1. **Opening Matters** 
   1. Check-Ins/Sobriety Statements – Hernan V. (CA) (arrived later), Sam E. (NJ), Suzanne D. (TX), Juanita J. (DC), Sam E. (NJ), Julie M. (CA) (arrived later), Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL), Jack F. (AUS), Chris D. (CA), Jim B. (CA – non-BOT Record Keeper)
   2. Readings:
      * + [Twelve Concepts](https://slaafws.org/download/core-files/The_Twelve_Concepts_of_SLAA.pdf) - Concept Ten (Non-Chair Member with most seniority) – **Rick B.**
        + [Twelve Traditions](https://slaafws.org/download/core-files/The_Twelve_Traditions_of_SLAA.pdf)- Tradition Ten (Member next most seniority on the BOT) – **Sam E.**
        + **BOT Preamble** - *Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition oriented fellowship based on the model pioneered by Alcoholics Anonymous. The only qualification for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. S.L.A.A. is supported entirely through contributions of its membership and is free to all who need it. The BOT is a business meeting. We are the business arm of our recovery organization. Respecting the Second Tradition, we need to put individual feelings aside when we work for the BOT and focus on what serves the Fellowship best. This is a job. We are trusted servants. We abuse that trust when we do not act professionally in discharging the business of the Fellowship*. – (Member with the third-most seniority on the BOT) **Julie M.**

**Start Recording (\*9)**

1. **Assign roles**
   1. Facilitator – **Suzanne D.**
   2. Record Keeper – **Jim B. (non-BOT member)**
   3. Timekeeper – **Phoenix G.**
   4. Spiritual Reminder – **All**
2. **Announcements**
   1. Stated 2023-4 goals for each Board Committee are due at the November 2023 BOT meeting. – **Suzanne D.**

* 1. FWS office successfully completed the annual inventory on October 2nd/3rd. – **Suzanne D.**
  2. September Newsletter update. – **Chris D.** *---Newsletter was 100 pages long. A volunteer has stepped forward to be the new Newsletter Editor. Application forms for the position were sent to the volunteer.*
  3. Our S.L.A.A. bank account update. – **Hernan V.**

*---Suzanne D. gave brief update. Noted that fraud occurred on the FWS account from outside the organization, and about $7,000 was stolen. Account has been frozen, and a new account has been opened. Hernan will work with the FWS staff to transfer automatic payments, automatic income, etc.. Once complete, the FWS will be able to dispute the fraudulent charges.*

*---Hernan V. gave an update. It was exactly $7,300. He has sent a list of the fraudulent transactions to the bank. Noted that the individual who perpetrated the fraud was located in San Antonio as all the charges were local to that area. It is suspected that a piece of paper with the bank number and account number must have been used to gain access to the account. Hernan noted that it took a few weeks to find out that the fraud was occurring. This was partly due to lack of access to the accounts to monitor them. In process of an orderly transition to the new account. The bank is being supportive, and it will be worked out soon. All stolen funds will be re-imbursed by the bank.*

*---Questions / comments (with responses (****R****)**from Hernan) as follows:*

* *Requested to report the theft to the police for follow up.* ***R:*** *Stated that it may be the bank that needs to file the report as it is their loss. But, will follow up if our responsibility.*
* *Curious as to why the account was so low that a $7,000 loss made it difficult to pay the bills.* ***R:*** *Stated that there was an unusually high amount of normal payments during this time, which had already left the account fairly low.*
* *Suggested to set up fraud alert for the account to catch something like more quickly.* ***R:*** *Stated that this has been set up. Hernan will be contacted prior to any payments being made from the account on all future transactions.*
* *Recommended to conduct a daily check on the accounts so that this can be caught more quickly.* ***R:*** *Stated that daily checks are now occurring.*
* *Concern that some 7th Tradition contributions were also taken.* ***R:*** *Stated that this was unknown.*
* ***Rick B. action item:*** *Make it a financial policy to immediately provide the necessary access to the elected treasurer and secretary as quickly as possible after the ABC/M.*
* *Requested to use more stringent practices at the FWS to make sure no one gets the account number (who should not have it).* ***R:*** *Stated that Hernan is working with Pam to put these in place.*
* *Noted that the source of the fraud could have occurred from documents disposed of at the homes of staff. It may not have been due to practices at the office.*
* *Would like to get data on who comes into the office.*
* *Suggested to have employee payroll come out of a separate account, to lessen the risk of fraud on the primary account.* ***R:*** *Stated that this is a good idea to consider.*
* *Recommended to see what is paid electronically (such as Zelle), versus checks or credit card. Also, best to move the payroll to direct deposit if possible. Use of shredding should be mandatory.* ***R:*** *Stated that these are good ideas.*
* *Requested to have full transparency with the fellowship, but with caution.*

1. **Approval of Today’s Agenda** (BOT Interim Agenda 14 October 2023)  *---unanimously approved as submitted.*
2. **Approval of last Month’s Minutes** (BOT Minutes 9 September 2023, and BOT Special Meeting Minutes 23 September 2023) *---tabled until next meeting.*
3. **Monthly Action Items**
   1. Post preliminary Agenda for October 14, 2023 in DropBox. – **Suzanne D.** – (DONE)
   2. Forward BOT June Agenda to Jim. – **Suzanne D.** (DONE)
   3. Forward the approved BOT Minutes to the ED for posting to the website. – **Rick B.** (PENDING)
4. **Routine Reports**
   1. Suggestions to the Board *---None.*
   2. Executive Director Report and ED Sales Summary *---None.*
   3. Technology Director’s Report posted to Dropbox *---None.*

**BUSINESS**

**ELEVATED PRIORITY:**

* 1. Motion to approve the emergency transfer of $30K in funds from Vanguard prudent reserve to Frost operating account w/ plan to replenish. (September 2023 – BOT officers). – **Hernan V.** *---Report provided. Hernan noticed that the account was very low on 9/19. He had concerns about the ability of the FWS to pay bills. He reached out to the President and Secretary about this. It was recommended that a minimum level of $25,000 be maintained in the account. To have a little extra, he requested $30,000. The monies were moved from Vanguard to Frost, with approval by the Corporate Officers (President, Treasurer, Secretary). Discussion as follows:*
* *Question raised as to why this was not put out for a full board vote prior to taking the action.*
* *Noted that this is more like a confirmation of actions that needed to be taken.*
* *Recommended to develop a plan to repay that money to the prudent reserve.*
* *Curious as to why so much money needed to be transferred.* ***R:*** *Stated that even without the fraud, the account was quite low. There was a real possibility that payroll could not be made, or other bills paid. Noted that besides the fraud, there were other factors that had brought the account down recently: higher than usual ABC/M expenses, lower donations, and a confluence of large bills that must be paid.*
* *Noted that this was the right choice in a difficult situation that demanded immediate action.*
* *Stated that this motion is being brought to the board in an effort to be fully transparent, and to get input on the action from the full board.*
* *Requested to make a plan on how to return the $30,000 to the prudent reserve in the future. Suggested to have the BFC put together a plan.*
* *Recommendations as follows: a) have the Board Officers develop the plan, b) have the BFC develop the plan, c) have the BFC work with the B7TC to develop the plan, d) Secretary develop a flyer soliciting donations, to be posted to the website.*

*---Friendly amendment made to the motion to add the following: That the BFC, B7TC, and Corporate Officers work on plan to reimburse the $30,000 to the prudent reserve. Amendment seconded, with discussion as follows:*

* *Recommended to first make sure that the fellowship is on solid financial footing, then look into re-imbursement to the prudent reserve.*
* *Suggested to have some of the monies in higher yield accounts.*
* *Pointed out that the work group could come up with a plan, but that the full board must approve the plan before any action is taken.*
* *Noted that hard work must occur to raise more money for the fellowship.*
* *Stated that the FWS should also look into best practices to save costs and help get monies back to the prudent reserve.*

*---Motion to approve the emergency transfer of $30K in funds from Vanguard prudent reserve to Frost operating account, with a plan to replenish developed by a work group comprised of the BFC / B7TC / Corporate Officers and approved by the full board of trustees. Motion seconded, with vote as follows: nine in favor, none opposed, none abstain (9-0-0). Motion passed.*

* 1. Complaint brought to Whistleblower (additional concerns raised) Initial Inquiry – who to conduct (Suzanne D./Chris D. Sept. 9). – **Suzanne D.** *---Noted that there had not been a determination on who to conduct the initial inquiry. Discussion as follows:*
* *Jack F. offered to conduct the investigation.*
* *Suggested to have Juanita join Seth S. to conduct the preliminary investigation.*
* *Noted that a board member should not be an investigator due to potential conflict of interest.*
* *Concern that the current investigator may have previous history with the individual who is the subject of the complaint.*
* *Pointed out that this is not an actual whistleblower complaint. As such, there is no prohibition against a board member conducted an initial inquiry.*
* *Concern about the potential impact of this issue.*
* *Stated that previous history with an individual should not be a disqualifier for conducting an initial inquiry.*
* *Juanita is open to being part of the team conducting an initial inquiry.*
* *Suggested to have three people on the team for the initial inquiry: Suzanne D., Jack F., and Seth S.*
* *Recommended to keep communication in email for record keeping.*
* *Suggested to keep communication on Zoom, and record it.*

*---Motion made to have a work group of three (Suzanne D., Jack F., Juanita J.) conduct the initial inquiry, with recordings on Zoom. Results will be brought back to the full board for review. Motion seconded, with discussion as follows:*

* *Noted that this is a diverse workgroup.*
* *Requested to add Seth S. as a fourth member to the workgroup.*
* *Support for the three board members nominated.*

*---Vote on the original (unamended) motion as follows: eight in favor, one opposed, none abstain (8-1-0). Motion passed.*

* 1. Vote on non-BOT members to Board Committees: BDC: Seth S. – **Suzanne D.**; B7TC: Rachel W. – **Jack F.** *---Seth S. approved for the BDC (5-4-0). Rachel W. approved for the B7TC (9-0-0).*

**REGULAR PRIORITY:**

1. IFD: Does the BOT have a position on the legal ownership of the unofficial S.L.A.A. YouTube Channel? (Hernan V. April 8, 2023) **– Hernan V.** *---Discussion about taking over three domain names purchased by a fellow, and how best to address the YouTube Channel. The fellow wants to donate them to the fellowship. The fellowship could then have their own official S.L.A.A. channel. Discussion as follows:*

* *Noted that the domain names purchased by the fellow are not currently being utilized for any social media posting.*
* *Stated that the board previously looked into this issue last year, and decided to avoid any ownership of a YouTube channel or other social media outlet.*
* *Suggested for the board to review this issue again, due to social media being more important than ever before.*
* *Pointed out that this is an opportunity to reach out more to people suffering from the addiction.*
* *Requested to have the YouTube Channel remove all references to the fellowship, and remove fellowship logos.*
* *Stated that the board needs to embrace newer technology, and use social media to attract new members.*
* *Noted that the fellowship does have an official social media policy.*
* *Suggested to create a BOC subcommittee, with the CPIC chair and other conference committee chairs, to review this issue further.*
* *Hernan V. to work with Sam E. on some options, and bring any ideas back to the full board.*

1. Whistle Blower Complaint Investigator Recommended Guidelines for Service (BDC Chair Suzanne D. June 10, 2023) **– Suzanne D.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*
2. 2023-2024 Virtual Retreat to set goals for the Conference Year (CY) 2024 - Setting Board Committee Goals & Review of BOT self-Assessment – (Suzanne D. July 29 & 30, 2023) - **Suzanne D**. *---tabled until the next meeting.*
3. Motion to disband the LCEP**– (**Former BPDC/LCEP Chairperson Phoenix G. July 29&30, 2023) **Phoenix G.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*
4. Gift of S.L.A.A. websites (Suzanne D. July 29&30, 2023) – **Suzanne D.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*
5. Review and approval of the 2023 SLAA FWS Survey draft – (Former BOC

Chairperson Hernan V. July 29&30, 2023) – **Hernan V.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*

1. Special Delegate Scholarship Fund **–** (Former Chair B7TC Rick B. July 29&30, 2023) **– Rick B.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*
2. Motion to make the BOT introductions each year in the first FWS Newsletter following the ABC/M a requirement. (Jack F Sept. 9, 2023) **– Jack F.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*
3. **Motion:** To make events held by the B7TC to raise much needed funds - FWS approved - (email as of October 10, 2023 - Rick B. & Jack F.) – **Rick B. & Jack F.**  
   **5.**Discussion surrounding tenders for ABM 2025 / 2026 (email as of October 10, 2023) **– Jack F.** *---tabled until the next meeting.*

**Stop Recording** **(\*9)**

**Check-outs:** Hernan V., Juanita J., Sam E., Julie M., Phoenix G., Rick B., Suzanne D., Chris D., Jack F., Jim B.

**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.* – **Juanita J.**

**Meeting Schedule for Conference Year 2022-2023 (All 3 hours)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *~~09 Sept 23 – Regular~~* | *~~14 Oct 23 – Interim~~* | *11 Nov 23 – Regular* |
| *09 Dec 23 – Interim* | *13 Jan 24 – Regular* | *10 Feb 24 – Interim* |
| *09 Mar 24 - Regular* | *13 Apr 24 – Interim* | *11 May 24 – Regular* |
| *08 Jun 24 – Interim* | 13 Jul 24 – Regular | F2F (TBD) Aug 2024 |