



The Augustine Fellowship, S.L.A.A.,
Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Face to Face (F2F) MEETING MINUTES August 3rd and 4th, 2024

Time: 9:00 am ET, 8:00 am CT, 6:00 am PT, 23:00 pm (Darwin, AU): both days end at
7 pm ET, 6 pm CT, 4 pm PT, 9:00 am (Darwin, AU)

1) Opening Matters

- a. Check-Ins/Sobriety Statements – Hernan V. (CA), Sam E. (NY), Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL), Chris D. (CA), Jack F. (AUS), Juanita J. (MD), Suzanne D. (TX)
- b. Readings:
 - **Twelve Concepts** – Concept 8 - (Non-Chair Member with most seniority) – **Hernan V.**
 - **Twelve Traditions** Tradition 8 - (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 meeting 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.* – **Phoenix G.** (Member with the third-most seniority on the BOT)

Start Recording (*9)

2) Assign roles

- a) Facilitator – **Suzanne D.**
- b) Record Keeper – **Mike T./Rick B.**
- c) Timekeeper – **Phoenix G.**
- d) Spiritual Reminder – **All**

3) Announcements

- Reminder to add BOT Committee Agendas for 1st meeting of 2024-2025 Chairs in Dropbox

- 4) **Approval of Today's Agenda** - (BOT F2F Meeting Agenda August 3 thru 4 2024)
- 5) **Approval of last Month's Minutes** - (BOT Meeting Minutes 13 July 2024) See below.
- 6) **Monthly Action Items**
 - e) Upload BOT Meeting Agenda to Dropbox – **Suzanne D.**
 - f) Upload prior month BOT Meeting minutes to the Dropbox – **Rick B.**
 - g) Forward the approved BOT Minutes to the ED for posting to the website – **TBD per 2024-2025 BOT Secretary**

BUSINESS

HIGH PRIORITY:

- a) Motion to Hire Mollie Cullinan at her stated rate to review IT Contract - **BOT Secretary, Rick B.** (30 July 2024) *Seconded by Suzanne D.*
*Discussion centered around the pricing versus protection from lawsuits and review by a trusted lawyer. 1st **Vote:** 8-0-0 in favor.*
- b) Concerns raised to CCC and BOT - (By-Laws Article 5, Section 5 Challenge) – **BOT Chair** (31 July 2024)
*BOT went into executive session. The motion brought forth by Rick stemmed from concerns brought to the CCC this year. Motion drafted by Rick B. "BOT draft a bylaws motion to clarify the definition of group, and to make sure the bylaws mentions Groups registered with F.W.S. multiple times." Seconded by Phoenix **Vote:** 8-0-0 passed unanimously.*
***Action Item:** Suzanne D. – Reach out and ask for a member's side of the concerns about lending money to an Intergroup.*
***Action Item:** the Board – Develop policy and processes to address issues that are brought to the BOT.*
- c) Approval of 13 July 2024 Minutes
With no changes needed; approved unanimously.
- d) BOT Comments on ABM Agenda Items – **BOT** (2 August 2024)
***24o01/23-12** IFD will be commented on by Jack F. "The Board of Trustees looks forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."*
***24o02/23-13** IFD will be commented on by Suzanne. "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this IFD."*
***24o03/23-14** By-Laws Motion will be commented on by Chris D. "The Board of Trustees support this motion."*
***24o04/23-15** Motion will be commented on by Rick B. "The Board of Trustees support inclusivity and world-wide participation at the ABC/M and look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion."*
***24o05/23-16** IFD will be commented on by Suzanne D. "The Board of Trustees are in support of safety guidelines in meetings and suggest they be addressed at a local level. The terms used in this document open the Fellowship up to legal liability. The BOT does not support this document."*
***24o06/22-04** Literature Motion will be commented on by Phoenix G. "The Board of Trustees look forward to hearing what the conference has to say on this Motion."*

24o09/22-10 Literature Motion will be commented on by Sam E. "The Board of Trustees support this motion and are excited about the potential completion of the Anorexia Step Booklet series."

- e) Motion to approve the BCTC Copyright Policy – **BCTC Chair, Rick B.**

*Due to concerns on the copyrights of drafted literature the BTCT put forth this policy motion to protect intellectual properties of the fellowship. The BOT believes this will need to be discussed more. The original document was too complicated and needed to be split and more focused. This document was seen as not finished yet. This motion was not passed with a **Vote** of: 2-6-0 It is to be sent back to the BCTC and have them finish it, fixing errors and clarifying it more thoroughly.*

- f) Motion to approve the BCTC approved Updated SLAA & Social Media document/Statement – **BCTC Chair Rick B.**

*The statement was sent by the BCTC to be approved by the BOT. The statement mentions social media platforms and the different groups made by members of those social media platforms are not affiliated or associated with SLAA FWS. It cites Traditions Five, Six and Eleven as reasons why it should not be affiliated as it could break the anonymity of members. A friendly amendment was made to add a specific social media that was left out. Others suggested that there be no listed social media companies and that "statement" be added to the title. **Vote** with friendly amendment changes: 6-1-1 approved with the minority making no comment. Seconded by Suzanne D.*

- g) BOT Self-Assessment – **BOT** (2 August 2024)

See separate document for BOT self-assessment.

REGULAR PRIORITY:

MOTION: Retroactive salary increase for F.W.S. staff." **Rick/Seconded by Phoenix.**
Motion passes to be retroactive to January 2024.

- h) **MOTION:** Retire the Board Programs and Membership Committee and create the Board Annual Business Meeting Planning Committee. - **BPMC & ABMPC Chair, Chris D. (2 August 2024) Seconded by Phoenix.**

"The responsibilities of the BPMC would be distributed as follows: The Archives Subcommittee would move to the Board Development Committee and the F.W.S. Newsletter would move to the Board Outreach Committee. The Annual Business Meeting Planning Committee would become a Board Committee entitled Board Annual Business Meeting Planning Committee (BABMPC) with the following membership: BABMPC Chair, BOT Chair, BOT Treasurer Rep, BTC member, Executive Director, F.W.S. Webmaster, CCC Chair, CCC member, CFC Chair, LPC Chair, and their membership would not need separate Board approval."

This would help to simplify roles and allow the BOT to better allocate time. The affected committees went through multiple round robin discussions before making these decisions and bringing it to a BOT motion.

Discussion:

Friendly amendment by Hernan: "BABMPC will retain the responsibility for the production for the IRC the codifying and working on the "buy in on" survey and production and design of new non literature programs." Declined by Chris, motion submitter.

Vote: 5-3-0 passed. Minority opinion: This bends a very important committee and leaves the responsibilities for new programs up in the air. This should be reviewed by the new board. **Second Vote:** 5-3-0 The minority didn't change. The **motion was approved.**

- i) **MOTION:** "To merge the Board 7th Tradition Committee (B7TC) with the Board Finance Committee (BFC); 1 Trustee responsible for finances and 1 Trustee responsible for the fundraising campaign." – **B7TC Chair, Jack F.** (2 August 2024)

Merging the B7TC into the BFC together would be good because all info would be readily available. There would be less lag time waiting for email responses. This will help to make us self-supporting. We need more fundraising and people. We need a more combined approach to grow the fellowship. Would have two trustees as co-chairs: one focused on fundraising one focused on finances.

Discussion: Worried about the Sarbanes Oxley Act implications in the US. There was a suggestion of having a liaison or rep from the BFC to the B7TC.

Friendly Amendment offered by Chris: "Instead of merging the two committees, the chair of the B7TC would have to be a member, but not the chair of the BFC."

Accepted by Jack.

Discussion: Many of the BOT agreed with the idea of the friendly amendment. A suggestion of a subcommittee was given containing members of both committees. It was brought up that the B7TC hadn't discussed this proposal at all and that it had only come from a BOT member. There was a call for a push for more people to be of service. After discussion, Jack **withdrew the motion.**

Motion: "The chair of the B7TC be a non-voting member of the BFC." -**Chris D**
Seconded by Suzanne.

The motion was moved to now as opposed to the end of the agenda since discussion had already happened, no one was in disagreement with this.

Discussion: There was a suggestion to check the Texas tax laws regulating not for profits.

Vote 8-0-0 approved.

- j) The Augustine Recovery App – **BOC BOT Member** (26 July 2023)

Discussion:

No need to create this app from the ground up, there are other recovery programs that have it. Use budget from BCC?? as opposed to the BOT budget- as that needs to be used for hardware and software updates for the office.

funding would need to be discussed more in depth.

Suggested options for the app:

could have a contribute button

access to the free literature and released audios

"thought of the day"

meeting finder

help for all SLAA addicts; newcomer and oldtimer alike
GDVI inspiration line can be featured
promote more service
committee could consist of BTC, BOC and webmaster
paid vs free version
sobriety calendar
meeting calendar
maybe a forum
ways to learn about committees and ABM
don't compete from the store
notes and excerpt saver
Tenth Step component
Consensus is to move forward and research more.

k) Approval of the May minutes-

With the below changes, the May minutes were approved unanimously.

- There were small inconsistencies in last year's report but they're not material errors. This year, the total net assets are the same in all three financial reports, the 990, the Financial Statements from the CPA, and our internal reports.

- We had to finance our 2023 \$60K losses by access to our endowment fund of \$49K. We're not having an in-person ABM to avoid creating a negative budget for the 2024 conference year.

l) **Motion:** "have the FWS office to update the FWS website after all ABMs after any bylaw amendments within a quick time frame (2 weeks after ABM)" - **Jack F.** (March 19, 2024) **Motion withdrawn.**

m) **Motion:** "Have the F.W.S. office to instantly change the contact us committee forms on the FWS website as a matter of good housekeeping after all ABM's vs getting the BOT liaison or chairs to do so (1 week to amend)" - **Jack F.** (March 19, 2024) **motion withdrawn**

n) **Motion:** - "After the ABM (within two weeks) - the BOT must set two days aside to develop + strategize our plan for the new conference year:

- We will prioritize what needs to be delivered....

- What are our goals & tasks....

- What resources do we need...

- Incorporating feedback from conference

- Allocations of tasks to each board committee...

- Appointments of members to each committee.....

- Establishing time frames & reporting obligations" – **Jack F.** (March 19, 2024)

motion withdrawn

o) "B7TC fund-raising campaign for approval." – B7TC Chair, **Jack F.** (October 10, 2023 email) – **Tabled until further notice**

p) "BFC request for a review of policies and procedures regarding monetary transactions." – BFC Chair – **Hernan V.** (11 May 2024)

The BFC made a motion to have the BOT review policies and procedures after the second round of fraud. There was worry that this could have been an inside job or caused by someone within the bank or the staff. Want to review to double check the internal controls. The Board HR and Policy Committee (BHRPC) has the policies of control for the office. This info can be found in the BHRPC Dropbox and that info can be reviewed.

Discussion: This is within the purview of the BOT. Would be good to check the policies and procedures. Can work through the use of quickbooks as a way to safeguard checking info. It is both a prudent decision and a spiritual requirement. The review should not be completed by any of the same people who have access to the account. The policies that we have with our vendors should be reviewed as well.

- q) “Build into 2025 budget hiring attorney to review IT and Bookkeeping Contracts” – **BHRPC Member** (13 April 2024)

The bookkeeper has stated that the requested work that was asked were tasks that were not added to the bookkeeper’s contract. Discussion: Contracts should be reviewed by an attorney regularly. We should double check the information the bookkeeper is supposed to be doing and if there are tasks that we need that aren’t in the contract it should be updated and then reviewed by an attorney.

Board proposes the following steps. Find out what the bookkeeper does currently, recognize what we want them to do. Bid out the job to other bookkeepers and then review them with the attorney.

- r) **Motion:** “Build into the budget for 2025 or 2026 to hire an auditor to do an external financial audit instead of just a review.” – BOT Chair (8 June 2024) seconded by: **Chris D**

Discussion: This will cost about \$5000 more than the review from our current CPA company. Last standard audit was not within the last three years. External audits are not designed to catch fraud. This should be done on a regular basis. Not a good idea to saddle the future board with this expense. Building it into the budget doesn’t commit us to complete the audit right away, it allows us to remain transparent and look towards the future.

Vote: 7-1-0, passed. Minority opinion: this isn’t necessary. Good for optics but not worth the extra money. Certified external audit doesn’t provide the comfort that people think it does. **2nd Vote:** 6-1-1, **Motion Approved.**

- s) **Motion:** “Create a Spanish Translation subcommittee within the BCTC.” – BCTC Chair, **Rick B.** (June 25, 2024) seconded by Jack F.

The translation of the basic text into Spanish was done by the Argentina intergroup. The person who did the translation will not give it to the fellowship for us to copyright and wants to do it all themselves. To promote more goodwill with Spanish speakers, the Board Copyright and Translation Committee (BCTC) asserts that creating the Spanish translation subcommittee will create a better group conscience for a document that can be accepted. Want to create a structure that Spanish speakers can translate and access the resources at FWS to be able to make more literature so that we can sell it. We would also be able to retain the rights to sell the literature as well.

Discussion: There is a strong drive to make this a more cohesive effort. The idea of this subcommittee has been passed from committee to committee. There is a need to create bridges between the BOT and other people. Will allow us to better support the Spanish translation efforts.

Vote: 8-0-0, Approved.

- t) **Motion:** "Approve the Board Outreach Committee Letter to Treatment Centers." BOC member Rick B. Seconded by Sam E.

Discussion: Important that the mental health facilities and treatment centers know that we exist and we work in partnership with them. There was a suggestion to add in the characteristics to give more information and to change FWS staff to FWS office.

Friendly amendment by Chris D. "Add the 12 Characteristics to the back of the letter." **-Declined**

Discussion: It would be good for the future to send out a newcomer packet or a SLAA pocket toolkit with the letters. Adding the characteristics would be helpful, if that can't be added at this time, maybe adding a QR code to link to the characteristics would be a good idea.

Vote: 5-3-0, passed. Minority opinion: It is a disservice to not include the characteristics. It helps the mental health professionals better recognize the addiction. **2nd Vote:** 2-6-0, not passed. Minority opinion: Committee worked on this. The document that we currently have isn't as good as this one. It is better to get this one out than try and have it perfect now.

3rd Vote: 3-5-0, **Motion Failed.**

- u) **Motion:** "Approve the BOC Letter to Treatment Centers with the 12 Characteristics on the back of the page." BOC Chair Rick B. Seconded by Phoenix G.

a. **Vote:** 8-0-0, **Approved.**

- v) **Motion:** "Letter to Mental Health Professionals with 12 Characteristics on the 2nd page." By **Phoenix** seconded by Hernan

Discussion: The characteristics are the best way that mental health professionals can help to diagnose this disease. **Vote:** 8-0-0, **Motion Approved.**

- w) Budget and Financial Statements to review and approve – BFC Chair and Treasure, **Hernan V. (July 2024) Tabled**

- x) Approve the Archives Subcommittee officially of the BPMC. – Chair of BPMC **Chris D.**, (June 2024) Withdrawn

Stop Recording (*9)

Closing Matters:

Check-outs: Hernan V. (CA), Sam E. (NY), Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL), Chris D. (CA), Jack F. (AUS), Juanita J. (MD), Suzanne D. (TX)

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. (Member with the least seniority on the BOT)**

Meeting Schedule for Conference Year 2023-2024 (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 2-3 Aug 2024