

**A Brief Chronology of Cocaine Anonymous®
(Preliminary Notes, January 2016)**

Compiled by Rita A. Chaney

There is a robust body of literature on the history of Alcoholics Anonymous and a growing body of publications on the history of Narcotics Anonymous, but extensive histories have yet to be compiled on the other Twelve Step addiction recovery mutual aid fellowships (See [Addiction Recovery Mutual Aid Chronology](#)). To add to historical chronologies and papers on recovery mutual aid groups posted on this website (www.williamwhitepapers.com), Rita Chaney, my research assistant, prepared the following preliminary chronology of Cocaine Anonymous drawn from the published literature and sources available within the Illinois Addiction Studies Archives. The notes include contradictory information that require confirmation and disconfirmation by future researchers. We hope to follow up this chronology with interviews with others who can provide additional information on the history of CA.

This preliminary chronology (and the posted [CA bibliography](#)) provides scholars interested in doing research on CA with starting points for their investigations. We will continue to expand and correct this chronology as our own work progresses.

A Note on Accuracy: The reader should remember that these preliminary notes include contradictory accounts of some events. We included conflicting information with citation of sources from published accounts and transcribed interview so all would be available for later fact-checking.

A Note on Names: Respecting the anonymity tradition of CA, first names and last initials are used to designate CA members within this history.

William L. White (January, 2016)

Pre-Cocaine Anonymous Recovery Mutual Aid Milestones (1935-1982)

Year	CA Precursor Milestones
1935	Alcoholics Anonymous Founded
1947	Addicts Anonymous Founded
Early 1950s	Habit Forming Drugs Founded
Early 1950s	Hypes & Alcoholics Founded
1950	Narcotics Anonymous (NY) Founded
1954	Narcotics Anonymous (CA) Founded
1959	All Addicts Anonymous Founded
1968	Potsmokers Anonymous Founded
1975	Pills Anonymous Founded
1975	Women for Sobriety Founded
1980	Chemically Dependent Anonymous Founded

1981	All Recoveries Anonymous Founded
1982	Dual Disorder Anonymous Founded

Pre-Cocaine Anonymous Milestone Notes

1982

- In November 1982, Johnny S. receives a call from Tom K. from the Motion Picture Fund who plans to start an AA Meeting for drug addicts, especially cocaine addicts, at the Motion Picture Fund in Hollywood, California. “In those days, you could go to AA meetings and if you talked about drugs, they asked you to leave.” (2)
- Tom K., the Director of the Motion Picture and Television Fund’s alcoholism and drug program “called together” fourteen men and women with cocaine struggles to meet and talk about their difficulties. (17)
- The Alcoholism Director of the Motion Picture Industry Health Fund “called the meeting” as he wants a program where he can refer people who call him asking for help with cocaine problems. (21)
- Johnny S. reports he has been sober through the Motion Picture Recovery House in the Valley and gets a call from Tom K. Tom states he is going to host a meeting for drug addicts. It is an AA meeting but specifically for AA members to talk about cocaine. (3)
- Mark and Mark attend the November 16, 1982 AA meeting for drug addicts. (2)
- The November 16, 1982 meeting is primarily populated with members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. (2)
- About 20 people show up at a Tuesday evening AA meeting at the Motion Picture Health and Welfare Fund. Someone suggests a vote be taken to change this meeting, known as the Whatever Meeting, to Cocaine Anonymous, but the suggestion is voted down. (2)
- Nineteen “sober men and women” attend the Tuesday evening [November 16, 1982] AA meeting to talk about cocaine. (21)
- After the November 16, 1982 meeting, Johnny S. and several other attendees to the meeting meet and decide to start a Thursday night meeting the following Thursday and to call it Cocaine Anonymous. (2)

Cocaine Anonymous History Milestone Notes

1982

- The first meeting of CA is held November 18th (2, 18) in Los Angeles [Hollywood], California. (1) (3) (4)(6) (7) (8) Veronica is the secretary and calls the meeting to order (3) with a gavel and announces, “Welcome to the first meeting of Cocaine Anonymous, a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other.” (2)
- Shortly afterwards, a local closed CA meeting in a hospital (patients only) changes to an open meeting, marking the second CA meeting. (2)
- Cocaine Anonymous is “formed” on November 23, 1982 by its founding members Johnny S., Ray G., and Gilbert M., all from Los Angeles, California. Tom K., the owner of an “entertainment industry sober living facility called “Studio 12” identifies the need for a group for cocaine-addicted people to talk about their struggles and sobriety. (16)

- First words spoken at the first Cocaine Anonymous meeting are, “Welcome to the first meeting of Cocaine Anonymous, my name is _____. Are there any other addicts present?” (16). The number attending the first meeting has been variably reported as fourteen (17) and nineteen (38).
- An attendee of the November 16, 1982 meeting starts another CA meeting on Saturdays in the Valley. (21)
- A Hospital (21), Beverly Glen on La Brea, holds closed meetings on Wednesday nights only for patients, using the name, Cocaine Anonymous, but after the first November 1982 CA meeting took place, Beverly Glen opens up their meeting on Wednesdays for everyone. So, within a week of starting, there were two Cocaine Anonymous Meetings by the end of Nov. 1982. (3)
- Johnny S.: “We were getting a lot of abuse from members of the other fellowships and because they felt that we were, either they didn’t want us in the meetings or they felt that we were starting something that we had no business starting or there was a lot of controversy in the very beginning.” (2)
- Tom K., an AA member, is a “strong help” to the budding CA group. He helps find rooms for meetings, set up work committees and shows them how to do a directory and get things organized. (2)
- In the first year of CA, the fellowship exceeds 2,000 members. (8)

Late 1982 or Early 1983

- Ray G. is in charge of the Cocaine Anonymous phone number. It rings on an answering machine in a small Beverly Glen Hospital room and Ray G. returns all calls. The room and phone machine are provided by Beverly Glen Hospital. (3)

1983

- CA sets up a hotline phone number during the first year. Ray G. manages the hotline for the first year. “If any of you called in the first year of existence of Cocaine Anonymous and talked to the man on the telephone, that was Ray. Ray took all the calls for the first...year of Cocaine Anonymous.” (2)
- Ray G.: “I was sober seven months but I was running the hotline and I was still using.” (2)
- The phone is “put in by the hospital.” [Beverly Glen] The hospital paid for the phone. (2)
- Ray G.: “I didn’t stay sober but I got into service work.” (2)
- Ray G.: In six or seven months’ time, (May/June 1983) CA grows to about 33 meetings, all in the LA basin at the time. (3)
- Business meetings occur every Tuesday night at Johnny S.’s house (May/June 1983) to work on the format, steps, traditions, chips, and logo. Meetings go on for hours. (3)
- Ray G. and Johnny S. are overwhelmed with handling all the phone calls from people asking questions about how to start a new meeting (May/June 1983). (3)
- Johnny S. and Ray G. decide to have a retreat, a “mini-conference” to work specifically on CA business (May/June 1983). (3)
- Johnny S. and Ray G. receive a packet from Chicago with a suggested piece of literature which became CA’s first piece of literature. It is titled, *To the Newcomer*, and is written by Chicago CA members. (Near end of 1983) [It is later re-named *Who’s an Addict?*.] (3)

- “Somebody brought back a pamphlet from Chicago (or maybe it was San Francisco, I don’t know called *To the Newcomer* and that was CA’s first pamphlet. We struggled and wrote *The First Thirty Days*.” (21)
- Within the first year of CA, the Fellowship grows to 30 meetings. (27-statement believed to have been made by Johnny S.)

November 1983 to October 1984

- Co-Anon is started by Johnny S.’s wife at the time. It is initially named Coc-Anon. Johnny S. reports his wife would get upset with him about having the meetings at their home all the time and Johnny S. suggests that CA needs a group like Al-Anon and that she should start it. Sometime during the second year of CA, she did. (3)

1984

- Santa Cruz Sentinel publishes *Cocaine Anonymous just like Alcoholics Anonymous* (AP) article on January 3, 1984. (8)
- Los Angeles Times publishes *Cocaine Anonymous: ‘After You Quit Cocaine, it’s like being on a Roller Coaster’* article written by David Farrell on January 3, 1984. (23)
- Tom K. is referred to as the “founder” of CA and “a recovered alcoholic.” (8)
- Tom K. reports that CA meetings in Hollywood and West Los Angeles have 200+ attendees each week. (8)
- Total number of members in Southern California has surpassed 2,000, according to Tom K. (January 3, 1984). (23)
- Tom K. reports CA groups are forming all over the US. “We have them from Yale to jail.” (January 3, 1984) (23)
- CA has 27 weekly meetings in Los Angeles and Orange counties, with meetings at College Hospital in Cerritos, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, CareUnit in Los Angeles, and Centinela Hospital in Inglewood (January 3, 1984). (23)
- After CA is established, Tom K. speaks with personnel directors at several studios and finds they are interested in spreading the word about cocaine addiction and CA. Those contacts help him disseminate over 25,000 “awareness kits” to studio employees, including the warning signs of drug and alcohol dependence and a helpline phone number (November 29, 1985). (17)
- Skip, a CA member, is quoted: “Two of the many things that gave impetus to CA was the death of John Belushi and Richard Pryor narrowly escaping incinerating himself. It was Pryor’s accident that brought me around. I read it and said, ‘My God. That could have been me.’” (November 29, 1985). (17)
- CA has over 2,000 members in Southern California (8)
- Within the first few months of operation, Cocaine Anonymous establishes 20+ meetings (November 19, 1985). (17)
- Beverly Glen Hospital holds a weekly Cocaine Anonymous meeting. (8)
- Dr. Murray Firestone is the Director of Beverly Glen Hospital, a treatment center that holds a weekly Cocaine Anonymous meeting (January 3, 1984). (23)
- Dr. Murray Firestone, Director of Beverly Glen Hospital says there are Cocaine Anonymous meetings seven nights a week in the area. (8)

- Dr. Ronald Siegel, a psychopharmacologist at the UCLA School of Medicine “estimates that there are 24 million cocaine users in the United States and less than 1% suffer a severe problem. He doesn’t like patients to dwell on the painful problems of the past as they would in the Cocaine Anonymous program.” (8)
- Dr. Ronald Siegel, a psychopharmacologist at the UCLA School of Medicine does not believe a group approach to cocaine difficulties is helpful (January 3, 1984). (23)
- Ray, a ceramic tile contractor, is reported as helping to “run Cocaine Anonymous” in an LA Times, January 3, 1984 article. (23)
- Ray G. is inspired to develop the CA World Service Organization “17 months” after CA began. (2)
- Ray G.: “In July of 1984, we decided to start a world service because it was getting overwhelming for LA to keep trying to build their fellowship and continue to keep in contact with other states who were calling in.” (2) Before this, CA had once monthly GSO meetings and once weekly Board meetings. Ray claims they took AA’s format and developed it into something that would work for CA. (2)
- The First CA World Service Meeting is July 25, 1984. (2)
- Willie O. is the first Chairman of CA World Service. (2)
- January 3, 1984, the *LA Times* publishes an article about Cocaine Anonymous in LA and lists their phone number--thanks to Tom K., who often helped with media issues. This particular article is “picked up” nationwide and people from all over the US began calling the CA number, many requesting CA starter kits. (2)
- In May 1984, 66 CA meetings existed in the US. Forty-four of them are in California. (2)
- Approximately May 1984, CA establishes an Institutional Committee to carry CA’s message to hospitals and other major institutions. (17)
- At the first World Service Business Meeting and Convention in Santa Barbara in 1985, the first conference is scheduled, which is held in San Diego. (2)
- A steering committee is established, inviting CA members in Southern California to prepare incorporation papers for CA. Steering committee members decide that the first CA World Service Project will be a business meeting and convention to be held the next year (1985) in Santa Barbara. (3)
- On June 20, 1984, Attorney L.S. Van Landingham, Jr. of Cocaine Anonymous, Inc. Corporation, Texas Post Office Box 5487, Pasadena, Texas 77505 files to register the words, “Cocaine Anonymous” with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. (13)

1985

- First CA World Service Convention called “The Seaside Unity and Acceptance Convention” is held on May 3 in Santa Barbara, California at the Miramar Hotel. Attendees are asked to stand and say what state they are from and the following states reported: Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. At this meeting, the first three trustees of Cocaine Anonymous, Ray G., Johnny S., and Gil M. are selected. (3, 21, 27)
- The 1st World Services Conference is held in San Diego, California, February 7-9 [year believed to be 1985]. Conference Committee Chairman Gil M. stressed it is not a convention but rather a business conference to deal with “immediate needs of the Fellowship” and form committees to establish future guidelines. (28)

- At the 1st World Services Conference in San Diego, attendees discussed forming the following committees: Conference Committee, a By-Laws Committee, a Literature Committee, a Public Information Committee, and a committee to design and distribute a National Directory. An election of officers is planned to occur prior to the next conference (28)
- Johnny S. and his then-ex-wife, Jeannine D. spoke together at the First World Service Convention. (2)
- Fifty people at the conference represented 500 from all over the country. (1)
- “We decided together to start working more closely with the AA Service Manual because NA just didn’t want anything to do with us. We called AA World Service and they said ‘You’re a cousin fellowship. You’re not a brother fellowship. You’re a cousin and we want you to get the addicts... We felt that NA had been very oppositional in their package that they tried to do it just different and different ain’t always the best. So, we adopted this AA Service Manual to be our workbook. We started our own CA Guide for the working structure.” (1)
- Worldwide, there are about 150 meetings in early 1985. At the Convention, 127 are identified. (1)
- On May 7, 1985, The Tribune in San Diego, California publishes the article, *Cocaine Anonymous—Group Offers Help for Addicts*, by Sue Rusche. (31)
- A People magazine article dated October 14, 1985, *Heather Thomas Emerges from the ‘Private Hell’ of Drug Addiction with the Help of her Therapist Mate* (written by Gioia Dilberto) reports that Heather Thomas’ 34-year-old husband, Allan Rosenthal is a “co-founder of Cocaine Anonymous and a psychotherapist who specializes in treating patients with drug problems.” Rosenthal reportedly works at “a series of drug clinics, including the well-known Beverly Glen,” where he was the chief clinical therapist. (10)
- On August 20, 1985, the words, “Cocaine Anonymous” are formally registered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Attorney L.S. Van Landingham, Jr., Cocaine Anonymous, Inc. Corporation, Texas Post Office Box 5487, Pasadena, Texas, 77505. (13)
- Los Angeles Times publishes *Cocaine Highs Leaving Behind Social Hangover* written by Doug Brown on November 3, 1985. (25)
- Los Angeles Times publishes *Breaking Free of Cocaine’s Hold: Support Group Helps Addicts Arrest Their Drug Habits* article written by Ben Irwin on November 29, 1985. (17)
- More than 2,000 CA members attend CA meetings within twenty states; there are 70 meetings a week in Los Angeles. (17)
- 25,000 CA members attend weekly meetings. (17)
- One CA meeting in Palm Springs, California has more than 700 attendees. (17)
- CA’s Institutional Committee now dispatches a panel of speakers to more than 80 institutions a month in Los Angeles County. (17)
- Orange County, California has 20 chapters of CA. Although some of the chapters have just 10 members, others have over 100, says Jeff Fortuna, a professor of health education at Cal State Long Beach (November 3, 1985). (25)

November 1985 to November 1986

- CA spends thousands of dollars hiring a trademark attorney to federally trademark the name, Cocaine Anonymous. They had to “get it back” “because someone in Texas read an article about Cocaine Anonymous and went ahead and federally trademarked the name first.” The Texas person depicts Cocaine Anonymous as a hospital. Eventually, CA paid over \$30,000 to trademark Cocaine Anonymous. (3)

1986

- The 2nd Annual World Services CA Convention is tentatively scheduled to be held in San Diego, California, on July 11-13. (28)
- CA has 427 meetings. (1)
- The first CA Conference, followed by the convention takes place [month inaudible] 4, 1986 in San Diego, California. (2)
- Johnny S. reports that at the First CA Convention in San Diego, “we fought like cats and dogs the first half-hour over important issues.” (2)
- Northern California CA members come to the first CA Conference in San Diego all dressed in matching t-shirts. (2)
- An Associated Press article entitled, *Cocaine Anonymous Uses Proven Self-Help principles to Combat Addiction*, is published in the Providence Journal in Providence, Rhode Island on February 7, 1986. (31)
- Twenty people attend the first two meetings of Cocaine Anonymous at Mount Pleasant Hospital in Lynn, Massachusetts. (35)
- Cocaine Anonymous is reported in February 1986 to have more than 1,000 groups nationally. (35)
- Ray G. states, “We started having conferences, I think, every eight months. We’d have like 3 in 2 years and then, eventually, we decided that instead of having weekend conferences, we’d extend them out and make them longer and have them once a year and that’s where we have slowly built to where we’re at today.” (2)
- Eight months after the First CA World Service Conference mentioned above, the first CA Conference business meeting takes place in San Diego, immediately followed by the first CA Convention. (3) At this conference, attendees want new trustees so they made up a list of possible trustees and present it to Ray G. and Johnny S. at the conference, and they interview those on the list at the conference and select trustees. (3)
- The word mark, “Cocaine Anonymous” and a typed drawing are filed for trademark at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 23, 1986 by Attorney Bernard R. Gans for Cocaine Anonymous World Services, Inc., Corporation California, 21720 S. Wilmington Avenue, Suite 304, Long Beach, California 90810. (14)
- Boston Globe publishes *Breaking the Habit; After Six Months of Staying Clean, a Member of Cocaine Anonymous Checks His Progress* by Carol Stocker on October 29, 1986. (31)
- Cocaine Anonymous’ first Canadian Branch, CA Quebec, is established in Montreal in 1986. (32)
- CA Quebec reports 16 attendees at their first meeting in August 1986. (32)
- CA Quebec representative reports CA has 45 meetings a week in the Montreal area. (32)

1987

- CA has 776 meetings. (1)
- The Ottawa Citizen in Ottawa, Ontario publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Aims to Form Group Here* on February 5, 1987 by Marjorie Gillies. (31)
- The Ottawa Citizen in Ottawa, Ontario publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Comes to Ottawa* by Marjorie Gillies on March 27, 1987. (31)
- Cocaine Anonymous in Ottawa, Ontario is reportedly started by “Greg.” (33)
- The First Cocaine Anonymous meetings in Ottawa, Ontario takes place in March 1987 on Thursdays at 8 p.m. at McNabb Community Centre at 180 Percy Street, having 12 to 15 people in attendance each meeting. (33)
- Cocaine Anonymous in Ottawa, Ontario plans to establish a 24-hour answering service within a month of its start in March 1987. (33)
- Los Angeles Times publishes *Group Viewed as Mirror of Increase in Users; Cocaine Anonymous: A Growing Concern* article written by Heidi Evans on June 15, 1987. (24)
- The San Francisco Chronicle publishes an article, *Cocaine Anonymous Holding 3rd S.F. Convention*, on July 4, 1987; reports that 600 chapters of Cocaine Anonymous exist in 28 states and Canada. (38)
- Third annual national convention of Cocaine Anonymous is held in San Francisco, California on July 3, 4, and 5, 1987 at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. (38)
- First CA Meeting in OK is on August 3, 1987. Within 45-60 days, there is a 2nd meeting added. Both take place in Tulsa. From those groups, now there are four other groups in Tulsa. (1)
- Third World Service Conference is held in Woodland Hills, California. During this conference, the entire WSO Board walks out (12-16 members) as the structure that was going to be approved allowed only 5 members. The Chairman of the WSO Board had charged the entire conference on his credit card so when he walks out, he tells the hotel that the conference is done. Johnny S. reports the attendees really “rose to the occasion” and got busy electing new board members and a new chairman, Lionel B. (3)

1988

- There are 1,043 known CA meetings. (1)

1989

- The Ottawa Citizen in Ottawa, Ontario publishes *Cocaine Anonymous; Self-Help Group Battles Ottawa’s Number 1 Drug Problem* by Connie DeFalco on March 4, 1989. (31)
- “In September 1989, we started putting together a service structure in Oklahoma. We have a representative from each meeting so if there’s 21 meetings, we get 21 people.” (1)
- In November, 1989, there were 1,342 CA meetings worldwide with a number of those meetings in Canada with CA literature translated into French. (1)
- Oklahoma City’s first CA meeting is held in January or February of 1989. (1)
- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Helps Addicts to Break the Grip of Their Drug Habit* by Mary Lamey on August 14, 1989. (31)
- Toronto Star in Toronto, Ontario publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Reveals Grim Tales* on August 17, 1989. (31)

- Picayune of New Orleans, Louisiana publishes *Recovering Addicts Succeed Day by Day* by James Hodge on September 18, 1989. (31)
- November 6, 1989 is the cancellation date of the words, Cocaine Anonymous, originally trademarked by Attorney L.S. Van Landingham, Jr. Cocaine Anonymous, Inc. Corporation, Texas Post Office Box 5487, Pasadena, Texas 77505. (13)

1990

- As of January, 1990, the CA phone list in Oklahoma reaches nearly 300. (1)
- Omaha World - Herald in Omaha, Nebraska publishes *Cocaine Anonymous* on January 24, 1990. (31)
- “Today, (February 10, 1990), we have 22 or 23 meetings in the Tulsa area and 3 meetings in Oklahoma City.” (1)
- No CA World Service positions are paid except for a paid office worker. (1)
- It takes 4 or 5 years to actually own the name, Cocaine Anonymous. (1)
- Los Angeles Times in California publishes *Neglected Weapon in Drug War* by John J. Goldman and Lisa Romaine on April 6, 1990. (31)
- As of May 1990, CA has nearly 1,600 meetings in the US. (2)
- On September 4, 1990, a word mark and typed drawing for “Cocaine Anonymous” is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Attorney Bernard R. Gans for Cocaine Anonymous World Services, Inc. Corporation California, 21720 S. Wilmington Avenue Site 304, Long Beach, California 90810. This trademark is still “live” and was renewed for a second time on September 3, 2010. (14)
- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *The CA Solution; Cocaine Anonymous is Winning Converts Fast* by Cheryl Cornacchia on November 2, 1990. (31)

Mid-1991

- Alan and Lisa start CA in England (reported by Johnny S. in 7-10-93 convention as beginning “about a year and a half ago.”) (3)

1991

- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *Lust, Sobriety Topics at Cocaine Anonymous* by Lisa Fitterman on June 28, 1991. (31)
- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *For Coke Addicts, Hell is that Thin White Line: Five Members of Cocaine Anonymous Talk About Their Salvation* by Lisa Fitterman on June 29, 1991. (31)
- The Gazette Telegraph, Colorado Springs Gazette publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Helps Addicts Get Off ‘White Line’/Convention in Springs May Draw 250 People* on November 10, 1991. (31)
- The First Southwest Regional Unity Convention of Cocaine Anonymous is held at the Antlers Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado on Sunday, November 10, 1991. (34)
- CA is reported to have 50,000 members nationwide. (34)

1992

- The first Cocaine Anonymous meeting in the United Kingdom takes place in January 1992. (15)
- An article in the Chicago Tribune (March 5, 1992) identifies Allan Rosenthal as a “founder of Cocaine Anonymous and a psychotherapist.” (19)
- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *Spreading the Word on Getting Straight; Cocaine Anonymous Delegates Carry the Message of Recovery* by Paul Waldie on May 24, 1992. (31)

1993

- Cocaine Anonymous in the United Kingdom held their 1st Birthday Convention: One Step at a Time on Saturday, January 16, 1993 at St. Luke’s Hall on St. Luke’s Street in Chelsea SW3. (20)
- England now (July) has 12 CA meetings weekly. (3)
- CA’s first book, *Hope, Faith and Courage: Stories from the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous* is published. (3, 27)
- The Cocaine Anonymous phone lines are located in and paid for by a local drug recovery hospital. (27)

1994

- Cocaine Anonymous’ first book, called, *Hope, Faith and Courage: Stories from the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous* is published. (5) (6) Although these sources list the date as 1994, the actual copyright date in the book is 1993. (27)
- There are two thousand CA meetings per week in U.S. and Canada. (4)
- “This was probably one of the biggest ones that ever helped us and it was from the LA Times but it was picked up nationwide and when these articles came out, we would get calls.” Ray G. referring to an article in the LA Times dated January 3, 1984. (2) [Note: Likely “After You Quit Cocaine, It’s Like Being on a Roller Coaster” by David Farrell]

1995

- CA’s website is created. (30)
- *Breaking the Drug Habit; Cocaine Anonymous Will Hold Convention in Bid to Reach More People* is published on August 9, 1995 in The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec by Helen Wong. (31)

1996

- CA membership is estimated as 30,000 members in over 2,000 groups. (6)
- Picayune of New Orleans, Louisiana published *Addicts Steadied by Peer Group in Early Recovery* by Joan Treadway on May 12, 1996. (31)

1997

- “Hope, Faith and Courage,” CA’s first online email meeting, begins. (30)
- Rocky Mountain News in Denver, Colorado publishes *Recovering Addicts Find Help Cocaine Anonymous Members Meeting to Share Their Support* by Hector Gutierrez on May 24, 1997. (31)

- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *Help-Line Number for Cocaine Anonymous* on August 11, 1997. (31)

1999

- Additional email meetings at the Cocaine Anonymous website are started: “Sisters in Sobriety” and “The Study.” All CA groups join together under ca-online.org. (30)
- One of the founders of Cocaine Anonymous, Johnny S., is found dead in his home on November 10, 1999. Saturday Night Live Cocaine Anonymous website reports: “At 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 10th, 1999, Patrick P. and Willie O. entered the residence of Johnny S. and found him dead.” Johnny S. was then transported to the Los Angeles Coroners’ Office and toxicology confirmed Johnny had ingested a lethal dose of Nembutal. The website also reports no other drugs were present in Johnny S.’s system and that the Medical Examiner termed the death a suicide. It is stated that Johnny suffered from clinical depression and recently experienced numerous life events that likely triggered his suicide, including Johnny S.’s girlfriend Anne C.’s miscarriage, a film that Johnny had hoped to direct fell through (his first as a director), a knee injury a few months’ previous that had grown more painful and serious, his fears about his own financial insecurities, fears he may not be able to be as physically active, fears of being alone, and a recent change of his anti-depressant medication. (36) The Find A Grave website reports Jonathan Martin “Johnny” S.’s death as occurring on October 31, 1999 and pictures his gravestone, which indicates his birth as July 8, 1953 and his death as October 31, 1999. (37)

2000

- “At the CA World Service Conference of 2000, the Online Service Committee was granted “area” status making it the online equivalent of the traditional areas that make up the CA fellowship. In this way, www.ca-online.org became the Cocaine Anonymous Online Service Area.” (30)
- The First Quarter 2000 *NewsGram*’s *A Note from the WSO*, reports that since their prior publication “one of the co-founders of Cocaine Anonymous, Johnny S., died.” (9)
- In the First Quarter 2000 *NewsGram*, the 1st Ever Summer Rally is posted to take place in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada on June 23 and 24, 2000. (9)
- On May 25-29, 2000, the Sixteenth Annual Cocaine Anonymous World Service Convention, CAWS 2000, CA Comes of Age is held in Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona. (9)

2001

- An additional CA online meeting called, “There is a Solution” forms. (30)

2002

- The CA online meeting, “Steps Online” is formed. (30)

2003

- Buffalo News in Buffalo, New York publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Has New Home* on July 21, 2003. (31)

2005

- The Belfast Telegraph publishes *Cocaine Anonymous* by Ed Caesar on October 4, 2005. (31)
- The Independent in London, United Kingdom publishes *Health: Cocaine Anonymous: Not All Users can Afford to Go to Rehab. But There's Another Way and It's Never Been so Much in Demand. Ed Caesar Pulls up a Seat for an Addicts' Self-Help Session* by Ed Caesar on October 4, 2005. (31)
- The Independent in London, United Kingdom publishes *Health: Cocaine Anonymous—Cocaine: the Facts* by Louise Jack on October 4, 2005. (31)

2006

- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Marks 20 Years of Helping Addicts Here Get Clean* by Anne Sutherland on November 24, 2006. (31)
- CA in Canada holds the 20th Anniversary of CA Quebec at the Delta Hotel in Quebec on November 24-26, 2006. Expected attendance is 500 to 600. (32)

2007

- There are “approximately 2,000 meetings all over the world.” (7)
- “The CA World Service Conference Public Information Committee, in conjunction with the CA World Service Office, along with Delegates and P.I. Chairs...conducts a survey of the Fellowship during” 2007. (7)
- In 2007, over one-third of the CA fellowship surveyed are female. (7)
- In 2007, over 35% of CA members surveyed are ages 35-44 years old. (7)
- In 2007, 68% of CA members surveyed are white, 19% are African-American, and 6% are Latino. (7)
- “Almost 90%” of the CA members surveyed in 2007 report having used cocaine as their primary drug. (7)
- “Forty percent of respondents to the 2007 survey have two or more years of sobriety and over one in six has five or more years of sobriety. (7)
- Cocaine Anonymous World Services, Inc. publishes *Hope, Faith, & Courage, Volume II: Stories and Literature from the Fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous*. (31)

2008

- Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Cocaine Anonymous of Quebec will Organize its Annual Convention at the Beginning of the Year* on January 15, 2008. (31)
- The Gazette in Montreal, Quebec publishes *Recovering Addicts Rejoice in Being Clean; Cocaine Anonymous Quebec Convention Offers Support, Workshops and Camaraderie* by Anne Sutherland on January 19, 2008. (31)
- In December, 2008, there are 155 CA meetings per week in England. (4)
- In December, 2008, there are 19 CA meetings per week occurred in Scotland. (4)

2009

- Canada NewsWire publishes *Press Convocation: Convention of Cocaine Anonymous* on January 12, 13 & 14, 2009. (31)

2010

- Cocaine Anonymous membership is estimated to be 48,000 members in over 7,000 groups.
- On CA's online website, voice meetings begin. (30)

2011

- On January 10, 2011, Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Press Convocation – Cocaine Anonymous Quebec Area Anonymous*. (31)
- On January 13, 2011, Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Cocaine Anonymous Quebec Area 24th Bilingual Convention*. (31)

2012

- Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Cocaine Anonymous-Press Conference* on January 12, 2012. (31)
- Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Cocaine Anonymous – Press Conference* on January 16, 2012. (31)

2013

- Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Annual Convention – Cocaine Anonymous of Quebec* on January 16, 2013. (31)
- Canada NewsWire in Ottawa publishes *Annual Convention – Cocaine Anonymous of Quebec* on January 18, 2013. (31)

2014

- Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser in Airdrie, United Kingdom publishes an article by Robert Fairnie entitled *I Owe My Life to Cocaine Anonymous: Drug Support Former Addict Praises Help Group* on December 10, 2014. (31)

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2015

- 31st CA World Service Convention: We Absolutely Insist on Enjoying Life, is scheduled for May 21-25, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (26)

Miscellaneous Notes with Years to be Identified

- “One day we got a package from Chicago and Chicago [CA] had apparently worked on a piece of literature called, *To the Newcomer*, that they wanted to suggest that we adopt...it was magnificent.” This is CA's first piece of literature. (2)
- First Co-Anon meeting is at Beverly Glenn Hospital, Conference Room 2, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. In those days, it is called, ‘Coc-Anon’.” Johnny S.'s then-wife, Jeannine D. started Coc-Anon. (2)
- In the early days, members attending CA meetings quit cocaine but drink alcohol, smoke marijuana, or take pills. When told they “can't do that,” the members challenged this and said, “where does it say we can't use other drugs?” So, Johnny S. and others decided to re-write into the literature that a desire for abstinence from “cocaine and all other mind-altering substances” is the requirement for membership. Johnny S. views this as a turning point within the history of CA. (2)

- The first CA chips are little white squares and it is decided to change them as members had been known to use them to cut cocaine in the place of razors if they relapsed. (2)
- The First CA World Service Retreat is at St. Andrew's Priory, a Benedictine monk monastery. About 20 people attended it. (2)
- Lionel B. attended the First CA World Service Retreat. (Johnny S. 3) He brought jackets and coats in his car to the retreat because they often had an outdoor meeting in the cemetery at the priory. [It is assumed he lived locally and was able to do this for those who traveled some distance]. At one of their meetings in the cemetery, Lionel reached in his pocket and discovered a bag of cocaine. "The service structure could have been blown apart in about 20 seconds and what was funny was no one knew what to do. We all froze and we're all looking at Lionel with his bag and we had to like get together and make a decision. We decided selling it was out of the question and what we decided to do was the only thing we could do, which was to let go absolutely and Lionel turned around and a wind came up and Lionel turned around, grabbed the bottom of the bag and waved it in the wind and all of a sudden, this white powder just flew over the desert and it was the most amazing experience because the service structure of world service had to surrender together, you know, and it was a magnificent moment." (Johnny S., 2)
- In the beginning, each area's CA group has their own logo. It is decided CA should have just one logo for all CAs so they (Johnny S. and others) came up with the words, "hope, faith, and willingness" to put on the chips but "willingness" was too long. So, Johnny S. had been watching a lot of shows about John Kennedy where the word "courage" often arose and he decided to replace "willingness" with "courage" because "when you come to Cocaine Anonymous, you don't have much hope and you don't have much faith but what you have is a little ounce of courage, a little ounce of courage to get you through that door, to pick up that phone and that little ounce of courage turns into a little hope. If you work the steps of Cocaine Anonymous, that little ounce of hope turns into a lot of faith and so we ended up using the word there." (Johnny S., 2)
- Fifth meeting started in California is a Step Study on Mondays on Melrose. Johnny S. and Ray G. first met at one such meeting. (3)
- At the first business meeting, Ray G.—Office Manager (3), Johnny S. —Vice Chair, Gil _? —is elected Chairman of Cocaine Anonymous (Johnny S. -3). Also in attendance, Ken—Public Relations and Charlie—Secretary (3).
- CA included the AA Whatever Meeting in their CA Meeting Directory because that meeting (the original Thursday night AA meeting) had the most attendees. Johnny S. referred to the decision to include this meeting in their directory as "our first tradition break." (3) At one time, the Whatever Meeting is listed in the CA meeting directory and the AA meeting directory at the same time. Attendees for this meeting often reached over 150. (Anonymous-21)
- According to Ray G., the second piece of CA literature developed is *The First Thirty Days*. (3)
- First daytime CA meeting is at the Kaufman and Broad building in Culver City and had about 30 members who were primarily unemployed. Johnny S. is the secretary of this meeting. They had a phone list and Johnny S. reports in this History Talk that "years later, we found the list and, of those thirty members, 28 were still sober, and still members of this fellowship." (3)

- First nighttime meeting, the first late-night meeting is at Uncle John's Pancake House in Santa Monica, California. The first late-night meeting had 65 attendees. Johnny S. reports that while he was cleaning up after the first meeting, a radio was on and broadcast that the "American Medical Association had just come to the conclusion that cocaine can be addictive." (3)
 - The following information excerpts are drawn from Allan Rosenthal, M.A., MFT's website homepage copyright 2015: Rosenthal "has been in private practice for over 20 years...he is the founder of Cocaine Anonymous." (11)
 - Cocaine Addicts Anonymous (CAA) is founded in July 2009 due to some Cocaine Anonymous members in England disagreeing with CA's premise that "meetings must be open to anybody with a desire to stop using any mind-altering substance." Those members believe that "identification (with cocaine addiction specifically) is paramount." Those members also believe that "only a cocaine addict can help another cocaine addict." Therefore, they splintered off. (12)
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