

Report of the First

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, SEX AND LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS

January 13, 14, 1984

The Conference did not officially open until Saturday, but all those available met for the Somerville meeting. The meeting was a special occasion also because one member was celebrating one year of sexual sobriety. Posters made for the conference with the S.L.A.A. slogans and name were up, with refreshments laid out on a table also graced with flowers. The room, the meeting, and the talk after the meeting, all had the air of expectancy and excitement. Two people arrived who had come from the West Coast, and one from New York. Fourteen people shared, nibbled on refreshments, and discussed making the flower an "official S.L.A.A. symbol" after the meeting.

At 10:00 AM Saturday, January 14, 1984, the first annual Fellowship-wide General Service Conference of Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous opened officially, with Steve M. chairing. Fourteen people spoke the serenity prayer; MJ, Vince, Anita, Tony, and Rod from Boston; Corey and Steve from Newton, Mass; Charles from Worcester, Mass; Ray C. from Gloucester; Dolores and Sherman visiting from a Sexaholics Anonymous group in Philadelphia; Barbara A. from New York City; and Bud and Mark from San Francisco, California.

Steve M. began by describing the history of the Fellowship Wide Business Meeting (FWBM). It had begun just as "the group" meeting at the church in the very room the conference occupied. This business meeting worked at questions like the wording of the Steps and Traditions. On a big night, there might be five people. Then came the possibility of a program on CBS. At the time it looked like a (seductive ?) attractive opportunity to get publicity; with the wisdom of hindsight, it is clear that it was a threat which was only avoided with circumstances that seem to have been guided by a Higher Power. As the opportunity slipped away, we began to see that it had been a real danger; that we needed to tend to our own back yard.

Then came the meeting when a new member was attacked verbally on the issue of gender preference. The controversy surrounding both the issue and the attack found an outlet through Paul's leadership in getting the traditions written, discussed, and approved by the Fellowship as a whole. With our energy redirected into the issues that truly concerned Fellowship Unity, we came to see that period as one characterized by dreams of glory. After all, with only one group and one meeting, we had the grandiosity to call it the "Fellowship Wide Business Meeting".

The next period of important growth Steve characterized as one of "merge fever". National publicity for a group with similar