



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 5 Oct 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m. (Noon) UTC, 3 hour meeting
<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/pst-to-utc-converter>

1) Opening Matters

- Check-Ins/Sobriety Statements – Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL.), Jack F. (AUS), Jeff R. (WA), John S. (CA), Patrick D. (UK), Ari F. (NJ) Chris D. (CA)
- Regrets: **None**
- a. Readings:
 - [Twelve Concepts](#) – Concept 10 - (Non-Chair Member with most seniority) – **Phoenix G.**
 - [Twelve Traditions](#) - Tradition 10 - (Member next most seniority on the BOT) – **Rick B.**
 - [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.* – (Member with the third-most seniority on the BOT) – **Jack F.**

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2) Assign roles

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

2) Announcements

- a) We now have a business checking account with Wells Fargo and are in the process of preparing to move things over from Frost.

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- b) September issue of F.W.S. Newsletter emailed on September 27, 2024.
- c) Jeff and I flew to San Antonio to assist in the inventory count on October 1-2, 2024.
It was a great experience. Photos of the office in Dropbox.
- d) Big hugs to Mike T who did a lot of work on our August and September minutes.
If anyone knows someone who would be good at the BOT minutes, please reach out to Jack or Chris.
- e) The ABM Recordkeeper is still working on the ABM minutes.
- f) In response to my email to Pam that said an email she sent to the BABMPC was sent to spam, she replied: "That's annoying. Remind me next week for us to look at how the Google Group notification parameters are set. I can probably turn off that "moderator approval" stuff." She did work on that when we were in the office with her on Tuesday so please let her know if we continue to have problems with Google Group.
- g) Update on IT Contractor Contract.
- h) ONR update
- i) Email exchange going on with a member about SLAA Virtual's listing on the meeting page of the website. Another member is objecting to the BOT making the ABMPC into a Board Committee.
- j) [Any contact to the BOT from Conference Committees or members of the Fellowship to the Board of Trustees inbox or the BOT Officers in the Officer capacity.]

3) **Approval of Today's Agenda** - (BOT Agenda 5 Oct 2024)

Request of Jack F. to edit the following:

- *Removal of BOC Membership Survey and Data Policy to November meeting.*

- *Add S.L.A.A. YouTube request of the CPIC.*

After edits - **approved, without any objections.**

4) **Approval of last month's minutes** - (BOT Minutes and Talking Points for 3 and 4, August and BOT Minutes for 24 Aug 2024, 7 Sep 2024)

August 24th - **approved, no objections.**

September 7th is still in progress.

Talking Points do not need board approval.

5) **Monthly Action Items**

- a) Add all Trustees to the BOT Google Group and Dropbox – **BOT Secretary** (Actioned)
- b) Upload all the Board paperwork to the Dropbox – **BOT Secretary**
- c) Post June Financial Report to the Newsletter – **Treasurer** (September issue has August's Financial Report)
- d) Forward the approved BOT Minutes to the ED for posting to the website – **BOT Secretary** – The minutes currently posted on the website are from November 2023.
- e) Update the SurveyMonkey password and email address back to be in control of the BOT, particularly the BOC.

6) **Routine Reports**

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f) Treasurer – Contributions status. Budget status.

*We received a brief report from our treasurer **Jeff R.** as it is not our regular financial meeting. We are tracking from \$8K in July to \$12K in August - one single donation boosted this from the San Francisco area. More focus on the 7th tradition within the fellowship. Sizeable October donations will come in from various Intergroups World Wide. The F.W.S office organized a comprehensive list of Intergroups, which has been provided to the treasurer.*

BUSINESS

ELEVATED PRIORITY:

a) Vote on Non-BOT Board Committee Members.

- John D. for BTC; Rick B./John S., date submitted: 09/03/2024

MOTION: To appoint John D to the Board Technology Committee for the 2024-25 conference year with no trial period as a returning committee member.

Motion by: Rick B. **Seconded:** John S. **Vote:** Approved.

- David W. for BTC; Rick B./Phoenix G., date submitted: 09/03/2024

MOTION: To appoint David W to the Board Technology Committee for the 2024-25 conference year with no trial period as returning committee member.

Motion by: Rick B. **Seconded:** Phoenix G. **Vote:** Approved.

MOTION: To appoint a member for the Board Publishing Distribution Committee for the 2024-25 conference year with a 90 day trial period.

Motion by: Patrick D. **Seconded:** Ari F. **Vote:** Not Approved.

b) MOTION: Service Superstar Brochure to be added to the Webstore as a free pamphlet. **BPDC Chair** – (email on 6 March 2024)

The pamphlet has been floating around for a number of years. A number of edits needed to be made by the Board Publishing Distribution Committee (BPDC) and various committees. The recommendation from the BPDC in 2023, was that the pamphlet should be a free downloadable.

Round robin - 60 seconds.

- Yes to the pamphlet. We may need to make a separate motion about how long we have it printed for. Vital none the less and should be worked into the budget.

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- I love this document and the writing group did a wonderful job. History goes way back since Super Service Dog. In the future, I hope for it to be edited so the Office can do it.
- For the PDF pamphlet being a free downloadable on our website and against printing them out and placing them into literature orders.
- We sell considerably more print literature than we do e-literature. Let's add this line into the budget.
- Good publication to provide some members some stimuli, however the cost is a barrier.
- I appreciate the illustrations and the meaning behind the pamphlet. I will vote for it to be free on the website.
- Free downloadable. Still in support.
- Should be both printed and downloadable. Giving service and donations go hand in hand.

Friendly amendment made by: Ari.F

Accepted by: Rick B./Jack F.

MOTION: To approve the Service Superstar Brochure to be added to the Webstore as a free pamphlet to be printed and placed into literature orders for 6 months.

Motion by: Rick B. **Seconded:** Jack F. **Vote:** 8-0-0, Approved.

c) IFD: Should we tackle the year-end financials and new FY budget after the Committee and Liaison reports at our scheduled November meeting or schedule another meeting on or about Saturday, October 26, 2024?

Round robin occurred - 30 seconds.

- Opposed to an extra meeting. This will mean board meetings two weeks in a row. We can tackle urgent items, and distinguish between urgent and important. We can tackle the urgent items and finances in November. We need to prevent burnout in new board members and more seasoned board members.
- Voluntary meeting for presentation would be effective and a motion at board call in November. In future, budgets should be done prior to the fiscal year. I've also drafted a board form for future boards, so board committees can request finances.
- For an extra meeting and willing to take the less plausible time zones to make it more feasible on other board members.
- Budgets should be worked on in the month of June moving forward. I will take the second meeting, happy for it to be voluntary also.
- At what point do we have all the data? I'm not in favour of anything prior to getting all the data.

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- Preference outside the normal meeting, to absorb all the information and would like to discuss it being mandatory as a secondary issue. If it was a smaller time frame such as 30 minutes to 60 minutes.
- Voluntary and would need time to absorb the data.

Consensus of the first round robin, that the majority of trustees preferring scheduling another board meeting to graciously get across the financials.

Jeff suggested that all documents could be prepared prior to the board call.

The date was proposed for Saturday, October 26th, 2024.

The new board call could be the below points potentially...

a) Year-end financial report FY 23-24 presentation and motion to approve.

b) FY24-25 Monthly Budget and Annual Budget presentation and motion to approve.

Round robin requested - 30 seconds.

- All board meetings are optional, we commit to being present. Encourage a work life balance on the board. Two weekends in a row is not balanced. We are in a time crunch from a previous conference year.
- We inherited this problem, and in future we need to set expectations. It is part of our fiduciary obligations to act. In favour of a second board call.
- If the BFC needs me for a 48 hour stint to do financials, I will do so.
- We could do this over an email vote, awaiting financial comparisons. This needs to get off our board plate.
- I was elected to this position and yield to the wisdom of the president of the corporation.
- Mandatory or voluntary status, as some board members may only be at the regular meeting and playing catch up, is a cause for concern.
- I want to support the treasurer and the role takes up the most hours. I need time to absorb the data.

Consensus that the board chair convene a special voluntary meeting on Saturday October 26th, 2024 at the same time as the meeting on October 5th, 2024. Those board members unable to attend this meeting would place a special email vote prior to the voluntary board call.

d) IFD: Should the start time of BOT meetings be based on UTC only (if yes, this would address Daylight Savings Time changes)?

It was suggested since consensus on email occurred; the board did not need round robins.

30 seconds of silence prior to voting held.

MOTION: For all BOT meetings to be based on UTC time zone.

Motion by: Patrick D. **Seconded:** Phoenix G. **Vote:** 8-0-0, Approved.

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e) IFD: Should non-BOT members who serve on a BOT Committee have a 90-day probationary period as they previously have? (Rick B., 9/14/2024)

It has been the practice of the board, but never mandatory, therefore the board should codify it into policy.

Round robin - 60 seconds.

- Yes to being added as a probation period, if no issues, then that is no issue. The motion could perhaps make members feel mute and dredge up feelings of getting kicked off a board committee.
- Longstanding practice of the board and will be great to codify this into long-term practice. Gives members an out and allows them to save face, and also transfer them to another board committee if their expertise align. Never seen anyone not use their voice, it's their lack of work ethic that is the issue. Principles before personalities, I will be voting yes, and I do see the bigger picture.
- This may have nothing to do with performance. Previous background, I have had this happen to me in prior conference years whereby the work I was entrusted to do did not fall within the board committee I was assigned to.
- Every entity I have ever worked for has had some sort of probationary period. Some may embellish qualifications and may not have the skill set.
- Traditions should guide our actions. I was aware I did not follow this on one reference. Strong tradition or codifying.
- I sponsor with a 30-day trial period. I'm in favour of a 90-days or attendance of three meetings, as some board committees might take longer VS a set day limit.
- I will be voting yes and it should be going on the application. Even if it doesn't happen to be in the language of the motion.

MOTION: 90 Day Trial Period from first meeting for all new members added to Board Committee.

Motion by: Rick B. **Seconded:** Jack F.

Friendly amendment made by: Ari F. To make the 90-day trial period from the first meeting for all new non-BOT members of Board Committees with updates to the Board Committee flier and the Board Committee Application.

Friendly amendment accepted: Rick B./Jack F.

MOTION TO TABLE: Phoenix G. **Vote:** 5-3-0, tabled.

f) IFD: Did the motion to create the BABMPC limit the membership to those stated in the motion, which read: "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

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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.”

All members listed do not need to go through standard non-bot member approval. Did the board want the membership limited to roles stated in the motion or veto to the chair of the BABMPC to decide? Another complexity around the motion was that other board members cannot apply for membership. Clarity around the motion as it was being interpreted within the CCC and wanted clarity from a board level, as the understanding was that it was another board committee.

Round robin - 120 seconds.

- Clarity should be provided by the board as this was our motion and the motion could be interpreted in various ways. Interested in joining the committee, but the interpretation was that other board members could not attend (except the chair).
- ABMPC has a standardized role of members in the past, I do not see the need to change this. If the chair would like to add a member, more power to them. If any other board members attend, that is extra time to round robins. I like the fact there are two technology members from the technology committee.
- Prior year BPMC spent many months reviewing this motion and crafting it. I will not be joining the BABMPC and will never be attending. I do not want board technology members used for the BABMPC. We need a meeting calendar, we need the website updated, bigger goals than helping them deliver an ABC/M.
- My own experience with my own board committee. Biggest goal was transparency and education, with all board members with the finances and any other member who wants to learn. I understand that this may not be the case with this board committee.
- Not around when the committee was made, therefore when I read the roles, I did not view that as exclusivity but a bare minimum.
- When a board member wants additional work, they should be welcomed. If they want to show up to a board committee, then that should be treated as a board committee process. The list is a great starting point, and I'm grateful we have a second BTC rep.
- Background CCC member brought this IFD up as initially it was a work group formed to help with ABC/M. The first time I heard, that was when it was changed. Too much BOT representation, which goes to support the CCC members concern it was a work group. There's a reason why each member is on the committee.

Round robin requested - 60 seconds.

- All board members should be able to join this committee, however only the Chair can attend in addition. This needs to be non-exclusive. Any board member should have the option to attend. This will allow future BABMPC chairs to add any members, if they were willing to contribute to the committee.
- I would love someone who has free time to go through the board documents to research when the board programs and ABMPC was formed. It is the board's responsibility. The board holds the purse strings. The CC does not. If more board

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members would like to show up, this is no problem. I do not believe it was a work group.

- I will be very upset if the committee takes more technology members.
- Overmanagement with this motion.
- The board committee is acting on behalf of the board's interests, as delegated. Theoretically the ideal would be every board member would be in every board committee.
- Previous Chairs of the committee have expressed that everyone had a specific role. If any board member would like to attend, they should.
- I wonder if any board member had any objections about any board member joining any board committee, however it may not address the overall membership of the BABMPC.

MOTION: The list of membership roles stated in the BOT motion that created the BABMPC be non-exclusive.

Motion by: Phoenix G. **Seconded:** Chris D.

MOTION TO TABLE: Rick B. **Vote:** 5-3-0, tabled.

----- **Remaining motions tabled** -----

g) IFD: Add all BOT members to all board committee google groups, to attend if they want; 3rd BOT members for board committees with low attendance. (Phoenix G.)

REGULAR PRIORITY:

- g) **MOTION:** Eliminate Hazelton special pricing of \$11.50 per Basic Text and charge them the same price as others based on the amount they order. (Chris D., 10/3/2024)
- h) **MOTION:** All F.W.S outreach materials must be within 7 years of board's approval. (Jack F., 8/27/2024)
- i) Schedule a Strategy Summit to Review of Board Self-Assessment (Action Items) and form BOT Annual goals – 3 year goals and 5 year goals- Chris D.
- j) Daylight Savings Time impact on BOT meeting time?
- k) **MOTION:** Approve updates on the Membership Survey from BOC. (Jack F., 8/27/2024)
- l) **MOTION:** Approve the Data Policy from BOC. (Jack F., 8/27/2024)
- m) **IFD:** S.L.A.A. YouTube Name Change. (Jack F., 9/2/2024)
- n) **MOTION:** To make the F.W.S. office update all conference committees contact us pages with the new chairs & bot liaisons within four weeks from the ABC/M. (Jack F., 9/8/2024)

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Closing Matters:

- a. **Check-outs:** Phoenix G. (TX), Rick B. (FL.), Jack F. (AUS), Jeff R. (WA), John S. (CA), Patrick D. (UK), Ari F. (NJ), Chris D. (CA)

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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. – (Member with the least seniority on the BOT) – Ari F.

Meeting Schedule for CY 2024-2025 (Central Time, All 3 hours)

24 Aug 24 Special/BOT Orientation	7 Sep 2024	5 Oct 2024
2 Nov 2024	7 Dec 2024	4 Jan 2025
1 Feb 2025	1 Mar 2025	5 Apr 2025
3 May 2025	7 Jun 2025	5 Jul 2025
2 Aug 2025		