

CLA WSO



Clutterers Anonymous

Relationship Between the Corporation and the Fellowship

First Just a Little History

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Clutterers Anonymous

February 1989	CLA is born – Varda & Nicole, SoCal
May 1989	First face-to-face meeting in SoCal
October 2001	CLA-East is born
August 2005	First phone meeting
Feb 2007	Inaugural issue of <i>CLArity</i>
2014	First CLA Convention in El Segundo, CA
2015	First international phone line
Fall 2017	Inaugural issue of <i>eCLArity</i>

Clutterers Anonymous

Fall 2019	Co-Sponsorship Networking Groups began
2020	Convention recordings converted to mp3s
2020	Leaflets and eCLArity now downloadable
2021	<i>Ten Years of CLArity</i> and <i>CLA Literature Collection</i> sold online
2022	CLA YouTube page created with informative videos
2023	Began postings on Facebook
2023	<i>The Next Five Years of CLArity</i> published
2023	Published <i>Is CLA for You?</i> as an ebook and audio recording
2023	Literature Assistance funding begins
2024	Leaflets available as audio recordings
2024	Weekly Meditation book completed by Literature Committee

Clutterers Anonymous forms a corporation

- 2006 – Incorporated as a non-profit in NJ to handle legal and business matters and provide services supporting CLA's mission
- 2008 - granted federal tax-exempt status - 501(c)(3) public charity

World Service Organization of Clutterers

Anonymous- A NJ NP

- Basic Bylaws Were Created But Showed the Wrong Name
- The bylaws, which addressed the functions of the corporation didn't distinguish adequately from the functions of the fellowship.

World Service Organization of Clutterers

Anonymous- A NJ NP

- The IRS non-profit application indicates that groups are outside organizations which the corporation provides with services.
- Corporation members include the officers, committee chairpersons and a delegate of any registered group.
- Membership extends the right to participate in the business matters of the corporation.
- Individual groups are not voting members of the corporation except by virtue of a registered meeting's delegate.

March 2022

Corporate name legally changed

- Name changed to correctly match name shown as publisher of CLA literature and as listed in the bylaws.
- This required a legal filing to correct the name. We have one legal full name and one legal alternate name.

Clutterers Anonymous World Service Organization, Inc.

or

CLA WSO

CLA Similarity to AA Structure

- CLA WSO, the Corporation, is roughly equivalent to two AA corporations:
 - AA General Service Board, Inc. and
 - AA World Services, Inc.
- Clutterers Anonymous, the Fellowship, is roughly equivalent to the unincorporated AA World Conference

Clutterers Anonymous World Service Organization, Inc. (CLA WSO)

- ... are the legal and alternate names of the corporation that exists to serve the fellowship of CLA in matters of national and international scope and other wide-ranging matters.
- ... owns the publishing rights, trademarks, website, YouTube channel and mailing lists.
- ... currently meets monthly at the General Meeting. Voting is limited to executive committee members and group delegates.

Clutterers Anonymous (CLA)

- ... the fellowship, is a society. It consists of groups all over the world who call themselves CLA.
- Groups may form intergroups to assist them with matters affecting multiple groups.
- Groups may also form a “World Conference” which functions separately from the corporation and provides the groups with guidance and support

Governance

- CLA, the fellowship, is “governed” by the Traditions & Concepts
- CLA WSO, the corporation, is governed by both federal and NJ state laws while being guided by the Traditions
- Both honor the inverted pyramid organizational structure instead of top-down governance, except regarding legal requirements.

Why Does this Matter?

- Once the corporation was formally renamed in 2022, it was necessary to begin using new terminology.
- The attorney who assisted us made it very clear that it is critical that we are precise in using our correct name(s).
- Being consistent with our name is an essential part of protecting us from outside efforts to usurp our name and helps maintain our legal standing.
- It also keeps clear the distinction between the rights and responsibilities of the corporation versus the fellowship.

Names Matter

1. To be clear, any references to the corporation should only be either its full or alternate legal name. This applies whether inside or outside the organization.
 - Full Name: Clutterers Anonymous World Service Organization, Inc.
 - Alternate Name: CLA WSO
2. Accordingly, there is no entity called WSO. Using that terminology makes it sound like CLA WSO is a “subsidiary” of the Clutterers Anonymous fellowship, which it is not.
3. When referring to the fellowship, please use its correct name(s):
 - Full Name: Clutterers AnonymousSM - Trademarking in the works
 - Alternate Name: CLASM
 - Use SM the first time the name appears on page

Why Now?

We believe Clutterers Anonymous is on the verge of tremendous growth as we continue to expand our global presence and attract new members via social media that have not been reachable prior to this.

To ensure a strong foundation to build for the future and eliminate the confusion that has existed in conforming to both the legal requirements of a business while honoring the spiritual traditions of a 12-step program, this is the time to strive for clarity by starting from the ground up.

By addressing this now, it will allow us to align our goals going forward and enable us to serve not just today's members but future sufferers who have not yet made it to the doors of CLA.