

The NSC asked the U.K. delegate to the 2010 CoDA Service Conference (CSC) to find information in response to a number of questions.

Here are the questions from NSC and responses

Please note that the attachments referred to were made available to the NSC meeting in August in hard copy. Please email coda-uk to request this detail if required

August 2010

Questions for Conference 2010

CoDA US Financial Information

1. A statement of account for CoDA US

CoDA Inc is a legal entity registered under Arizona State law as a non profit making, tax exempt organisation. It is required to file accounts and tax exemption details annually (in a similar way to that of limited companies in the U.K. filing their annual accounts at Companies House). They are prepared by a book keeper which is a paid position and held accountable to the Finance committee (members listed at the Committee Work Area (CWA) of the US site CoDA.org) and the Treasurer who is member of the Board of Trustees .The Board of Trustees is legally responsible to CoDA Inc under Arizona State Law. The accounts are audited by an independent auditor. The Finance committee, Treasurer and Board can all be emailed with any queries or to request further information.

Attached (A) is a copy of the accounts to end 2009 incl.Auditor's report (Hard copy)

2. Is CoDa US profit making and what happens to surplus funds?

CoDA US (CoDA Inc) is non profit making. Income from 7th Tradition donations has been dropping over the last 2 or 3 years and is insufficient to maintain the work of the organisation. They are supplemented by the contribution made by CORE (CoDA Resources) Royalties. CORE is the wholly owned publishing arm of CoDA Inc.. In order to be sustainable CoDA Inc. maintains 3 years average running costs as its prudent reserve. There are no surplus funds. CoDA funds are held in a Smith Barney bank account.

Attached (B) Income trending bar chart

(C) Income v Expense bar chart, last 5 years

3. Where do the CoDA US Income and Donations come from?

CoDA Inc (CoDA World) Donations come from 7th Tradition donations from groups within the U.S. and from CORE. There are some 7th Tradition donations from CoDA in other countries, notably Germany, where CoDA is very strong (120 groups).

Attached (D) chart

The Budget for 2010 is attached at (E)

4. Is the suggestion that ties will be severed if outside countries do not make donations to CoDA US true and if so, why?

I emailed the Board and Treasurer about this and the response from the outgoing Treasurer and current Chair of the Finance Committee is:-
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CORE Financial matters

5. A statement of account for CORE Inc

Please see the Profit & Loss and Balance sheets for last 2 years attached at (F)

6. Core Inc - can payments be made by debit card?

I requested this at Conference and CORE have undertaken to look into this and respond in due course. I will review it in about 6 weeks to see what progress has been made.

7. Core Inc - shipping charges are prohibitively high can they be standardised?

This complaint was universal, including from within the U.S. where the distances are huge. The only significantly cheaper distribution method they can come up with (M bag which costs \$18, about £11 for 20 lbs) takes 6 weeks so if that sort of lead time is acceptable, then that shipping method is an option.
(We could consider that for orders for out next AGM?)

I also commented at Conference that the Order Form doesn't work because the box for the phone number does not accept U.K. configured numbers. CORE undertook to look into that too and I will review it in about 6 weeks.

8. Is Core Inc profit making?

CORE is wholly owned by CoDA Inc. The Royalties that CORE makes from its publishing is an important part of CoDA Inc. income. See all above financial data

9. How can Core Inc make literature more accessible financially to the UK?

CoDA UK can, like other countries, apply to the Translation Management Committee (TMC) to publish CoDA approved materials in this country. The arrangement is subject to Print & Distribution Agreements. I believe that Francis of Buxton Books, who at the time of attending the Conference was in the process of purchasing Fellowship Souvenirs, is looking into this possibility.

The Literature Committee is investigating the possibilities for CoDA literature to be published as ebooks

Sponsorship

10. How can we tap in to the CoDA US Sponsorship system?

CoDA US also suffer a shortage of sponsors. A list of people willing to sponsor was made at Conference. There were about 10 names on it at the point at which I saw the list and I have requested copies.

Interestingly sponsorship was not discussed at Conference and currently there is no committee.

The Literature Committee have however approved an updated pamphlet, which expands on the benefits to sponsors (as well as to sponsees) and which will be available shortly

Approved Literature

11. How do CoDA US qualify and approve their literature

The Literature Committee is responsible for writing, qualifying and approving the literature. About 10 or 12 people sit on this committee at any one time some of whom have been in CoDA since its founding, and includes professional writers and legal people. A list of the committee members is on the CoDA.org website. Members of CoDA can volunteer to serve on the Literature Committee.

The process is:- Literature Committee (LC) write the item, leaflet, booklet or whatever. This is then taken to next CSC (CoDA Service Conference) by way of a "Motion"; any amendments are suggested and voted on. If approved by CSC it is sent to CORE. CORE send it to a print designer to layout. It is then sent back to LC to verify the formatting, content and layout. It then goes back to CORE who send it to a professional business proof reader. CORE also decide on the cover, how the publication is to be backed, designed and the quality of paper and quantity to be printed. It is then sent to a number of print brokers. The proofs are returned to CORE who select the publisher and place the print order.

12. Is it possible to put pdf's of the CoDA US literature on our website and are they already available on the CoDA US website? Does it exist?

CoDA literature is not available on any website. The copyrights are owned by CORE who pay all Royalties to CoDA Inc..

CoDA Worldwide conference

13. Could the yearly CoDA US Conference be held in Europe and still run by CoDA US?

The venues for future CSCs are voted on two years in advance. Any VE (Voting Entity), ie State, Intergroup or country must make its proposal at Conference (next conference in Denver, Colorado area 5-12 July 2011).. The Events Committee organise and run the Conference. I understand that some locations attract more attendees than others. Presumably travelling time and cost of travel are factors

6. Growth of CoDA UK

14. What suggestions can CoDA US give CoDA UK on how to grow as a fellowship internally?

Growing membership is a current issue for CoDA World. The number of groups within the US has been declining in the last 2 or 3 years from about 1200 to 1000 groups. CoDA has never before had a “marketing plan”. The founders Ken and Mary have offered to share their vision of 25 years ago on a short Conference call to be arranged to inspire the Board and current members to create an “Attraction Plan” to facilitate the growth and sustainability of CoDA for the next 25 years.

All members are invited to share their experience, strength and hope in this respect and bring any ideas to CoDA-UK via the NSC or directly to the Board.

Dagmar, UK Delegate to CSC 2010