Saturday Oct. 12, 2019 7:30 AM PT

1. **Opening Matters** 
   * 1. Check-Ins/Sobriety Statements- Qualifications for BOT Membership
     2. Readings
        + [**Twelve Concepts**](https://slaafws.org/download/core-files/The_Twelve_Concepts_of_SLAA.pdf) - (Non-Chair Member with most seniority) – Nancy G.
        + [**Twelve Traditions**](https://slaafws.org/download/core-files/The_Twelve_Traditions_of_SLAA.pdf)- (Member next most seniority on the BOT) – P.A. K.
        + SLAA BOT Preamble – Jay G.

c. Members present: Ned J., Nancy G., Jay G., P.A. K., Seth S., Christina M., Rick S.

Started Recording

1. **Assign roles**
   1. Facilitator – Ned J.
   2. Record Keeper – Christina M.
   3. Timekeeper – Seth S.
   4. Spiritual Reminder – All
2. **Announcements**

-Today is an Interim BOT (2 hour) meeting with no breaks-we have lots to discuss and approve. We will use a Round Robin style discussion with a time limit for each speaker- 2 minute initially and then 1minute intervals after that.

- Proposed time frame for posting BOT Agenda and Minutes:

Chair to post Monthly Agenda by the Wednesday before the scheduled BOT Meeting

Secretary to post Minutes 7-10 after the last scheduled BOT Meeting

-Next BOT Meeting is November 9th, 2019

-Next Month is the REGULAR (3 hour) meeting of the BOT- remember to have your Board Reports, Liaison Reports and any other Documents and Materials posted by the Wednesday before the meeting.

- We need a volunteer Chair next month’s BOT Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda (*BOT Agenda 10 12 2019 V.02***)

Agenda was approved.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the September 14th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the BOT ***(Revised BOT Minutes September 14 2019 (1) docx.)***

Minutes **as amended** were approved.

**6) Monthly Action Items**

* 1. Christina to send Pam & Beth Approved Minutes from 09 14 2019 BOT Meeting to Pam and Beth (DONE)
  2. Board Committee Chairs to send approved Non-BOT Member information from September 2019 Meeting to Pam (DONE)
  3. Board Committee Chairs to send approved Non-BOT Member information to Pam and Beth (PENDING)
  4. Jay to send approved FY2019-2020 FWS Budget Approved to Pam (DONE)
  5. Seth and Nancy to speak to Beth S. concerning consulting position (DONE)
  6. Seth to create Consulting Agreement and Scope of Work for Beth S. (DONE)
  7. Board Chair or BOC Chair to explore with CLC, CCC and/or Chairs Call for input about attaching this newly revised BOT Statement on Distribution of Draft Literature to all draft literature as it circulates around the Fellowship. (PENDING – Seth/Ned; Need to move this as an action item for November BOT Regular meeting)
  8. Ned to serve as October BOT Interim Meeting Chair (DONE)
  9. -eJournal - The response letter to the journal has been drafted and approved by the BOC and CLC is being sent out to subscribers. There are 124 email communications to FWS concerning this. Webmaster is actively engaged in sorting this out and will track time spent on the project. (DONE)

**7) Business**

**ELEVATED PRIORITY:**

1. Nomination and Approval of Non- BOT Members to Board Committees

**BFC**

Michael S. (Jay G.-BFC)

Approved.

**BFSC**

Roger R. (Ned J.-BFSC)

Approved.

1. Discussion of letter from CLC re: State of Grace; Daily Meditations - (Seth S.-President) (***CLC Letter to the BOT***; ***SOG-Statement from BOT to ABM July 25 2019.docx***)

Discussion:

There was pushback from the CLC prior to the 2019 ABM with regard to the State of Grace Meditation book (SoG). During the 2019 ABM, the old BOT met with key members of the CCC (Rita, Joe, Gabriel) to discuss their interpretation of Appendix I and whether the Board was justified in moving forward with the publication of SoG or whether they needed to go back to the CLC. Based on the discussion with the CCC, who said the BOT was justified in going forward, the BOT drafted a letter to the CLC, which was sent after the ABM, giving them a red-lined edited copy of SoG and advising them the BOT was planning to move forward with publication. From that letter, came this other letter from the CLC in late August/ early September, asking the BOT to reconsider going forward with publishing and give them an opportunity to discuss the edits.

Referenced files:

SOG-Statement from BOT to ABM – 07 25 2019.docx

Letter to the Board re State of Grace.pdf

Discussion points:

Opinion stated that this ship has sailed; the BOT has the authority to move forward, according to Appendix I (as written). Going back to the CLC may delay the process of publication at least 2 years if not more; the book is fine the way it is. Note that an originating drafting author of the Basic Text is still unhappy about the way the editing process worked. As this Board moves forward, we have made significant changes to the editing process to be more collaborative. But it doesn’t make sense to go back and change what has already been done, let’s move forward, not backwards.

Counter point raised regarding the unanimity of dissent from the entire CLC committee regarding the changes made by the prior BOC. That this degree of discontent warrants not only a response from the BOT, but that some effort be made to get the CLC on board with moving forward in publishing a version they approve of, not one they feel does not reflect the text that was Conference-approved in 2018. That the 9% changes that should be justified by Appendix I were made based solely on textual word-count, and doesn’t take into consideration changes to content, structure and substance. There was a thorough inventory taken by the CLC that addressed every edit made to the text by the BOC; some changes were looked on favorably, but many changes had been made that either did not support their original version and altered it completely, thereby not improving on nor supporting the text. Proposal was made to give the CLC a 30-day time frame to collaborate with the BOC to restore the document to what the CLC feels is its original Conference-approved version, thereby giving them a voice in the matter.

Point brought up regarding a previous letter from the CLC directed to the ARS which was damaging and personal; the comments from the CLC were therefore not allowed into the ARS, therefore reiterating the ship has sailed on this issue.

Concern raised over the possibility of further conflicts arising over future literature by allowing the CLC to disapprove of anything coming through the BOC, therefore encouraging another ordeal with endless back-and-forth disagreements between the two entities if the CLC disapproves of any edits.

Point raised that the prior angst between these two groups is currently being addressed by the BOC and CLC chairs regarding respect for original authors, collaboration, and teamwork, and a bridge to a better future is being built.

Point raised that the 2019 ABM meeting between the BOT and CCC was a late, long, and thoughtful deliberation; no one wanted to be in the position they were in, but after careful deliberation, respectful attention to every part of this issue was paid, and there was no recourse but to move forward.

Point raised this is being handled by trusted servants; there is a process being followed and reasonable confidence was expressed that this process has been adequately followed. The Fellowship has been waiting for this book and it’s the Board’s job to deliver it.

Sentiment expressed that last year’s BOC did everything exactly within the current confines of Appendix I, which does not discuss content nor intention; commas and grammatical changes are not included when examining the revision; there is no conversation about revisions made to the other texts currently in review, such as Anorexia 4-5-6-7. Another conflict such as this will not happen again moving forward, and the BOT has approved this current version of SoG. A statement was read at the 2019 ABM that the BOT had voted to print this document. Yes, an entire committee is opposed to this printing, but no piece of literature is going to make everyone happy; the multiple originating authors are unhappy with what they describe as Affirmations, however this is how the CJC’s conference-approved cover-letter refers to said statements in the original document. Concern over the elimination of “husband” and “wife” were raised by the CLC, however the opinion was raised that this is the least diversified document to come before the BOC; there were no marginalized/gay/people of color voices heard in the original document; that’s why terms were changed—to diversity the document.

The CLC is requesting that if this version of the document moves forward, it be printed as “non-conference approved”, however that is not possible.

The old BOT has carefully weighed this from a lot of different perspectives before making the decision to inform the CLC they would move forward. It was reiterated that going backwards would set a bad precedent for future collaborations. It is understood that people are upset, however the BOT has taken real steps to improve future BOC/CLC collaborations moving forward.

Proposal to include in the response letter to the CLC that any piece of Conference-approved literature can be changed after approval and after publication; anybody is free to go through the literature approval process (which includes the CLC,) to propose a newly–revised edition of SoG, get it Conference-approved, and when all copies of the 1st version were sold out, the BOT would respect the newly revised version and move forward with printing that second version. This can also happen with the basic Text and/or any pamphlet. “The Ship Has Sailed” regarding this current approved version, which will be published, but the CLC has the opportunity to go forward and make their case and get a newly revised version published.

Concern was raised over the possibility that moving forward with the publication would be doing a disservice to the Fellowship, not because of any anger or upset experienced by the dissenting party, but rather noting the facts regarding where/how the process went awry, namely the absence of an opportunity for the CLC to review or address their concerns over the BOC’s redlined edit and the question raised over why the BOC’s charter lists their purpose as being to augment Conference literature when Appendix I states the BOC should review the literature and may make edits of no more than 25% of Conference Approved literature, not that it’s their duty to do so. Additionally, according to Appendix I, BOC edits should be based upon feedback received directly from the Conference, of which there was none from the 2018 ABM regarding SoG, and in fact the document was approved without any real Cons or negative feedback. Looking at the new version of SoG alone, it is a wonderful document definitely worthy of publication, however when compared to the original version submitted by the CLC and approved by the 2018 Conference, it’s clear to see why there has been pushback. Opinion was stated that the original CLC SoG document carried a distinct S.L.A.A. voice that was expressed through each entry’s “affirmation” actually being a Top-Line Behavior rather than a more traditional mainstreamed “affirmation.” Opinion was expressed that the final revision, after augmentation, rather than becoming more diversified was actually anaesthetized of its original impact and intent; that many of the edits imposed upon the document by the BOC were unnecessary, therefore continuing to collaborate with the CLC is not going backwards, it is actually moving forward toward the restoration of a version more in alignment with what the Conference approved in 2018. Proposal was reiterated to allow the CLC maximum 30 days to address the edits.

Statement was made affirming the possibility of re-issuing another edited version of SoG by properly submitting the document for re-approval after the 1st version sells out. Speculation that in the future perhaps the BOC will not have to take on the task of editing in the manner that they did.

Point was raised that the BOT sending out a red-lined edit to the CLC was an anomaly this time around; that a precedent for doing so had not been set in the past, and that doing so added more fuel to the fire of the issue. The Basic Text was modified at some point down the line; changes can be made to SoG if the need arises, and at this point the BOT owes it to the Fellowship to get this reader published and distributed.

It was the understanding of the CHRC when putting forth the Healthy Relationship pamphlet that one’s work would be subjected to a certain measure of the unknown in the development process, but that is the way it works, and until the document is on the floor for approval does the Committee have any say regarding making changes. There are spiritual elements of acceptance, forgiveness and moving forward that need to be taken into consideration.

End of Discussion

The motion: the board reaffirms its prior decision to proceed with the printing and publishing of the version of **State of Grace: Daily Mediations** previously approved by the Board; the Board will send a letter to the Conference Literature Committee informing them of this.

Motion was seconded.

Vote was 6-1-0.

The minority opinion was heard, stating the belief this issue will come up again in the 2020 ABM since a lot of money will be spent on printing this version, and a spotlight will be put upon the previous collaborative process between the prior BOC and the current CLC. Because of all the effort now being put forth to improve upon the collaborative literature process, it’s clear something went awry; the opinion was stated that a huge mistake was made in the original process and a critical error is now being made in moving forward.

The Re-vote was 6-1-0. Motion was approved.

Action item created: Nancy and Jay will draft a response to the CLC and circulate for BOT comments and ultimate sending to CLC.

1. Discussion of letter from Whistleblower complaint - (Seth S.-President)

***(Whistleblower Complaint Materials)***

Discussion:

This issue came up for the prior BOT. In 2018, a proposal was brought forth by the New York Intergroup to host the following year’s ABM. One of the New York ABM Delegates told members of the Board that the proposal was from an individual, not the entire New York Intergroup, but the proposal WAS in fact from the New York Intergroup. When the Board reviewed possible sites in New York, they couldn’t find any options that were cost-effective to allow the Board to select New York as the next ABM location, and plans were made to select Sacramento. This particular whistleblower complaint cites the Board made their decision on the erroneous information that the individual had put forth the proposal as opposed to the New York Intergroup, and the whistleblower wants the BOT minutes amended to reflect the Board did not have the correct information about the New York Intergroup’s support.

Opinion stated that in order to move forward, the Board needs only to say the Board was misinformed regarding the proposal coming from the New York Intergroup as opposed to an individual.

Point raised that looking back in hindsight at the previous BOT discussions, the decision regarding not going to New York was based upon cost; there was pressure to announce the next ABM location at the previous ABM; people really wanted to make New York work as a location, there wasn’t actually any real consideration made regarding supposed comments from the New York delegate regarding the lack of New York Intergroup support.

The BPMC had expressed price concerns regarding both New York and Chicago as potential locations. The previous BOT had replied to the Whistleblower with this reply: **“We thank the New York City Intergroup for filing an application to host the 2019 ABM. We regret any confusion or upset we may have caused. Utilizing what we have learned from this situation with New York City and others, we have taken decisive steps to rewrite and approve the new host-city application. We would like to thank all those involved. We would also like to thank the Board Programs and Membership Committee for their help in crafting this new host city application. Thank you for your service and assistance in handling this complaint.”**

For the sake of clarification, all the Whistleblower wants is for the minutes to reflect what happened.

Reminder of the changes made by the BPMC in the process for selecting host cities.

Proposal for a bracketed statement to be added to the prior minutes after the reference that offended the Whistleblower stating “the Board has been subsequently informed that the proposal for New York City to host the 2019 ABM was approved by its Intergroup.”

Motion to state in the October 2019 minutes: The Board recognizes that the proposal to host the 2019 ABC/M in New York City was made by the New York Intergroup.

Motion was seconded.

Vote was 6-1-0.

Minority opinion was heard: the minutes that have been posted for the last year and a half state that “according to a New York City Intergroup representative, the New York City bid was not from the Intergroup, but rather from an individual, therefore the current New York City bid is being taken off the table for contention”. So the history tells us it had nothing to do with costs. Now we are being told the New York City bid *was* made by the New York City Intergroup.

Revote was 6-0-1.

Action item: Seth will call the Whistleblower to let him know we have addressed this. Action item: Seth will draft something for this month’s minutes and give it to Christina.

1. Review Printing and publishing costs; State of Grace; Daily Meditation (Ned J.-BOC)

***(Daily Readers Price Comparison V.01 xlsx; SOG Printing Quotes V.04.xlsx; Brenner Quote SOG-2 Versions; SOG – 4.5 x 6.5 Soft Cover Quote.pdf; SOG Hard Cover 5 x 8.pdf; BOC Recommendation to BOT for Printing the SOG)***

Discussion:

Very positive sentiments in response to all the research and work that has gone into this project by the BOC. Good processes are necessary for good results and this is a model process; we are getting multiple quotes and multiple options for printing and basing a recommendation on this research. We get some advantages by using a local printer—we are saving on shipping costs. We are establishing a relationship with a new publisher so we could get multiple bids in the future. Some question in the confidence of the hard-cover being a big seller, but we have the option to make a rolling order. There are no budget busters in these quotes and there is plenty of room in the budget for Ned to go to the printer and make a BOT trip, there is room in the budget for formatting & editing, and part of the formatting was paid for before September 30th.

There were favorable views of having a limited number of special edition copies (1,976—1976 was the date the Fellowship was founded), having pre-sales available for the hard cover book to raise additional revenue prior to when the book is actually available, and doing so in order to bring profit in as we simultaneously spend money to get the product out.

Favorable view of the direction the BOC seems to be going by taking on the task of facilitating the printing and publishing of our literature rather than its augmentation.

Favorable views of the set quantities and the options to pre-order; Fellows tend to go outside the program for meditation books, so it’s good to have a version that is specifically S.L.A.A.

The hardcover is going to be an OG (Original Gangster) throwback to our original hardbound 1st edition Basic Text that was available in the early 1980’s. Ned has a lot of valuable experience and knowledge regarding writing and publishing. Note of affirmation regarding Pam our Executive Director, who has been an invaluable resource in this process through her enthusiasm, using the multiple bid quote requirements of the purchasing policy to effectively negotiate between several different publishers.

Jay G. has posted a proposed response in the meeting materials file to the CFC on this action to move forward to publish in accordance with a prior motion.

Motion put forward for the BOT to move forward with printing/publishing the State of Grace Meditation Book under the financial guidelines as presented in the Executive Summary by the Board Outreach Committee in these two quantities/formats:

1. 10,000 copies of the 4.5” x 6.5”
2. 1,976 copies of the 5”x 8” hard bound limited edition version

Motion was seconded.

Vote was 6-0-1, motion was approved.

The next step will be for the approved BOT version will go to a desktop publisher, who will have to graphically layout and create a master file for printing. That will be 2 different master files for the two different versions; that desktop published document goes back to the Executive Director and there will be some minor editing at that point, such as adding the 12 steps and 12 traditions. The CLC/CJC has been contacted regarding whether they still want to have their letter of introduction included in the final version. Then the text will go to print. There is a budget for Ned to travel to be on press if needed to confirm the printing process is proceeding correctly. The hope is to get the book out as soon as possible, starting with the hard-bound copy, which will ideally be available by Christmas time.

Note-we do business with Brenner; they do our pamphlets—another positive aspect of this proposal.

Question was raised regarding when the book will appear on the website for pre-order. Answer: The hope is to get it up there as soon as possible, ideally with a visual cover image, which will need to be designed, hopefully by an artist within the Fellowship.

Proposed Action Item for Ned: to work with the web master to get the pre-order banner up on the website. Said item will be added to Ned’s lengthy list of action items currently working.

Rough estimate for the limited edition hard bound copy to be available for presale before Christmas. If enough presales, there will be a rolling run.

The original motion to publish this text was made in 1998.

**8.) Select Facilitator**

Next BOT meeting is a *Regular* Meeting on November 9th, 2019

Next chair will be Jay, followed by Nancy in December.

Recording was stopped.

Check-Outs

Closing Prayer:

Higher Power make me worthy to serve You through this Fellowship and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Help me to be generous with my time and effort, to give without counting the cost, to give back wholly for what I have so freely received without looking for any reward, other than that of knowing I have done your will. Through my service, may I give hope and peace to those who still suffer. – (Christina M.)

Meeting Schedule for Conference year 2019-2020

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **~~14 Sept 19 – Regular~~** | **~~12 Oct 19 – Interim~~** | **9 Nov 19 – Regular** |
| **13 Dec 19 – Interim** | **11 Jan 20 – Regular** | **8 Feb 20 – Interim** |
| **14 Mar 20 – Regular** | **11 Apr 20 – Interim** | **9 May 20 – Regular** |
| **13Jun 20 – Interim** | **11 Jul 20 – Regular** | **F2F** |