

The S.L.A.A. Fellowship-Services, Inc.
2004 Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 20 – Friday, July 23, 2004
Holiday Inn, Dedham, MA

Minutes

Conference Theme: The 2nd Tradition of S.L.A.A.:

"For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our Leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Present were 45 voting members that included nine members of the Board of Trustees (from the USA and Rome, Italy), the Journal Editor, the F.W.S. Executive Director, F.W.S. staff members, and delegates from the USA, Canada, Brazil / Uruguay, and Italy. Also in attendance were observers and several volunteers from the New England Intergroup.

The F.W.S. Office, Board Committees, and most Conference committees submitted 2003 – 2004 annual reports to the ABM. The following list of reports appeared in the participants' Welcome packet:

- ? 2003-2004 Board of Trustees Annual Report
- ? 2003-2004 Board Finance & Operating Committee Annual Report
- ? 2003-2004 Board Governance & Nominating Committee Annual Report
- ? 2003-2004 Board Public Relations Committee Annual Report
- ? Fellowship-Wide Services Office 2003-2004 Report
- ? Conference ByLaws Committee
- ? Conference Charter Committee
- ? Conference Diversity Committee
- ? Conference Finance Committee
- ? Conference Healthy Relationships Committee
- ? Conference Interfellowship Committee
- ? Conference Internet Committee
- ? Conference Literature Committee
- ? Member Relations to the BOT / F.W.S. Committee
- ? Conference Membership Retention Committee
- ? Conference Public Information Committee
- ? Conference Steps and Traditions Committee
- ? Conference Anorexia Committee
- ? Prison Outreach Committee

Frequently Used Abbreviations:

BMIS: Business Meeting Items Summary
BOT: Board of Trustees
CCC: Conference Charter Committee
CSM: Conference Service Manual
HP: Higher Power

General Assembly – Tuesday, July 20, 2004, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The General Assembly began with an introduction of this year's conference theme, the 2nd Tradition of S.L.A.A. All participants present introduced themselves. This was followed with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. Marcella M., (BOT Chair), and Irv B. (CCC Co-Chair) facilitated this session. Andrew H. was the record keeper. The room-seating configuration

was a circle.

The process of the General Assembly was explained. This included checking in at the door to the General Assembly meeting room, getting each General Assembly started with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer, readings of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, checking in, confirmation of the quorum and the importance of attendance at each session; votes binding on the Board or advisory to the Board; purpose and use of the microphone; explanation of the roles and facilitation of the ABM (micro, macro, back-up) and other assigned roles (spiritual reminder, timekeeper, vote counters, record keeper); use and purpose of 30 or 60 seconds of silence; and the concept of HP and group conscience. The schedule was reviewed. The quorum was identified: 43 people have registered and are seated as of the beginning of this General Assembly session. There were two people who were not registered and seated until toward the end of the session. The quorum is two-thirds (2/3) of members present: 30 persons based on 45. The quorum can go up but not down.

Volunteers were asked to serve as facilitators in the morning meditation and getting current meetings. In addition to doing the business of the fellowship, participants were reminded of two of the most important duties: to elect three new BOT members and to continue their participation throughout the year by joining conference committees. The current BOT nominee was identified. After a short break, Board and Conference Committees reported to the conference. The Executive Director highlighted the financial situation and the volunteer participation by the New England Intergroup. The BOT Chair highlighted the restructuring of the Board in this past year, and increasing the participation of members of the Fellowship with Board projects. The Board Finance & Operating Committee (BFOC) further highlighted the financial situation and several possible solutions. The Board Governance & Nominating Committee (BGNC) highlighted the need for service at the international level. The Board Public Relations Committee (BPRC) highlighted the development of tools for carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. The Conference Charter Committee (CCC) highlighted changes that occurred this year. Member Retention Committee (MRC) highlighted the prototype for the 12-Step Chip project. The Conference Public Information Committee (CPiC) highlighted the continuing development of an Intergroup Public Information kit. Member Relationship to the BOT / F.W.S. Committee (MRBOTC) highlighted the committee's charter.

The following committees were noted to be inactive: Conference Intergroup Communications Committee, Conference Service Committee, Conference Sponsorship Committee, Conference Journal Committee.

After a quick stretch, items to bring to each General Assembly (BMIS, CSM, Higher Power). Issues for Discussion (IFD) and Motions were explained, as well as the distinction between Phase I and Phase II processes and voting methods.

The deadline for submitting motions for consideration at this year's ABM was noted to be 7:00 p.m.

After announcements, the session was adjourned with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. This was followed by an hour session, "Getting to Know the BOT / F.W.S. Office staff" and dinner.

General Assembly reconvenes, July 20, 2004, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

The meeting started with the Serenity Prayer. Roles: Andrew H. (micro), Robin S. (macro), Paula B. (backup), Dave McM.- Timekeeper, Sarah A. -Spiritual Reminder, Deb W.- Record Keeper, Irv and Ron P- Counters.

Phase I

04o01/98-18 TABLED

04o02/98-20 Revised by Bylaws Committee

04o02A/98-20 40-0-1. Motion PASSED.

04o02B/98-20 43-0-0. Motion PASSED.

04o02C/98-20 change to "Section 6" TABLED.

04o03/00-01 IFD

04o04/00-05 IFD
04o05/00-07 IFD
04o06/00-10 IFD
04o07/01-01 IFD
04o08/01-02 IFD
04o09/01-05 TABLED
04o10/01-10 IFD
04o11/02-02 WITHDRAWN by the originator.
04o12/02-03 WITHDRAWN by the originator.
04o13/02-04 Phase II.
04o14/02-05 Phase II.
04o15/02-11 Phase II.
04o16/02-12 Phase II
04o17/02-13 Phase II.
04o18/02-14 Phase II
04o19/02-15 IFD
04o20/02-16 A
1st vote: 36-3-5. Minority can live with it. The motion PASSED.
04o20/02-16 REMOVED from the agenda.
04o21/03-01 WITHDRAWN by the originator.
04o22/03-02
1st vote: 15-21-8. Minority can live with it. The motion FAILED.
04o23/03-03 Phase II.
04o24/03-04 IFD
04n25/04-01 WITHDRAWN Reference 99-01.
04n26/04-02 WITHDRAWN Reference 02-07
04n27/04-03A There was discussion. Moves on to original motion, 04n27/04-03.
04n28/04-04 Phase II
04n29/04-05 Phase II
04n30/04-06 Phase II
04n31/04-07 REMOVED by BMIS Editor
04n32/04-08 IFD
04n33/04-09 41-2-1. Minority can live with it. The motion PASSED.
04n34/04-10 Phase II
04n35/04-11 Phase II
04n36/04-12
1st vote: 38-1-4. The minority can live with it. The motion PASSED.

Phase II

MRBOTC made a motion to "Move in process to Motion 04n35/04-11". Discussion held about this motion. 3 pros and 3 cons. Con – try to address getting a piece of literature passed and healing the feelings between BOT and the Conference and move toward closure. Con – concern that this will set a precedent about prioritizing some agenda items. Pro – concerned too about precedence, but think that revenue will be generated. Con – this may backfire, that this may be a heated discussion for the first item. Committee report CFC – cost of goods sold projected revenue of \$6,000-\$7,000.

1st vote 39-2-4; No minority opinion. The Conference approves moving motion 04n35/04-11 to be the first item addressed in Phase II.

The position of micro switched from Andrew to Gaelen.

04n35/04-11 To approve the pamphlet "Renewal of Sobriety".

Committee reports (CLC, BPRC, BOT).

3 pros and 3 cons. There was only one Pro – this is a much better document.

30 seconds.

1st vote- 44-0-0. Motion PASSED.

After announcements, the General Assembly was adjourned for the Tradition Two speaker panel and recorded discussion regarding accountability.

General Assembly, July 21, 2004, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This session opened with the Serenity Prayer, readings of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, Presentation of BOT t-shirts to Board of trustees by Stephen D., and two-minute check-ins. This session's facilitators are Gaelen S.R. (micro), Irv B. (macro), Robin S (back-up). Andrew H. served as record keeper, Gaelen invited questions from the participants; there were none. The BMIS Editor was invited to identify the motions that were submitted by 7:00 p.m. last night.

Volunteers Vote Counters: Laura, Jim D.; timekeeper Neil M.; Spiritual Reminder: Danielle P.

Phase I

Return to Phase I for the newly submitted motions. Reference is made to the CSM, page 56.

04n37/04-13 Phase II

04n38/04-14 IFD changed to Motion. Phase II

04n39/04-15 Phase II

04n40/04-16 IFD

04n41/04-17 IFD

Phase II

Return to Phase II process. Reference is made to the CSM, page 58.

The second part of the Business Process Streamline Subcommittee (BPSS) process developed for the 2003 ABM was explained. This process was used again this year; Gaelen gave an overview of the process, noting this was new territory for the Conference. There were comments, and questions and answers. One participant commented that one of the motions was submitted in response to one of these IFDs. It was explained that the BMIS Review subcommittee reviewed the motions last night in accordance with the criteria established by the BPSS, cross referencing the discussions recorded in the 2003 ABM Minutes.

04o03/00-01 IFD Shall S.L.A.A. extend an official (Conference approved) invitation from the IFC to other "S" fellowships to attend and observe and S.L.A.A. ABM in the future?

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o04/00-05 IFD What do different groups do if someone in a meeting discloses he/she has broken the law? Examples: He/she has --- molested a child, had sex with a minor, bought or sold Kiddie porn, had sex with a prostitute, had raped someone, bought or sold drugs, battered someone, etc.

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o05/00-07 IFD When Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is abbreviated in legal documents and Conference approved literature as S.L.A.A., a consistent punctuation occurs – S period, L period, A period, A period.

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o06/00-10 IFD There are many of us who are in both S.L.A.A. and Co-SLAA who consider that our Co-addiction is indistinguishable from our addiction, the focus is just different as it is with many special interest meetings. Therefore, please discuss: that S.L.A.A. consider Co-SLAA as an integral part of the sex and love addiction and another part of S.L.A.A. similar to "Anorexia"; that FWS be a resource for Co-SLAA as well as a place where co-groups can accumulate resources; that at the very least, Co-SLAA be invited/a part of the Interfellowship Committee.

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o07/01-01 IFD Each committee have a board liaison to report any progress to.

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o08/01-02 IFD FWS office workers should not attend ABC/M.

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o09/01-05 Approve the [Crosstalk, Feedback & Triggering Language] pamphlet.

TABLED to '05 ABM by originator of motion.

04o10/01-10 IFD Recognizing that identification of a higher power is a sensitive issue for many, how can we best serve the needs of the addict who still suffers and has great resistance to the word "God?" Use "Higher Power". "God/Higher Power," "God" interchangeably and equitably in our literature? Create literature geared specifically to the agnostic or atheist?

Other suggestions?

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m. last night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion.

04o11/-2-02 Have two versions of the basic text. One anonymous – one not. BOT will create a version of the basic text (SLAA) that does not draw attention to itself: remove colors and page/chapter headers from this version only. Perhaps let this replace the 2001 brightly colored, embossed title version.

WITHDRAWN by originator in Phase I

04o12/02-03 Suggest that an "Issue for Discussion" at ABMs be handled in a significantly different manner from "Brainstorming Items" in order for the delegates who so desire to be give a 1, 2, or 3 minute turn (at the discretion of the chair) to "discuss" an issue in the style most often used in their intergroups and home group business meetings.

This item was WITHDRAWN by the originator

04o13/02-04 Add to future publications of the SLAA Basic Text and all pamphlets a SLAA recovery term index (see 25th Anniversary bookmark). Until this can happen, include index as insert with book orders. On pamphlets only include reference items that pertain to that pamphlets.

This item was revised by the originator. The revised motion was distributed to the participants. Gaelen read the revised motion, the intent, and requirements. Reference to attachments #4 and #6. The referenced committees were asked to report. The BPRC supports the motion. F.W.S.

reports that the motion references specifically the bookmark generated for the 2001 International Convention. The F.W.S. has also received a suggested index from the Seattle WA area. The CLC and BOT response on the right hand side of the BMIS. The motion originator's delegate notes the presence of the second index was unknown. 3 pros, 3 cons. Con – expressed concern with having two indexes; this is premature, work in progress. It was noted that the BOT does not need the motion to create the index, the motion outcome might bind the BOT. The project can move forward. Pro – like the concept, but qualified by the budget concerns of the F.W.S, perhaps waiting until a later time; support an index, not necessarily the 2001. The originator TABLED the motion to '05 ABM.

04o14/02-05 Subject to adequate FWS resources for any given ABM, fund the travel cost for 2 international delegates from different points outside North America (U.S., Canada, Mexico). Other conference fees to be raised by delegate's region. Delegates funded like this will not participate in the TEF (Travel Equalization Fund). Recipient delegates defined jointly by Conference and FWS.

There is a MOTION TO AMEND by the Diversity Committee.

04o14A/02-05 To increase the TEF subsidy in Category 8.

Reference was made to Attachment #5

Questions of clarification were handled. Concern was expressed that this might be a separate motion, though of a related nature. The BMIS Review Subcommittee decided to handle this as a motion to amend the original motion. The F.W.S. office explained the separateness of funding of the Travel Equalization Fund from the F.W.S. budget.

There was discussion of the ability of the Intergroup representative to accept an amendment to the content of a motion.

4 pros, 4 cons.

Pro – the amended motion is better than the motion on the BMIS; this is another means to help fund delegates from further distances. Con – in favor of spirit of motion, but motion doesn't address the mechanics of the TEF; concern about the past experience of funding of the TEF – clarification was provided by the F.W.S. that the conference members pay into the TEF; we're locking ourselves into something else, e.g., if the ABM were held in Rome; in favor in spirit of motion but amendment is quite different from the original motion. A comment was made to focus on whether to amend the motion.

1st vote 34-6-3

Minority opinion expressed: Just changing one category is short-sighted, the entire category structure needs to be reviewed; need to discuss the content of the original motion; this will break the TEF.

2nd vote 29-12-4; The numbers changed, but the majority did not change. The motion to amend PASSED.

After a break, the Conference returned for a presentation of BOT service and the election process. The quorum was re-confirmed.

Phase II

The Conference returned to Phase II.

04o14/02-05 The motion now reads: To increase the TEF subsidy in Category 8.

Committee reports: F.W.S. reports generally we don't hit the 100% mark on reimbursements. Changing the tier will not increase the amount of payout, just increase the number of eligible participants. CFC references attachment #5, that on the bottom of the first page, the committee supports the intent of the original motion, along with suggestions to support international delegate participation in the ABM. Diversity Committee discussed the percentage of travel costs being reimbursed.

3 pros, 3 cons

Pro – In favor of motion because of the high costs for international delegates. One speaks to the globalization process of changing the focus of S.L.A.A. from being North American to something greater. The economic reality in South America is quite different than in the U.S. Wants to focus the issue on what is best for the fellowship as a whole.

Con – this doesn't restrict the number of participants that would be covered by this. The TEF funds would have to cover an even greater number of costs, and persons. The motion results in more problems. One participant's intergroup considered this in terms of the Traditions: a violation of Traditions 7 and 9. Even if we changed tier 8, there would be no additional funds available. The entire tier structure needs to be revisited.

Motion to table discussion to '05 ABM. Seconded. Clarification of the voting options.

20-21-2 Motion to table FAILED.

Point of clarification requested about dividing up the TEF. The Conference then voted on the issue of the motion.

The motion was read, followed by 30 seconds of silence. A point of clarification was requested and offered. The motion was reread, followed by another 30 seconds of silence.

1st vote 30-11-4

Minority opinion was expressed. The voting options were clarified, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

2nd vote 15-26-4

There is a new minority. The new minority opinion was expressed. The motion was read, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

3rd vote 29-13-3. The motion PASSED.

04o15/02-11 Include in the ABM business process the Prioritization of Business Items instead of only considering items by order of submission date.

The motion was read, along with the intent, and requirements.

The delegate spoke for originator of the motion, noting the originator is happy with the changes that have taken since the motion was introduced.

Committee reports: CCC recommends this item be withdrawn based on BPSS recommendations.

CS&TC suggests this motion is no longer necessary.

Philadelphia Intergroup is in favor of these actions happening prior to the ABM rather than at the ABM. It wasn't clear if this a pro or a con.

One participant spoke against the motion.

The motion was read, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote 4-36-4.

Minority opinion was expressed. The motion was read.

2nd Vote 1-40-4. The numbers changed, but the minority remains the same. The motion FAILED.

The afternoon schedule was reviewed. Announcements were made. This session was closed with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer in Italian.

General Assembly Reconvenes, July 21, 2004, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This session began with reading of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

The BG&NC entertained nominations from the floor for the Board of Trustees. Bob R.

nominated; Bob noted he meets the sobriety requirements, and accepts the nomination. Rob K.

nominated; Rob noted he meets the sobriety requirements, though he declined the nomination.

Larry A. was nominated; Larry noted he meets the sobriety requirements, though he needs time

to consider the nomination. Bill McM. nominated himself; he noted he meets the sobriety

requirements. Nominations were closed. Nominees were instructed the questionnaires are to be completed by 6:00 p.m. this day. The voting process was briefly reiterated.

Phase II

Volunteers from the earlier session continue their service.

04o16/02-12 Limit the number of Issues for Discussion in any one year or limit the overall total time for discussions so more motions can be addressed. For example, have 1 day of discussion items which equal 5 hours, or have 5 discussion items lasting 1 hour each.

The motion was read.

Committee reports: CCC notes this motion was created 2 years ago. Recommends the motion be withdrawn based on the success of the BPSS process begun last year.

The delegate representing the Intergroup does not withdraw the motion.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion.

3 Cons – opposed to limiting how we do business. Motion is vague. We have not had enough time to see the impact of the BPSS efforts implemented last year.

Delegate clarified that the motion is specifically vague, the issue is only about setting limits, not the actual limits.

1st Vote: 4-38-3

Minority opinion was expressed. A point of clarification was made. 30 seconds of silence.

2nd Vote: 3-39-2

The numbers changed, but the vote remained similar. The motion FAILED.

04o17/02-13 Make the BMIS available in electronic format.

The delegate offered information with respect to this motion.

Committee reports: CCC supports the idea of the motion, provided the document is unalterable.

CIC notes the BMIS is on the conference website in a *.pdf format, though even this is not entirely secure.

4 Pro – summarizing would be easier. It would be helpful to let the fellowship know how the Conference spends its time; might increase accountability. We can do the BMIS electronically, with a note that some attachments are in hardcopy only. This is a question of paper vs. electrons. The motion does not specify the nature of the electronic format. This would streamline delegates' efforts to distribute the information and garnering group conscience from meetings.

Con – no one spoke opposed to the motion.

Point of clarification: the attachments to the BMIS are not always in electronic format. The motion is not clear about to whom this is directed.

The voting options were explained.

1st Vote: 39-3-2

Minority opinion was not expressed. The motion PASSED.

04o18/02-14 Create 2 more BOT positions (for a total of 11) to serve the fellowship.

The originator was not present this year.

There were no committee reports.

A point of clarification was made about when the motion would take effect.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion.

Con – no one spoke opposed to the motion.

1st vote: 5-33-7

Minority opinion was expressed, followed by 30 seconds of silence. The motion was reread.

2nd Vote: 0-36-8. The motion FAILED.

04o19/02-15 IFD I understand there is a redesign of medallions for 12 steps and a consideration to change medallion makers for chips (a new forge). To broaden the scope of acceptance, rather than imprint "SLAA" on the obverse, print "Augustine Fellowship" or "The Augustine Fellowship".

The issue for discussion was WITHDRAWN by the originator.

04o23/03-03 The S.L.A.A. Basic Text must be made available online free for downloading in *.pdf, *.rtf, and *.doc to facilitate the understanding of what the S.L.A.A. program is all about,

rather than give people (especially people from around the world) a blank wall and a demand for money. This is to be done with the proviso that people can (of their own volition) purchase a copy of the book in hard copy from FSO or their nearest group.

Committee Reports: CIC opposed this motion due to technical reasons. CS&TC saw conflict with Traditions 5, and 7, though not in full agreement. BPRC opposed this motion for technical and financial reasons.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion.

Con – proceeds from literature sales is what keeps the FWS office open. This would mean the end of the FWS office.

1st Vote: 1-44-0

Minority opinion was not expressed. The motion FAILED.

Announcements were made. The General Assembly was closed with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, adjourning for Conference committee meetings.

General Assembly, July 22, 2004, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This session began with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The 12 Steps and 12 Traditions were read.

This session was facilitated by Rob K. (micro), Paula B. (backup) and Gaelen (macro).

Andrew H. was the record keeper. Neal timekeeper, Irv spiritual reminder, Micah and Sarah vote counters. 2 minute check-ins. The quorum has been met.

Information on committee history from this past year was distributed. The BPRC distributed a Public Information Kit to for participants to take back to their groups. Additionally, information was distributed with regard to merging two pamphlets: "Questions Beginners Ask" and "Suggestions for Newcomers". Feedback is requested.

The BG&NC provided some additional information about the BOT nominees and the voting process for BOT members.

Phase II

04o24/03-04 IFD Address the circumstances surrounding the Conference Literature Committee.

This item was discussed at last year's ABM. No motion was brought forward by 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday night. This item was REMOVED from the agenda for lack of a motion to be developed from the 2003 ABM discussion. There was some discussion that a motion had been submitted relative to this IFD. However, the CCC BMIS Review Subcommittee decided otherwise. The submitted motion was entered toward the end of the BMIS agenda.

04n27/04-03 For the accountability of all Conference committees to its fellowship and as a tool of organization, each project undertaken by S.L.A.A. Conference committees, subcommittees, or individuals will have a projected deadline, determined by the committee members at the start of the project and its progress reviewed at each Annual Business Meeting. The full Conference then confirms the continuation and financing of the project/charter.

04n27A/04-03 MOTION TO AMEND: Change this motion to an item for discussion.

04n27B/04-03 MOTION TO AMEND: Create a process or structure to increase the accountability of each Conference Committee for its activities to the entire Conference. This item to be the responsibility of a joint BOT and Conference Committee. Implementation of this new process to take place by the 2005 ABM. Motion submitted from the floor. The motion was seconded. The facilitators noted the motion from the floor takes precedence over the motion to amend as an IFD.

Committee Reports: CS&TC supports discussion of issues raised. CCC supports the intent of the motion. There is some specificity in the motion that would legislate unenforceable policies.

Committee Reports: CLC supports the intent the motion, and using the spirit of the motion to improve the literature development process. However there were concerns about implementation

of who, why, how, and when reviews would occur.

Points of clarification / information requested.

2 Pros – this amendment gives the committees some flexibility; the amendment identifies the direction and implementation of accountability that is missing from the original motion.

3 Cons – motion appears vague and will postpone action that needs to happen sooner; reiterate vagueness; would like to see money follow action to carry the message; this amendment guts the intent of the original motion; committees sometimes are inactive; there is no accountability to the fellowship about how the committees spend the fellowship's money; wants clarity of the process. There was a motion to table the current amendment. A motion to table Amendment B would be to go to Amendment A. The motion to table is not seconded. A friendly amendment to add the Conference Committee would be the CCC. "joint BOT and CCC effort....". The friendly amendment was accepted. Create a process or structure to increase the accountability of each Conference Committee for its activities to the entire Conference. This item to be the responsibility of a joint BOT and CCC effort. Implementation of this new process to take place by the 2005 ABM.

Points of clarification made. The CCC is responsible for such an item as accountability of all committees. This process would apply to all committees including the CCC.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion to amend the original motion.

Con – the motion as it now stands appears to have a conflict of interest. Thinks the motion remains as vague as the original motion. This motion appears authoritarian. Members of other Conference committees should be a part of this process.

Voting options were explained. There was confusion about what would transpire from the vote.

1st Vote: 22-22-1. The motion to amend disappears as there is no minority.

Now we go to the Motion to Amend the original motion to an Issue for Discussion.

Committee Reports: CS&TC reviewed the original motion and supports broad discussion of these issues. The CCC does not support the motion as written due to implementation, but supports the intent of committee accountability.

4 Pros – what has transpired suggests a discussion is needed; the original motion does not seem to address the issue; we can throw out ideas today for the BOT and other interested persons can work on this in the following year and bring a motion to this place at the next ABM; the original motion is not workable; there is no ownership stated in the original motion; it makes sense to hear what committees want;

4 Cons – criteria established for handling IFDs leaves the possibility that nothing will happen; as an IFD it delays addressing the issues of accountability to 2006 at the earliest; there is a great deal of debate that occurs in handling a motion; as an IFD no accountability processes would actually be put in place; I would like to see the accountability process developed; we need accountability; the CCC is responsible for the ABM process and is fully capable to get on board based on issues raised in discussion and implementing within a year.

The voting options were explained, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote: 14-27-4

Minority opinion was expressed.

2nd Vote: 21-17-6

There is a new minority. Minority opinion was expressed, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

3rd Vote: 18-25-2

The motion to amend FAILED.

After a break, the quorum was confirmed. We picked up with the original motion.

04n27/04-03

The BOT offered a revised motion to take into account some of the discussion already raised. For the accountability of all Conference committees to its fellowship and as a tool of organization, each project undertaken by S.L.A.A. Conference committees, subcommittees, or individuals will have a projected deadline, determined by the committee members at the start of the project and an evaluation of each project done annually. Based on these reports and the

status of each project, Conference members will be invited to provide feedback to the Conference Finance Committee (CFC) regarding continued funding of each committee and to the Conference Charter Committee (CCC) for activity accountability. If members have concerns about either CFC or CCC accountability they may direct comments to the Board of Trustees (BOT).

Committee reports were given earlier.

Clarification requested: to whom is the evaluation directed?, who does the evaluation? Suggested it would be in the annual report.

4 Pro – in favor of motion but concerned to whom the annual reports are directed, suggesting they go in the annual report; the perfect is the enemy of the good; this motion isn't perfect, but it is good. Let's do something good now. Helps us provide accountability of Conference members to Conference members.

4 Con – we need some criteria for accountability; ByLaws referenced giving CFC and CCC will be given authority over other Conference committees in contradiction to ByLaws; this motion is now gutted; the CCC doesn't have to do it; people can already provide feedback to these committees. I can always decline the invitation; we're all volunteers who are here because we want to be. Suggest inserting "in writing to the ABM" and "based on the productivity of the committee, the CFC and CCC would provide recommendations to the committee".

The voting options were explained, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote: 35-3-7

Minority opinion expressed, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

2nd Vote: 31-9-5

The motion PASSED.

04n28/04-04 Create a Conference-level Globalization committee.

Committee Reports: CCC introduces the concept. F.W.S. references attachment #6: there is a typo showing 04n25 that should be 04n28. The BOT is addressing this with an ad hoc committee that includes non-Board members. CiC reports that this issue was reviewed, supporting the concept, particularly with respect to communication techniques. Diversity Committee supports this concept.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion.

1 Con – Expressed concern about the financial situation, and the impact to FWS staff.

The voting options were explained, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote: 39-2-4

Minority opinion was expressed, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

2nd Vote: 22-17-5

The minority did not change.

The motion PASSED.

Group Conscience challenged – a single up-down vote.

The voting options were explained.

Group Conscience Vote: 12-30

The CONFERENCE DEEMS THIS IS NOT GROUP CONSCIENCE. The motion goes away. It did not pass.

04n29/04-05 as revised by originator The Board of Trustees shall implement any motion that passes by a simple majority vote of the Conference and is then deemed to be group conscience by a simple majority vote of the Conference. The Board may decline to implement a motion passed by the Conference and deemed to be group conscience of the Conference if and only if implementing the motion would expose the Fellowship to a grave legal, financial, or Traditions-based risk. The Board may decline to implement a motion passed by the Conference and deemed to be group conscience of the Conference for Traditions-based reasons if and only if implementing the motion would involve an action or actions that violate a specific Tradition or Traditions.

Comments from representatives of the originators: Significant change to Bylaws, specifically

eliminating the super-majority required to be binding on the Board. The purpose is to tighten up Board accountability to the fellowship. The upside down pyramid of the service structure was referenced.

Committee Reports: MRBOTC reports that we concern this would be a major shift in voice of the Conference. MRBOTC would prefer to see specific wording changes for the Bylaws for consideration. CCC acknowledges an appeal process for the BOT overriding Conference votes. CS&TC strongly opposed to this motion, there being no respect for minority opinion. A limited regional perspective could override the broader perspective of the BOT. Bylaws committee feedback referenced.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion.

3 Con – 50% plus one becomes group conscience, ultimately eliminating the group conscience vote element that just occurred; this institutionalizes group conscience, which we have not done before. The BOT are our trusted servants, which needs to be respected. This motion disregards that level of respect. This motion appears to be crafted out of frustration.

The voting options were explained, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

1st Vote: 2-38-4

Minority opinion was not expressed.

The motion FAILED.

Announcements were made. The session was closed with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer in Portuguese. The session was adjourned for lunch.

General Assembly Reconvenes, July 22, 2004, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

This session began with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The facilitators and volunteers remain unchanged. The quorum was confirmed.

Clarification about the use of spiritual reminders before and after votes: to get centered after an emotionally charged discussion.

04n30/04-06 as revised by originator If the Board of Trustees decides not to implement a motion passed by a simple majority vote of the Conference and deemed to be group conscience by a simple majority vote of the Conference, then the Board of Trustees must communicate the grave legal, financial, or Traditions-based reasons for overriding the group conscience of the Conference to the Conference within thirty days of the decision, but in no case later than 195 days prior to the next scheduled ABC/M. When giving Traditions-based reasons for overriding the group conscience of the Conference, the Board of Trustees must identify the specific Tradition that would be violated by implementing the group conscience of the Conference and how that Tradition would be violated.

Points of clarification were addressed.

Committee Reports: CCC notes helped the originator craft this motion, with respect to the 195 days prior to the ABM noted in the motion reflects 90 days ahead of motion submission deadline. MRBOTC reports a concern about the motion preferring to see specific wording to Bylaws prior to making a decision.

2 Pro – support the motion to encourage communication from the BOT in a timely manner to all the members of the Conference; specific reporting from the BOT where they decline to reflect the Conference decision (reasoning).

3 Con – the issue that generated this motion has been addressed, trusting in the process that this will not happen in the future; the BOT did communicate on the issue that generated this motion; there are concerns of motivation (personalities rather than principles).

The voting options were explained, followed by 30 seconds of silence. The motion was read.

1st Vote: 4-35-6

Minority opinion was not expressed. The motion FAILED.

04n32/04-08 IFD Discuss providing a "convention; conference; activities program; assembly; etc." (discussion would ensue on title) for the spouse or significant companion of any

Conference member, attending the S.L.A.A. ABM/ABC. This can include, but not be limited to:

1. Orientation-including brief history of S.L.A.A.; what ABM/ABC is all about; what will their spouse be doing at the business meeting (?); etc.
2. Co-SLAA sponsored meetings – include what are the steps and traditions of S.L.A.A.
3. Temporary sponsors or contact person available for the spouse during their stay.
4. At least 3 major tourist attractions for optional group participation.
5. Maps of the area, including items of major interest.
6. Shuttles to shopping districts.
7. Other group activities, including card games; brunch or lunch-with invited speaker.
8. Hospitality room.
9. Spiritual (Higher Power) centered 'meetings'.

*We could send out information fliers addressing the member's spouse with an invitation to attend this 'conference'.

10 minutes allocated to this item

I did in fact bring my spouse to the ABC/M. My intergroup thinks this is a ridiculous idea. My spouse thinks it is a ridiculous idea. I think it is an extravagance.

I just read work; I'm now responsible to make a whole other group of people to be responsible to. The spouse can pick up the packet that is sent to the ABC/M delegates. This assumes the spouse is an idiot. The delegate bringing a spouse is offered to include the spouse in meals, and some of the other activities. The spirit of this is lovely, but can't imagine that we'd tell a spouse to get out. Applaud the effort, but would like to see people take care of themselves.

There is another program for this, called Co-SLAA. They can put together their own program. I see dollar signs flying out the window.

It's a lot more work that we can't do. We barely get done what we do. Don't want to not think of the spouse, healing and the broader family. Get some Co-SLAA contacts for spouses.

My spouse is here with me. I don't think there is a need for a motion to create something extra.

It's nice for him to experience that we're normal people. They can find their own activities during the day. It's already being done.

This is more appropriate for a convention.

5 minutes of discussion seemed adequate for this item, and was closed.

04n34/04-10 That Chapter 5 – Withdrawal Experience – be placed at the beginning of the text, preferably after or before Step One or Two.

No Committee reports.

Point of Clarification addressed.

1 Pro – I think the spirit of this is great; Chapter 5 is a key element; it is an identification process, need to identify before I can admit powerlessness

3 Con – opposed to this from a recovery standpoint, don't understand why the chapter should be moved. We use the table of contents to move around the book. I don't want to change, thinking it is not broke – I need a larger reason to do this. This is a Tradition 1 unity issue. There would be pagination problems.

The motion was read. The voting options were explained.

1st Vote: 0-45-0

The motion FAILED.

04n37/04-13 To require that upon Board of Trustees override of Conference simple majority vote, the BMIS item overridden be submitted to the Conference no later than the next ABM for second, binding, simple majority vote by the Conference.

Points of clarification addressed.

No committee reports.

Pro – no one spoke in favor of the motion.

Con – seeing the most thorough voting process that I've seen in any organization; you've already killed the horse twice.

Motion to Amend: a 2/3 vote to be binding on the Board

To require that upon Board of Trustees override of Conference simple majority vote, the BMIS item overridden be submitted to the Conference no later than the next ABM for second, binding, 2/3 majority vote by the Conference.

Motion to amend seconded.

It was noted there is not enough time for purposes of discussion to complete this motion to amend. Therefore, the motion to amend does not exist. It was suggested the offer to amend be addressed to the originating party. The motion stands as originally submitted.

The subsequent committee meetings were reviewed. The remaining schedule was reviewed. Announcements. This session was closed with the Serenity Prayer in Latin, adjourning for Conference committee meetings.

General Assembly reconvenes, July 22, 2004, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This session was facilitated by the members of the BG&NC. Andrew H. was the record keeper. The Conference recognized the service of the outgoing BOT members, Paula B., Judith W., Christian N. The session continued with a question and answer period for the BOT nominees from the Conference members. The session was adjourned for the silent and live auctions.

General Assembly, July 23, 2004, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

This session began earlier than originally scheduled to continue the question and answer period for the BOT nominees from the Conference members. The BG&NC members facilitated the beginning of this session. Andrew H. was the record keeper. After approximately 30 minutes of questions and answers, the quorum was confirmed.

Prior to voting for the BOT members, there was a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The voting process was briefly explained. Karma K. volunteered to be the vote counting observer. The BG&NC distributed and collected the ballots, then departed the room to count the votes.

After their departure, the session was facilitated by Gaelen (micro), Irv B. (macro). There was no backup facilitator. The Serenity Prayer was recited in French, then Spanish. Another moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, then check-ins. The Conference discussed what to do in the last scheduled in-person committee meetings, committee roles, the use of conference calls, how to create a committee budget, committee expense reimbursements, the importance of committee membership and rosters, and the ABC/M evaluation form.

The BG&NC announced the election results, thanking all the candidates for their availability. Danielle Phillipa was elected to the Board of Trustees.

It was announced that the ABM fundraising events raised \$8,867.40 (\$265 raffle, \$8,595 plus \$7.40 in stamps from the auction) for S.L.A.A. / FWS. The session was closed with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The session was adjourned for committee breakout sessions and lunch.

General Assembly reconvenes, July 23, 2004, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

This session was opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The session was facilitated by Irv B. as Interim Chair for the CCC and Marcella M. as BOT chair. The Conference committees were asked to identify 1) chair or co-chairs of the committee; 2) Requested Budget; 3) first scheduled meeting; 4) projects. Marcella will also identify for the committees the BOT liaison for each committee.

Conference Service Committee: Chair/co-chair: Keith; BOT liaison: Deb W.; Budget Request:\$300; First meeting: August 8th; Projects:
a) change culture of service with our Fellowship

- b) identify strategies and action plan at grassroots level
- c) develop motivational 7th Tradition basket
- d) wallet cues
- e) List Intergroups and retreats

Conference Finance Committee; Chair: Karma; Budget: \$350; First meeting: Before August 12 to accommodate discussion of FWS budget; Projects:

- a) Refigure monies from 2003-2004 budget for the 2004-2005 budget
- b) Work with TEF tiers and make recommendations to the CCC and the BF&OC
- c) Keep monthly dates and communicate with each committee

Conference Anorexia Committee; Chair/co-chair: Steve C and Patrice; BOT liaison: John C.; Budget Request:\$550; First meeting: Sept. 12; Projects:

- a) publish survey results and related articles
- b) create new survey (in 5 different languages) and enter in FWS newsletter

Conference By-Laws Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Rob K., the point person until a chair is elected; BOT Liaison: Marcella; Budget Request:\$150; First Meeting: Sept 30; Projects:

- a) finish BOT implementation of motions passed at the 2004 ABM
- b) Look at By-laws changes for next year

Conference Diversity Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Sarah A.; BOT Liaison: Danielle; Budget Request: \$2000; First Meeting: August. 16, 9:00 a.m. Eastern; Projects:

- a) Special interest groups and formats
- b) Redistribution of funds for Globalization

Conference Healthy Relationships Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Bill M. Interim chair; BOT Liaison: John; Budget Request:\$650; First Meeting: Not yet set up; Projects:

- a) Healthy relationships pamphlet
- b) Healthy relationships meeting format
- c) Healthy relationships in service and the Fellowship

Conference Internet Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Tom and Irv; BOT Liaison: Deb; Budget Request:\$4000 (inc. \$800 to set up VOIP and other monies to support it); First Meeting: Mid August; Projects:

- a) implement VOIP for Conference members and FWS office
- b) Internet in a box
- c) Expand SLAA-CIC website

Conference Literature Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Paula and Sarah; BOT Liaison: Robin; Budget Request: \$2870; First Meeting: August. 20, 9:00 p.m. Eastern; Projects:

- a) Plain Language (July 05)
- b) Internet recovery (Dec 04)
- c) 12 & 12 (Jan 05)
- d) Review Crosstalk, Feedback and Triggering Language pamphlet (Nov. 04)

Conference Member Retention Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Ally and Barbara L.; BOT Liaison: Cristina; Budget Request: \$ 50 to organize, \$ 250 for teleconference and marketing and \$3480 Step Chip project prototype; First Meeting: third weekend in August; Projects:

- a) Step chip prototype
- b) revamp website
- c) place survey on website

Prison Outreach Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Dave Mc M.; BOT Liaison: Deb; Budget

Request: \$ 992.40; First Meeting: September 3rd, 8:00 p.m. Eastern; Projects:

- a) create prison outreach outline and implementation guidelines for volunteers
- b) compilation, regulations and contracts for visitors
- c) outreach to inmates
- d) grow pen pal program

Conference Public Information Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Bill M.; BOT liaison: Cristina;

Budget Request: \$700; First Meeting: August 22nd 1:00 p.m. Pacific; Projects:

- a) intergroup public information kit

MRBOTC; Chair/Co-chair: none; BOT Liaison: Danielle; Budget Request: \$450; First

Meeting: none; Projects:

- a) develop tools and environmental tools for positive communication with Conference
- b) effective appeals process of budgetary needs
- c) update charter and CSM
- d) update on Conference communication
- e) make available to all conflict resolution skills

Conference Steps and Tradition Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Rich and Randi; BOT Liaison:

Danielle; Budget Request: \$620; First Meeting: August 5th 6:00 p.m. Pacific; Projects:

- a) establish process of draft of 12 & 12
- b) assist FWS in responses to individual issues of step and traditions
- c) respond to step and traditions issue

Journal Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Jim D.; BOT Liaison: Robin; Budget Request: \$400;

First Meeting: August 8th 8:00 p.m. Eastern; Projects:

- a) guidelines for submission of articles to the journal (Bruce)
- b) contact journal reps to increase subscriptions and submissions (Bob)
- c) review pricing of journal in US and international monetary denomination

Conference Sponsorship Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Ron G and Larry; BOT Liaison:

Roger; Budget Request: none; First Meeting: July 23rd 3:00 p.m. Eastern; Projects:

- a) recruit more members
- b) create supplement to sponsorship pamphlet

Conference Interfellowship Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Irv; BOT Liaison: John; Budget

Request: \$400; First Meeting: none; Projects: participate in Interfellowship Forums

Conference Charter Committee; Chair/Co-chair: Interim chair, Irv; BOT Liaison: Marcella;

Budget Request: \$ 2,200; First Meeting: second Sunday in August; Projects:

- a) continue BPSS
- b) improve BMIS, review process
- c) implement new Conference committee accountability

Intergroup Communication Committee: no report

Motion on the floor to "approve the continued existence of the following Conference committees:

CAC, CBC, CCC, CFC, HRC, Conference Interfellowship, CLC, MRC, POC, Sponsorship, Journal, Diversity, Internet, Steps and traditions, CPIC, Intergroup Communication, Service, MRBOTC." Vote: 35/0

The conference closed after announcements and the Serenity Prayer.

Holiday Inn, Dedham / Boston, MA S.L.A.A. 2004 ABC/M July 20 – 23, 2004

