



CoDA Service Conference 2023 Motion Form

Check one: **Motion** (Board - CoDA Inc.)

Motion (Board - CoRe – CoDA Resource Publishing)

Motion (Committee)

Committee Name - _____

Motion (VE - Voting Entity)

Voting Entity Name- _____

Submitted Date: _____ **7-6-2023 (late motion)** _____

Due 75 day prior to CoDA Service Conference (CSC)

Motion Number: 1. () 2. () 3. () 4. () 5. () (Check One)

Revision #: _____ **Revision Date:** _____

Due 60 day prior to CoDA Service Conference (CSC)

Motion Name: Conference Approved literature requirement

Motion: Add the requirement to use only conference approved literature to be recognized and listed as a CoDA meeting

Remove:

In addition, CoDA groups are required to use the Co-Dependents Anonymous book as a primary resource for the meeting. No other Twelve Step book can be used at a CoDA meeting. Exclusive use of Co-Dependents Anonymous book at meetings means that the CoDA message is not diluted in any way.

Meetings who choose not to read the four Foundational Documents or use a non-CoDA Twelve Step book will not be recognized as CoDA meetings and will not be listed in the CoDA Meeting Directory on the CoDA.org website

Policy Regarding Outside Literature at CoDA Meetings

CoDA groups may not use any other Twelve Step books, and it is strongly suggested that CoDA groups use only CoDA Conference Endorsed literature.

If a group by informed group conscience chooses to use other outside literature, in order to be an informed group conscience, that group must weigh their decision against the Twelve Traditions to ascertain if a responsible decision has been made.

Some points to consider are:

Tradition One: Using CoDA literature supports the growth of CoDA and offers unity and continuity of message.

Tradition Four: Will the decision reached by the group affect neighboring groups or CoDA as a whole? What might be a newcomers first impression of CoDA based on the literature chosen? What is a groups responsibility to newcomers?

Tradition Five: Is the decision about literature, or for that matter any decision made by the group, in line with CoDA's primary purpose?

Tradition Six: Is the use of outside literature an endorsement of a particular author? By making the work of a particular author the focus of a meeting, is that a CoDA meeting or a book study session?

Tradition Eight: Use of outside literature may border on therapy. CoDA is a self-help group and uses the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as a basis for recovery.

Tradition Ten: Use of copyrighted materials not owned by CoDA may lead to problems in the future and ought to be considered in the decision-making process. CoDA will not define codependency but will describe it. Does the use of outside literature support a particular definition?

If, after considering the above points, and a group still chooses to use other outside literature, an announcement must to be made at the beginning and end of the reading of said literature.

Updated at 2018 CSC on 10/12/18. Further updated at 2019 CSC on 9/10/19.

FSM Part 2-Meeting Handbook, Section 1-what is a CoDA Meeting, pg 5- What is a CoDA meeting, Policy Regarding Outside Literature at CoDA Meetings, pg. 6

Replace with:

In addition, CoDA groups are required to use the Co-Dependents Anonymous book as a primary resource for the meeting, and to use **only** conferenced approved literature. No other Twelve Step book or literature can be used at a CoDA meeting.

Exclusive use of Co-Dependents Anonymous book and conference approved literature at meetings means that the CoDA message is not diluted in any way.

Meetings who choose not to read the four Foundational Documents, use a non-CoDA Twelve Step book, and use other than conferenced approved literature may be subject to removal from being recognized as a CoDA meetings after a review process and notification.

CoDA groups register with Co-Dependents Anonymous World in order to stay in contact with CoDA as a whole.

With respect to other questions about group organization (date, time, type of meeting), each group is autonomous except in matters affecting CoDA as a whole.

Intent, background, other pertinent information:

The fellowship continues to reach out to the Board for guidance in regards to outside literature. Throughout the year we hear from fellowship members, meetings, Intergroups, and Voting Entities wanting us to enforce the “non-conference approved literature dilemma. Most are surprised when informed that each meeting can make this decision especially those outside the United States. Our foreign fellowship members want this to be mandated so they have the backing to enforce in their countries.

Our response continues to be that as the Board we do not govern, and the outside literature conversation must be taken to conference.

This has not satisfied the fellowship so the Board is bringing this forward.

We believe having a congruent statement about this issue in all areas it can be found would be a positive step toward bringing a consistent message to our Fellowship.

Tradition 6 (A CoDA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the CoDA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim.) If a registered CoDA meeting uses Melody Beattie books as part of their meeting, are they not communicating to its members that CoDA endorses Melody Beattie books? Melody Beattie books are not CoDA Conference Endorsed Literature however, many newcomers think they are because the meetings they attended use her books as source material.

We are all for autonomy within meetings however, we are not for autonomy that conflicts with another Tradition. We don't think autonomy was intended to be in the context of a Twelve Step recovery meeting.

It is our understanding that it more implies that the group may conduct its business in the manner it sees fit so long as it does not hurt CoDA as a whole or does not affiliate itself with anyone or anything else.

- All non-CoDA Conference Endorsed Literature is, in essence, an outside enterprise.
- Using outside literature is endorsement.
- It is lending the CoDA name and dilutes CoDA's message of recovery.
- It is not literature that is written by codependents for codependents.
- It is no longer self-help when using a professional's books.

Remarks:

This motion requires changes to: (please check any that apply)

Bylaws FSM P1 FSM P2

FSM P3 FSM P4 FSM P5

Change of Responsibility

Other: Part 2- Meeting Handbook,
Section _____

(Data Entry Use Only)

Motion result: _____

Please email to submitcsc@codas.org

(If you want assistance writing your motion, please send email to Board@CoDA.org)