



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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

8 June 2024

Time: 11:00 am ET, 10:00 am CT, 8:00 am PT, 1:00 am (Darwin, AU): 3-hour meeting

### 1) Opening Matters

- 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)
- Regrets:
  - a. Readings:
    - **Twelve Concepts** – Concept 6 - (Non-Chair Member with most seniority) – **Hernan V.**
    - **Twelve Traditions** - Tradition 6 - (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)  
Today it was Chris D.

### Start Recording (\*9)

### 2) Assign roles

- a) Facilitator – **Suzanne D.**
- b) Record Keeper – **Chris D.**
- c) Timekeeper – **Jack**
- d) Spiritual Reminder – **All**

### 2) Announcements

- Committee reports are due to F.W.S. for the ABM binders by July 1, 2024. Emphasized that the timely delivery of these to F.W.S. is critical.

- Please register by end of today - Those who have not registered can use this link, which is still "open": <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/annbuscon/event/889172/package/3489977>
- The CCC approved the revised CSM Chapter 3 last night. SuzAnne will ask for an email vote on Chapter 3.
- BTC will be scheduling a rehearsal virtual ABM on some date to be determined based on everyone's availability.
- Two months until the start of the ABM.
- Need a recordkeeper for ABM. Please announce it far and wide. Announcement in the forthcoming F.W.S. Newsletter.
- F.W.S. Newsletter in the Dropbox.

- 3) **Approval of Today's Agenda** - (*BOT Meeting Agenda 8 June 2024*) Questions about whether changes are needed regarding the elevated priority financial statements (no changes needed) and whether a motion from the ABM PC has to be approved by the BPMC first. Because the ABM PC deals directly with the ABM, precedent and tradition, ABM PC's motions don't need to be approved by the BPMC. Agenda approved as is.
- 4) **Approval of last Month's Minutes** - (*BOT Meeting Minutes 9 Mar and 11 May 2024*) 9 March need to change date of "Approval of Today's Agenda – (*BOT Meeting Agenda ## February 2024*)" – Approved with edit. 11 May 2024 Minutes tabled because Record-keeper wants to ensure that the dollar amounts for the 2023 losses are accurate. Discussion about whether there were actual additional out-of-pocket expenses for researching a 2023 hybrid ABM. There were none for 2022-2023. However, there is a receipt for Gabriel at the Sacramento hotel but maybe he was there instead of Pam. Hernan will research.

### 5) **Monthly Action Items**

- a) Upload BOT Meeting Agenda to Dropbox – Suzanne D.
- b) Upload prior month BOT Meeting minutes to the Dropbox – Rick B.
- c) Forward the approved BOT Minutes to the ED for posting to the website – Rick B.

## **BUSINESS**

### **ELEVATED PRIORITY:**

- d) Financial Statements review for approval – **Hernan V., Treasurer** (*April/May 2024*).
  - a. Initial request was May 8. Reports corrected after recognition of an error.
  - b. **Motion:** Vote to approve YTD financials through March 2024. **Motion passes:** 6/0/2.
- e) **Motion:** that we approve \$95.00 scholarships to a total of 20 ABM registrants on a first-come, first-serve basis, for a total cost of \$1,900.00. - **ABMPC Chair – Chris D.** (*11 May 2024*)
  - a. **Round Robin:**
  - b. \$30K expenses was based on two assumptions based on the last ABM and they're not in place so the cost is much less. Is this needs-based?
  - c. In favor. Q: about funds donated on the registration form, are those funds to go to the scholarship fund and decrease the funds from this scholarship? A: No, this is on top of the \$1900. We're voting to donate F.W.S. dollars.

- d. I support scholarships.
  - e. I'd rather it go to first time delegates or intergroups rather than first come first served. I'd like two plans for next year including one on how can we get intergroups that have never sent an delegate to the ABM.
  - f. Going to be a no. We've got enough here in the Southern Hemisphere. Australia has sent \$4K Aus to make this fully self-supporting. It's affordable this year. If we're so concerned about South American intergroups, American Intergroups can reach out and fund South American Intergroups.
  - g. I was initially no, then to yes, then no. I'm concerned about quorum. After the CCC meeting last night, there's a deep concern about quorum. If we don't have quorum, we can't pass motions. Spreading it like peanut butter doesn't make sense, people with money could have it. And we can't have a board election. I understand it's not affordable for some places but there are better ways to support them.
  - h. Friendly amendment to make it only for intergroups that haven't sent a delegate in the last three years. The rest the same. Chris accepted the friendly amendment.
  - i. **Round Robin about this with the amendment.**
  - j. Discussion about how the friendly amendment applies.
  - k. I agree it shouldn't be first come first serve. Can we still do another friendly amendment?
  - l. I don't know if we can do a friendly amendment to a friendly amendment. I'm still in favor. I accept the friendly amendment. There are many countries that haven't sent a delegate in three years. I'm in favor.
  - m. I'm not in favor of the new motion with the amendment. I would like to see a deadline that if groups haven't applied for it by this time.... What if no one applies?
  - n. This is a more equitable way to do it. I agree with the concern about the quorum issue. But I believe that next year is going to be a hybrid. Maybe this will help some intergroups get involved. We haven't changed the by-laws to address virtual or hybrid but may need to.
  - o. The across the board first come first serve didn't feel comfortable. This isn't perfect but better than original.
  - p. Vote no. Folks can create their own intergroup to get this scholarship.
  - q. I'm very concerned about the quorum issue. I don't know if there's a way to fix. I'm cool with the amendment.
  - r. I'm still in my same camp. I'm so worried about quorum. Giving away \$95 to join something I can see folks not showing up. \$95 more may be enough to get folks there.
- f) **First Vote on amended motion: 6/2/0.**
- a. Minority: It's like the lesser of both evils. Let's make this not cost us a cent. We might be able to do this cheap but we can do it cheaper. There is a new intergroup that would be subsidized under this. We want global representation. We need good quorum and need folks to stay up all night. I had to fundraise like crazy to get the 4,000Aus.
  - b. Minority: I share those frustrations. I'm thinking we want to recover the \$700 for ONR. I know our Treasurer is doing the most to keep us afloat and I have to watch myself about being co-dependent and wanting to buy friendships. But I have a fiduciary responsibility. We made this affordable and accessible. Are we that rich? No.
- g) **Second Vote on amended motion: 5/3/0. Motion passes.**
- h) IT Contractor Discussion and possible vote – **BOT Chair – Suzanne D.** (8 June 2024)
- i. Discussion held

- b. **Motion:** Dave Crawford be offered the IT Contractor position. **Motion Passes.**
  - i. We're using ten-year-old hardware and software and that's causing a lot of problems. So we're going to have to invest not only in the person but technology as well. Something to think about on the BFC.
  
- i) Discussion and Motion: The Archive Sub-Committee put forth a Motion to the ARS. BPMC Approved it, seeking BOT approval. **BPMC Chair – Chris D. (8 June 2024)**
  - a. The Archive Subcommittee of the BPMC put forth a motion with the ARS on their own without BPMC or BOT approval. The ARS is a subcommittee of the CCC. This really needs to come to the BOT before the ARS.
  - b. This started as an IFD about the Archive. It's a follow-up to the 2019 IFD to create an archive. Raised several issues about having an archive. Because I learned that the ARS may not accept it as an IFD, the BPMC voted to approve it as a motion. Then, the Archives Subcommittee edited the IFD to make the language more like a motion. Now it's here.
  - c. So the question is, do we want to approve this and let the ARS know? Or, do we want to let the ARS know that it's not a proper motion because it didn't go through the proper channels?
- d. **Round Robin**
  - i. Usually there's a BOT policy for emergencies. But this seems a little different. Did this action create a financial risk, some exposure? We need to go back to them and let them know how this should be done in the future.
  - ii. We should go back to the ARS. Can't vote to approve until I've reviewed it and know the background. What are the costs involved?
  - iii. I'm a fan of normal policy. This doesn't qualify as urgent. So I'd like to go back to the ARS and say it's not been approved.
  - iv. A motion can be withdrawn right up until the moment it's brought to the ABM. Because the BOT gets the special privilege to get everything passed by the ARS, we need to use that right wisely. We need to institutionalize BOT processes like this.
  - v. The background is the Archives Committee is Rita, Jenny and Seth. They told me to send it to the ARS. I thought it might need to be approved by the BPMC but didn't send it to them first. It's about prioritizing archives.
  - vi. AA is really big on archivists. It would be cool if we could do it. Someone could volunteer. Yes, we approved it in the BPMC. I think we should review the ABM PC and Archives subcommittee due process.
  - vii. Other subcommittees of the BPMC don't have deadlines but the ABM PC does, so it's just a different beast. I believe it was its own committee at one time but was rolled under the BPMC. Not sure. I feel like there's a lot in that motion. It's saying a lot and speaking for the BOT saying what we have to do. We have to hire someone. Too much and not enough detail on how it needs to be done. It feels rushed. Doesn't feel well-thought-out. I don't mind breaking with tradition but not for this that sounds important.
- e. **Motion:** Contact the ARS to remove this motion from the ABM Agenda. **Rick/Jack. Approved 6/2/0.** No minority opinion offered.

- f. Chris to reach out to the ARS liaison (PA) and let them know all about this because it has to do hiring a position.

**Meeting ends and the below tabled.**

**REGULAR PRIORITY:**

- j) The Augustine Recovery App – BOC BOT Member (26 July 2023)
- k) (Tabled) Merit bonus/Staff Salaries v. Cost of Living – **BOT** (April 13, 2024)
  - a. Pending **ACTION ITEM** for Juanita: Team's salaries to be sent to us by Juanita.
- l) Motion to 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)
- m) Motion to 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- q) Build into 2025 budget hiring attorney to review IT and Bookkeeping Contracts – **BHRPC Member** (13 April 2024)
- r) Build into the budget for 2025 or 2026 to hire an auditor to do an internal financial audit instead of just a review. – **BOT Chair** (8 June 2024)

**Stop Recording (\*9)**

s) **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)**

<del>09 Sept 23 – Regular</del>	<del>14 Oct 23 – Interim</del>	<del>11 Nov 23 – Regular</del>
<del>09 Dec 23 – Interim</del>	<del>13 Jan 24 – Regular</del>	10 Feb 24 – Interim
<del>09 Mar 24 – Regular</del>	<del>13 Apr 24 – Interim</del>	<del>11 May 24 – Regular</del>
<del>-08 Jun 24 – Interim</del>	13 Jul 24 – Regular	F2F 3 & 4 Aug 2024