals/Drinks	55.00
Miscellaneous	81.91
Room Rental	50.00
Transportation/ Lodging	1,482.30
Other	442.31
Accounting Services	1,300.00
Bank Fees	121.00
ComLine Expenses	760.90
Fellowship Text Expenses	33,593.97
Insurance	968.93
Literature Committee	6,599.74
Miscellaneous	0.00
Office Expenses	34,405.63
Supplies	4,548.69
Postage	18,231.06
Printing	169.29
Rent	9,799.53
Utilities	1,650.80
Other	6.26
Pay Pal Fees	3,702.40
Payroll Expenses	29,459.39
Tax	25.00
Web and Support	640.92
Total Expense	113,689.40

Net Income (to date) 11,357.91

ComLine

**P.O. Box 3216
Torrance, CA 90510
USA**

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Requested**

