

San Diego Chapter Report
September/October 2008

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the only program through which nonprofits can solicit donations from Federal employees. This is the second year our chapter has been eligible. Thus far Harry has given presentations at two post offices and the DEA.

Last year we received \$2,000 in CFC donations of which \$500 was kept by the CFC for administrative costs, \$1,200 came from one of our chapter members (thank you very much), and the rest from presentations. Which means roughly \$800 was raised by presentations. While the money is much needed and very much appreciated our presentations give us an opportunity to talk about our issues and leave behind brochures and information – its working the Federal system from the bottom up.

Harry has another presentation scheduled with the Social Security Administration and the area coordinator (70 post offices) for UPS is trying to get more presentations scheduled at more post offices. We hit it off and he referred one postal worker to us already for assistance, which we provided.

John Van D. and Bob W. tabled at the Navy hospital John and Bob will be tabling at the Navy Hospital again November 17. They have been a huge help.

Bob W. deserves particular thanks. Bob, like many other men is being dragged through family court in an unconscionable way. Fortunately, he has a great career, secure job, and some means, including being able to take considerable time off his job, during which he has spent many hours at our Men's Center studying and helping on projects, including tracking down the State Court System's Training Director's office to get Harry signed up to take a one day training class for Family Court Mediators.

Bob's effort was well worth the effort, the training was worth the sixty bucks, and Harry got to meet some people within the system. Are you ready for this... the Assistant Training Director said the family courts make sure mediator training and operating policies and procedures are gender neutral? And, generally speaking, during this training they were, sort'a speaks...

The morning was devoted to learning about the Hague Convention and international child abductions. The afternoon session was devoted to domestic violence. The trainer was Dr. David Wexler who runs the Northern Training Institute. Wexler is a mover and shaker in the Southern California DV industry having written several books, designed and operated batterer

intervention programs. Wexler also provides the 40 hour DV trainings required to be taken once a year by people working in the California DV industry. That is, he trains hundreds if not thousands of DV industry related workers each and every year.

Four years ago Harry convinced Wexler to integrate information about abused men into his 40 hour certification program, including bringing from Oregon as a speaker Phil Cook (author, Hidden Side of Domestic Violence, Abused Men); each year thereafter Wexler incorporated into the program someone knowledgeable about abused men. Last year Wexler brought down Dr. Martin Fiebert, Cal State Long Beach (author of the largest bibliography going regarding abused men).

These trainings are offered several times a year in different locations throughout southern California. So for at least the last several years a vast number of DV industry operatives have been learning about abused men. Harry sat in the front. Wexler forgot to mention it was an NCFM representative that directly caused him to integrate information about abused men into his trainings. Now Wexler's bringing to San Diego Donald Dutton from Canada too! Sometimes we get lucky.

However, Wexler presentations are all about the research. While his presentation to family court mediators lacked a bridge between science and application, the last two hours were devoted entirely to learning about abused men - huge progress which will hopefully translate into more custody time for San Diego fathers.

Harry also spoke before the San Diego City Council twice in October opposing the transfer of the San Diego Family Justice Center to the YWCA. The SDFJC was the first of President Bushes programs funded through the Family Justice Center Initiative started in 2003. The initiative provided funds to establish 16 regional one stop-and- shop domestic violence centers for victim services. The initiative started in San Diego with our center being the first. However, now, Casey Gwinn, a principle architect of the initiative and currently YWCA CEO wants to transfer the SDFJC to the YWCA. But, how many abused men will feel comfortable seeking services from the YWCA. There are other problems associated with the transfer, including expanding Casey's and the DV Industry's power base but there's not enough room to explain that here; nor do I think we'll be successful in stopping the transfer.

You may recall that the Children's Rights Initiative for Sharing Parents Equally (CRISPE) was founded by NCFM and Men's Center member Larry Kerkman, known as "Mr. CRISPE (ee) and the big purple bus". Both traveled America last year advocating for presumptive equal shared parenting. Check this out, Google "[Press Release for regional expansion of CRISP](#)" – in India. Last year there was a related article that showed members of CRISP in their t-shirts, t-shirts identical to CRISPE's. In the background was a picture of their big purple caravan. Thanks Larry. It appears you may have started an international movement...

We had some success in the elections. Three of our Men's Center members, John Van D., Larry K., and Richard A. were very active in local politics, one more active than the others. Richard was closely involved with the election of one Congressman and one California State Senator. Maybe we got lucky again...

Take Care,

Harry Crouch